



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 3

❖ SEMARA ❖

March 1998

## RADIO CLASSES SCHEDULED

In conjunction with the ARRL Radio Coaches Program, SEMARA is conducting no-code classes for novice and technician licenses.

The classes will be held each Sunday night from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the SEMARA clubhouse, 54 Donald St., in South Dartmouth. The course will begin on March 15th and run through June 7th. There will be no class on Memorial Day weekend.

The course will be based on the ARRL book "Now You're Talking!". Students must secure a copy of the book and complete the first student assignment as outlined in the book prior to session one.



There is a \$5 fee for the class if the student provides their own copy of "Now You're Talking!", or \$20 including a copy of the book. To register for the class contact Brad Anselmo, N1VUF, at (508) 991-5466 or by E-Mail at n1vuf@amsat.org

Don't wait, call now!



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The February business meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Vice-President Andy Reuter, WA1FNM. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Treasurer's report was read and accepted. No Secretary's report was available because of the Secretary's work commitment.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - No Report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Leak in Qounset hut roof repaired. *Scholarship* - Field trip to ARRL headquarters planned to benefit fund. Tickets are now on sale *Tower Committee* - No progress.

*Ratifications* - None.

*Old business* - Board of Directors report read recommending the cancellation of the \$50 bereavement gift and an increase in dues effective July 1, 1998: Associate membership - \$20, Full & Conditional members - \$30, Family membership - \$40. Members voted to accept the recommendations.

An effort is being made to contact Cajmont Vending Company regarding money they owe us. A letter has been sent to their last known address.

*New business* - The following motions were made and passed by the membership: 1) Electric hot

## HENRY BLANCHETTE ELECTED SECRETARY

Henry Blanchette, W1GYL, was elected association secretary at the February 5th business meeting.

Henry conducted an extensive campaign in his quest for the position, advertising in *Zero Beat* and placing posters around the clubhouse. He even attempted to hold a campaign fund-raising dinner at an exclusive restaurant, but the plan never came together. (He found it was very difficult to sell the \$50.00 tickets he had printed up for the event.)



We wish Henry the best of luck in his new position as secretary of the association.

## CABINET NEEDED BY VE EXAMINERS

The club's VE examiners seek the donation of a medium to large size cabinet to hold all their examination equipment and supplies. At the present time all the necessary items are brought to the club for each session. Having a secure storage cabinet at the clubhouse would be a lifesaver.

If you wish to donate such a cabinet to the club for use by the VE examiners, please contact Larry Houbre, AA1FS, at 991-6055, or by sending E-Mail to aal1fs@lrh.net

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Published monthly by the  
**Southeastern Massachusetts  
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**  
 54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007  
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### EDITOR

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

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### 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.

## TICKET SALES BRISK FOR ARRL FIELD TRIP

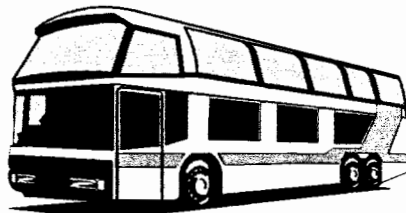
Don't miss out on the May 9th field trip to ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT. The field trip is limited to about 48 attendees, and it is first come, first served as far as ticket sales are concerned. Proceeds from the field trip will benefit the club's scholarship fund.

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 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 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

**MEETING - Continued from page one**  
 water heater to be turned on only for meetings and other uses of clubhouse, 2) Joe Gaspar, W6UGK, was elected a life member, 3) Henry Blanchette, W1GYL, was elected Secretary, 4) Letter endorsing Tony Duarte for the Maxim Memorial Award approved.

1998 Vice-President Andy Reuter, WA1FNM, presented 1997 President Marty Jordan, WA1YFV, with a wall plaque listing all 1997 club officers.



The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

March 7, 1998  
 Saturday, 10:30 AM

## LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN MARCH

09 Brookline, MA  
 Bob Wondolowski  
 508-865-5822

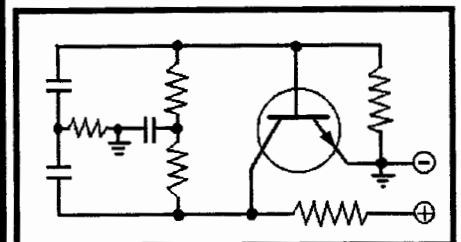
12 Providence, RI  
 Judy Nelson  
 401-231-9156

14 Falmouth, MA  
 Joanne Reid  
 508-548-1121

18 Cambridge, MA  
 Nick Alterndburnd  
 617-253-3776

21 Malborough, MA  
 William Wade  
 781-891-9079

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



1. Voltage Regulator
2. Twin-T Oscillator
3. Diode Tester
4. Wien Bridge Oscillator

ANSWER - See Page 6



# CLUB NOTES

The windy month is upon us! Spring is just around the corner. (We hope!) Dust off your green jacket and celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on the 17th.



