



ZERO BEAT

Southeastern Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007
South Dartmouth, MA 02748



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 2



SEMARA



FEBRUARY 1998

Editor's Corner

THE OTHER GUY

Was sitting down and day-dreaming the other day when a thought randomly jumped into my head. It suddenly occurred to me that several individuals do little things year-in and year-out to help make the club the great place it is. You know, the other guy.

The other guy is the unknown fellow that empties the trash. He is the one that cleans the rest rooms. The other guy also makes coffee, and often cleans up the mess when the coffee is gone along with all the drinkers. He is the chap that cuts the grass in the summer and shovels the snow in the winter. Heck, the other guy even fixes things that are broken. One smart dude that other guy!

Thank goodness we have other guys in our club to do the things required. We would be in deep do-do without them, those other guys. We all owe them a deep debt of gratitude for their constant efforts to improve the club. Thanks fellows!

Say, would you like to be a other guy? The basic pay sucks (\$0.00), recognition is almost nil, the job is often called "thankless", and you might even get dirty. But the personal satisfaction is second to none! How about it, next time you're at the club and see something that needs doing, just do it! You'll feel great after. And you'll be "the other guy"!



MEETING HIGHLITES

The January business meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by President Rick Cabral, N1RFH. Twelve members and no guests were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - No Report. *Buildings and Grounds* - No Report. *Scholarship* - Chairman Larry Houbre reported that some events are planned to benefit the fund. *Tower Committee* - No response from Omnipoint, will try NEXTEL next.

Ratifications - **Bernard Desrosiers, N1ZCS**, voted to full membership; **Gerard R. Lemos, N1ZYT**, voted a conditional member; and **George Souza, N1MWB**, voted a life member.

Old business - The treasurer noted that we have not heard from Cajmont Vending lately. Bill Miller will look into it. Bill also reported that Zero Beat costs the club 53 cents per member per month to produce and mail.

New business - It was reported that the Boston Radio Club newsletters are missing from the bulletin board. It is OK to borrow them, but please return them as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

FIELD TRIP TO ARRL HEADQUARTERS PLANNED

Get ready to visit ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut! A field trip to ARRL Headquarters is planned for Saturday, May 9, 1998. Proceeds from the field trip will benefit the club's Scholarship Fund.

The trip will include a tour of ARRL Headquarters, the Radio Museum, and amateur radio station W1AW. Visiting amateurs with either the original or copy of their license are allowed to transmit from one of W1AW's nine operating positions. There are six HF and three VHF positions available. During the ride to Newington a list and time schedule for those wishing to operate from W1AW will be made. Get ready for the pile-ups when you put W1AW on the air!



The field trip will depart the club at 9:00 am SHARP. (Plan to be at the club no later than 8:45 am.) The motor coach will arrive at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut about noon. The afternoon will be

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EDITOR

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR
 Phone: (508) 996-2969
 E-Mail: k1ibr@lrh.net

ADVERTISING

Commercial ads the size of a business card will be accepted. Rates are \$5.00 for one insertion, \$20.00 for six insertions, and \$35.00 for twelve insertions.

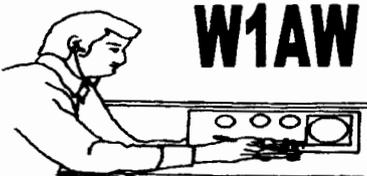
Non-commercial ads up to forty words in length will be accepted. Rate is \$3.00 for one or \$12.00 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

FIELD TRIP - Continued from Page 1

spent touring ARRL Headquarters, the Radio Museum, and W1AW. (W1AW opens at 1:00 pm) At 4:00 pm the motor coach will depart for the ride back to the club. We should arrive back in Dartmouth about 7:00 pm. The motor coach will stop for lunch on the way to Newington, and for dinner on the return. You must pay for your own meals, or you may brown-bag it.

Tickets are \$30 per person, which covers the cost of the motor coach fare. The field trip is open to anyone interested, including non-amateurs. Tickets will be available at the February, March, and April meetings, or you may contact Larry Houbre, AA1FS, at 508-991-6055.

For more information check out the ARRL Field Trip website: <http://www.lrh.net/public/semara/wlaw.htm> or E-Mail Larry Houbre at AA1FS@lrh.net



W1AW

Maxim Memorial Station

SEMARA VE SESSIONS FOR 1998 ANNOUNCED

The club's VE Session coordinator, **Larry Houbre, AA1FS**, has announced the 1998 VE Sessions to be held at the club. The testing schedule has been expanded to include **every first Saturday of the month** (except October), the Spring and Fall National Exam Days, and the club's annual flea-market day on Sunday, September 13th.

Larry also pointed out that during 1997, a computer was used to track candidates and the tests they've taken. The use of the computer proved so successful that during 1998 its use will be expanded. This will be an invaluable aid to the VE Examiners, especially in the paperwork area.



The volunteer VE Examiners are an asset to the club. Their commitment and dedication towards bringing new amateurs into the fraternity is commendable. They deserve our praise. Congratulations VE Examiners for a job well done!

SEMARA 1998 VE SESSIONS

- January 3, Saturday, 10:30 am
- February 7, Saturday, 10:30 am
- March 7, Saturday, 10:30 am
- April 4, Saturday, 10:30 am
- April 25, Saturday, 10:30 am -
 (Spring National Exam Day)
- May 2, Saturday, 10:30 am
- June 6, Saturday, 10:30 am
- July 11, Saturday, 10:30 am
- August 1, Saturday, 10:30 am
- September 5, Saturday, 10:30 am
- September 13, SUNDAY, 10:00 am
 (SEMARA Fleamarket)
- September 26, Saturday, 10:30 am
 (Fall National Exam Day)
- November 7, Saturday, 10:30 am
- December 5, Saturday, 10:30 am

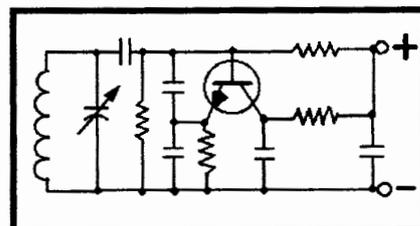
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

February 3, 1998
 Saturday, 10:30 AM

VE SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

- 09 **Brookline, MA**
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 12 **Providence, RI**
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 14 **Falmouth, MA**
 Joanne Reid
 508-548-1121
- 18 **Cambridge, MA**
 Nick Alterndburnd
 617-253-3776
- 21 **Melrose, MA**
 Scott Kingsley
 781-665-7654

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1. Butler Oscillator
- 2. TPTG Oscillator
- 3. Colpitts Oscillator
- 4. Hartley Oscillator

ANSWER - See Page 6



CLUB NOTES

February is here! Don't forget Valentine's Day on the 14th. A scorned woman is not something to take lightly, so give her the gift that will take her breath away - a new dual-band walkie! President's Day is on the 16th, and Ash Wednesday falls on the 25th.



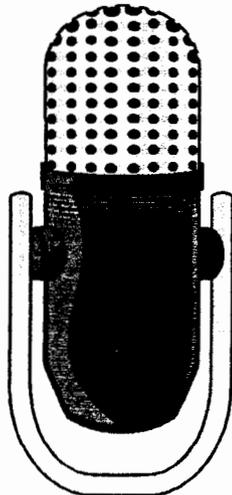
The club Christmas Party was held December 16th at the clubhouse. It was a potluck affair. Henry, (W1GYL), got rave reviews for the great spaghetti he brought. A grand time was had by all.



Dick Hay, W1LE, has moved a few blocks up the street that he lives on. His new address is: Capt. Richard R. Hay USN (ret), 325 Joseph Walker Drive, W. Columbia, SC 29169-6945. Drop Dick a line at his new QTH.



Bill Rovas, WA1APX, was in town for Christmas visiting his folks in North Dartmouth. He joined several members for coffee at the Boston Coffee & Bagel shop on Allen Street. Bill's dad Ed, WA1VXY, mentions that APX can often be heard Mondays on 3898 (7 PM), Wednesdays on 3907 (8 PM), and Saturdays on the Drake Net 3865 (8 PM). Give Bill a shout on one of the nets!



SEMCARES held a dinner party at the 99 Restaurant in North Dartmouth on January 3rd. Several ARES members from the club attended and a great time was had by all! This will probably become an annual event since everyone had such a good time.



Hank Riley, N1LTV, gave a very interesting Tech-Talk on January 15th. His topic was the recent Plymouth high altitude balloon launch. The balloon carried a two meter beacon designed and built by Hank. Many amateurs were able to hear the beacon even with hand-held radios! Thanks Hank for a most enjoyable and captivating Tech-Talk.



PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Vote Henry W1GYL



For Secretary

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR SEMARA SCHOLARSHIPS

The SEMARA Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to licensed Amateur Radio Operators that are attending college and taking a course of study related to radio/electronics.

The Scholarships are awarded in July of each year, and the amount of each scholarship varies according to the status of the fund. In no case is a Scholarship less than \$100. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15th of each year.

Applications and information are available by writing to Scholarship Committee, SEMARA, PO Box 80007, South Dartmouth, MA 02748, or by E-Mail from AA1FS@lrh.net, or by calling Larry Houbre, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at (508) 991-6055.

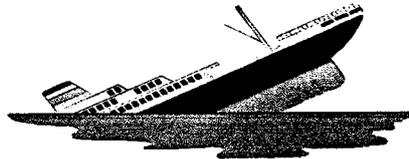


THE END OF THE LINE FOR MORSE CODE

The United Kingdom has stopped monitoring Morse Code on maritime channels. In doing so it joined the ranks of several other countries that have already discontinued such monitoring - including Germany, France, and the United States.

Morse Code fell victim to technology. With the advent of two-way radios, satellite communication systems, and global positioning systems, Morse Code proved to be inadequate as a fast method of transmitting distress calls and maritime alerts.