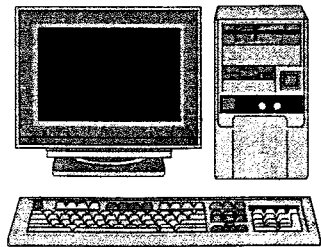
Trivia Department: Did you ever wonder how many hours go into producing the club newsletter ZERO BEAT? Wonder no more, for all time spent producing the newsletter was logged in for the January issue. The total hours expended? 18.5 (2+ days!)



The club maintenance crew was busy the first week of February. Seems the roof sprung another leak. The source of the leak was found to be a small hole a little smaller than a pencil in diameter. Three layers of fibered roof coating and fiberglass mesh were laid over the hole to effect a repair.



The club is compiling a list of member E-Mail addresses. Please E-Mail your address to Bill Miller, K1IBR, at [k1ibr@lrh.net](mailto:k1ibr@lrh.net) to get on the list. Hopefully the list will be available by the April business meeting.



Here is a web site that lists all Eastern Massachusetts amateur radio club home pages:

[www.qsl.net/ema-arrrl/other/arcweb.html](http://www.qsl.net/ema-arrrl/other/arcweb.html)

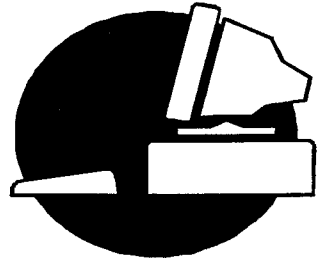


Help! The club needs speakers to put on Tech-Talks in the coming months. If you have an amateur radio related subject you would like to make a presentation about, please contact Bill Miller, K1IBR, at 996-2969 or by E-Mail at [k1ibr@lrh.net](mailto:k1ibr@lrh.net) General interest as well as technical presentations are solicited.

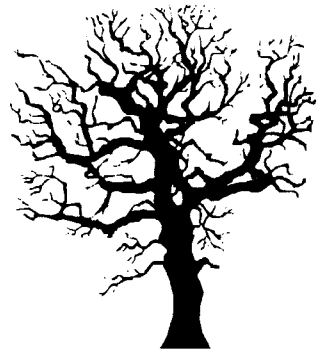


SEMCARES has a web page you will find very interesting. All the latest ARES information is listed along with photos and other neat stuff. Check it out!

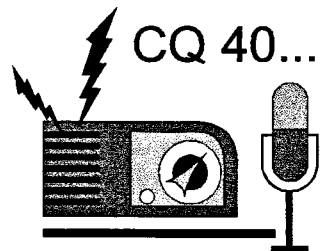
<http://members.aol.com/SEM-CARES>



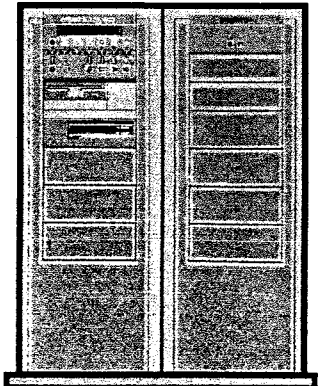
High winds this winter broke several limbs off trees on the club property. Any members having a few minutes of spare time are urged to swing by the clubhouse and pick up a few branches. The whole yard must be free of debris before grass cutting can get underway this coming spring.



Club member Joe Frois, CNIYAL, recently upgraded to General Class! Word on the street is that Joe now has his sights set on the Advanced Class license. Congratulations, Joe, and good luck on your future goals.



Bill Field, WA1FYF, had a vintage (we're being kind here) computer that needed replacement. So Bill pulled out all stops and got a screaming machine running at 233 MHz! Word on the street is that when Bill turns on his computer, not only do the lights dim in his part of town, but TV reception is next to impossible! Now, that's a COMPUTER!





## BITS - N - PIECES



Compiled from The ARRL Letter, a publication of the American Radio League, and Ham Radio Online magazine, available free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>

### EIGHT YEAR OLD GIRL EARNS EXTRA CLASS!

Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT, is the youngest Extra Class amateur radio operator in the United States. The eight-year old girl went from Technician to Advanced to Extra Class inside of one year!

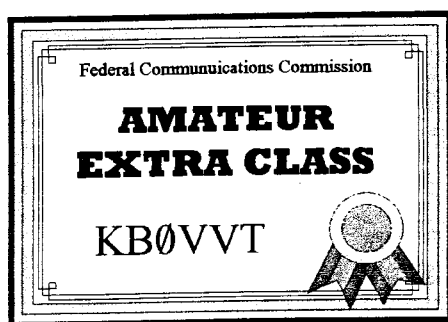
In fact, her Mom and Dad also got their Extra Class license on the same day as Re-



becca. It was definitely a family affair. Rebecca was fortunate since both her parents are electrical engineers. Her father wrote a computerized study program to help Rebecca learn the theory. The whole family practiced Morse code about 20 minutes a day in preparation for the 20 WPM test requirement.