Probably the most famous message ever transmitted by Morse Code was that of the sinking Titanic on her way to a watery grave.



WHAT'S IN A CALL? ASK KATHY SWANN!

This month the FCC released the first of several vanity call signs under Gate 4 of the licensing system.

Kathy Swann of Coventry, Rhode Island has no trouble remembering her call. Under Gate 4 she secured the call KA1THY!

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR MAXIM MEMORIAL AWARD



The ARRL is soliciting nominations for the Maxim Memorial Award. This award is given annually to a licensed radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities.

Examples of qualifying activities include, but are limited to, the following:

1. Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level.
2. Technical achievement.
3. Operating record.
4. Recruitment and training of new amateurs.
5. Public relations activities.

The Maxim Memorial Award consists of a \$1,000 cash prize, an engraved plaque, and travel and accommodation expenses to attend an ARRL convention and receive the award. The award is intended to provide tangible recognition to those deserving young amateurs who contribute their time, skills, and energies to promote amateur radio.

In keeping with the tradition of the award when it was first established in 1936, formal nominations are made by ARRL Section Managers. Contact your section manager if you wish to nominate a deserving young individual. Supporting information and documentation such as club endorsements should also be provided. Nominations must be received by March 31, 1998.

SEMARA DUES NOTICE

Association dues for the year 1998 are payable now. Only members in good standing will continue to receive Zero Beat. **This issue will be your last unless your 1998 dues are paid.** Dues are only \$25.00 per year for an individual full membership, and \$15.00 for an associate membership. Family memberships are \$30.00 per year.

TECHNICAL TIPS

Heat-shrink tubing has a hundred uses in the radio workshop. Thin walled tubing can even be shrunk with an old hairdryer. Some of the nifty things heat-shrink tubing can be used for include:

1. Insulating the shaft on small screwdrivers so they don't short out circuits when adjusting controls.
2. Holding ferrite cores in place when used as a choke on cables.
3. Insulating RCA (phono) connectors and securing the cable at the same time!
4. Making a nut starter (holder). Put the nut on a screw and shrink the tubing down. Cut the tubing behind the nut (side towards screw head) with a razor blade and voila! - you have a nut holder/starter. Discard tubing left on screw.

1998 FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

February 14 - Marlborough, MA
 March 29 - Southington, CT
 April 3 - Framingham, MA
 April 19 - MIT
 April 25 - W. Greenwich, RI
 May 8,9 - Rochester, NH
 May 16 - Foxondale, RI
 May 17 - MIT
 June 7 - Newington, CT
 June 21 - MIT
 July 19 - MIT
 August 16 - MIT
 August 28,29,30 - Dumbarton, MA
 September 13 - SEMARA!
 September 19 - Foxondale, RI
 September 20 - MIT
 October 2,3 - Rochester, NH

NET DIRECTORY

—Sunday—		
8am	28.375	SEMARA NET
9:30am	50.225	Yankee SSB
3pm	28.470	UFO
7pm	147.000+	Swap Net
— 4th Sunday —		
9pm	449.575	EM-ARRL
— Daily —		
5:30pm	3.915	EM/RI NTS ssb
7&10pm	3.658	EM/RI NTS cw
6:45pm	147.315+	NTS/Trivia
7pm	146.550	SEMARA NET
8pm	145.230-	EM-NTS
— Monday to Friday —		
8am	14.262	UFO
8pm	145.490-	Weather
— Saturday & Sunday —		
8am	7.237	UFO
— Thursday —		
7pm	14.264	UFO
8pm	147.180+	Trivia
— Saturday —		
7:30pm	3.978	UFO
1800G	14.300	Coast Guard

VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES



WWW.LRH.NET/PUBLIC/SEMARA.HTM

MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RJCABRAL/HAM/SEMARA

—ARES NET—

1st & 15th of the month
 at 7:30 pm
 147.000+ on the 1st
 145.490- on the 15th

SEMARA OFFICERS 1998



President Richard J. Cabral, N1RFH
Vice-President Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM
Secretary Richard J. Cabral (Acting)
Treasurer John Carreiro, W1ZYV

Board of Directors:

Bradford Anselmo, N1VUF
 Lawrence R. Houbre Jr., AA1FS
 William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR

Trustees:

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM- Chairman
 William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR
 Norman Riley, W1ATI
 Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
 Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1998

- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 19 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm "Antenna Hints and Kinks" by Bill Miller, K1IBR.



MARCH 1998

- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 19 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm



Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 9:00 am - Drop by and ragchew!

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location	Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144				440			
145.150 -		WAIDGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven	442.200 +		N1NRL	Fall River
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth	442.350 +	141.3	N1QWW	New Bedford
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth	442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
146.685 -		N1OEG	Plymouth	443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
147.000 +		W1AEC	Dartmouth	443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Yarmouth	443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
147.180 +	77.0	N1FDX	Bridgewater	444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham	447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston
220							
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis				

NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER:

3. Colpitts Oscillator

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FIRST CLASS

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