The family passed the code test first, then began studying for the written examination. Hard work and perseverance paid off. They all passed the written test together and were awarded Extra Class amateur radio operator licenses on the same day. In fact, Rebecca got only one question wrong on the written examination for Extra Class!

Thinking about upgrading to Extra Class? Heck, if an eight-year old girl can do it, what are you waiting for?



### FCC MAY PRIVATIZE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

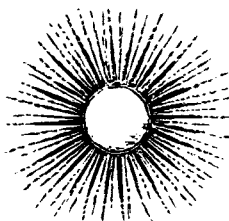
As outlined in FCC report GN 98-1, the FCC is seeking comments on privatizing further the administration of the Amateur Radio Services. At the present time only the testing of candidates for an amateur radio license is done privately via Volunteer Examiners.

The FCC proposes that the licensing process be simplified by turning over additional aspects of license examinations, including the issuing of callsigns and licenses, and potentially even enforcement proceedings to a private corporation.

### PRESENT SOLAR CYCLE IN THE DOLDRUMS

According to Tad Cook, K7VVV, the present solar cycle is showing a downward trend in sunspot numbers. In the last few weeks the average solar flux has drifted steadily downward.

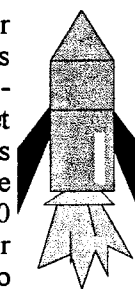
Even more disturbing is the trend over the last several months. The average solar flux was 99.5 in November, 98.7 in December, and 93.4 in January. There is no question that the solar flux readings are declining. The big question is when will they move upward again, as the peak in this cycle is still about 2 years away.



### NEW BATTERY PASSES TESTING IN SPACE

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate announced the successful testing of a new sodium-sulfur battery during the November space shuttle mission.

The sodium-sulfur battery weighs half as much as similar nickel-hydrogen batteries, yet packs nearly three times the specific power! The new battery provides 150 watt-hours of energy per kilogram of weight. To top it off, the new battery costs half as much and is more reliable due to a simpler design.



### U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN CEPT GUEST LICENSE ARRANGEMENT IN EUROPE

The U.S. request to participate in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) amateur radio licensing system has been approved.

Under this system, U.S. hams visiting most European countries will not require a reciprocal license in order to operate during short stays. The same would apply to European hams visiting the U.S.

There are two classes of CEPT licenses: Class 1 which will be issued to Tech Plus through Extra class license holders, and Class 2 which will be issued to Technician class license holders.

The licensing arrangement is not official until the FCC completes the formal steps required for participation in the CEPT system.

**TECHNICAL TIPS**

Spring to an amateur is antenna fix-up time. Here are some ideas and comments relative to antennas, old and new:

- 1) Use copper as much as possible for antenna elements. Since the skin effect causes most RF current to flow on the surface (<.001"), good conductivity is a must.
- 2) Mounting hardware should be stainless steel to prevent corrosion. Not only the nuts and bolts, but also the clamps. Stainless steel clamps are available in the plumbing section of most stores.
- 3) Use a corrosion deterrent paste such as NO-NOX when joining aluminum tubing sections. Such pastes not only deter corrosion, but also make tuning adjustments easier to accomplish.

**1998 FLEAMARKET CALENDAR**

- March 29 - Southington, CT
- April 5 - Framingham, MA
- April 19 - MIT
- April 25 - W. Greenwich, RI
- May 8,9 - Rochester, NH
- May 16 - Forestdale, RI
- May 17 - MIT
- June 7 - Newington, CT
- June 21 - MIT
- July 19 - MIT
- August 16 - MIT
- August 28,29,30 - Boxboro, MA
- September 13 - SEMARA!
- September 19 - Forestdale, 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](http://WWW.LRH.NET/PUBLIC/SEMARA.HTM)

[MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RJCABRAL/HAM/SEMARA](http://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* Henry Blanchette, W1GYL  
*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**

**MARCH 1998**

- 2 - Instructors meeting for theory classes, 7 pm
- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 19 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - Slide show of clubhouse construction (1976)

**APRIL 1998**

- 2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 4 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 13 - ARES Meeting, 7:45 pm
- 16 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "All about ARES" by Rob Macedo, KD1CY
- 27 - Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Theory classes every Sunday 6:30 to 8:30 pm - March 15th through June 7th**

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



## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>144</b>			
145.150 -		WAIDGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WAIGPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		NIOEG	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
147.000 +		W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Yarmouth
147.135 +	67.0	NDIN	Taunton
147.180 +	77.0	N1FDX	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham
<b>220</b>			
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>440</b>			
441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
442.200 +		N1NRL	Fall River
442.350 +	141.3	N1QWW	New Bedford
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WAIGPO	Falmouth
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston
NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER:		2. Twin-T Oscillator	

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Bridal and Baby Showers  
Weddings  
Anniversary  
Birthdays



### The Cake Lady

**Lisa Houbre**  
Cake Consultant  
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*Gourmet*  
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# SEMARA

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## FIRST CLASS

*Scanned by N1TI*  
*January 2011*