



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 4



SEMARA



April 1998

Editor's Corner

SUNDAY MORNING REMINISCING

One of the benefits of getting older is that you have more memories to reminisce about. As you know, several club members meet at the clubhouse every Sunday morning about 9 am for coffee, sometimes donuts, and always to ragchew.

Lately, a good portion of the ragchewing was spent reminiscing about "the good old days". (Heck, weren't there ever any BAD old days?)



One discussion traced the early days of the club and how we moved around town quite a bit before buying our own property in 1955. Yeah, the original club back in '55 was only a Quonset hut, but it was OUR Quonset hut.

The building of the new clubhouse in 1976 was the topic of discussion on another Sunday. Wow, that was over 20 years ago! It seemed that every member of the club suddenly became a first class carpenter overnight.

Remember the 50/50 raffles that were popular in the 80's? Who can remember when the club was heated with a wood stove? Remember the radio telescope dish behind the clubhouse? Or how about the 40 meter full size beam. Hey, who can remember the... (See you next Sunday!)



MEETING HIGHLITES

The March business meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-President Andy Reuter. Twenty-three members and one guest 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* - The club grounds need to be cleaned to allow grass cutting this spring. *Scholarship* - ARRL trip tickets are selling briskly. *Tower Committee* - None.

Communications - **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, read a letter from **Joe Gaspar, W6UGK**, thanking the club for the life membership recently bestowed upon him. Many members commented on the heartfelt sincerity of the letter.



Ratifications - **Stephen Saunders, N1ZGX**, was voted a conditional member of the association.

Old business - None

New business - **Ed Rovas, WA1VXY**, pointed out that during business meetings, speakers given the floor by the president should stand and address the membership. Other members



MEETING Page 2

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TAUNTON TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Every two years the National Weather Service (NWS) in Taunton holds an open house, free to the general public. The next event is scheduled for May 30&31, 1998. That's the last weekend in May, with open house hours 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and noon to 5 pm on Sunday.

On both days NWS personnel will present a talk on severe weather every half hour. Also scheduled every half hour is a presentation on hurricanes.



Several tents will be set up on the NWS site including a children's coloring tent, an internet tent, and several tents staffed with various support organizations such as MEMMA, Skywarn, US Army, US Coast Guard, and the Corp of Engineers.

On Saturday there will be weather balloon launches every 3 hours, and radio station WQRE (Cape Cod) will be broadcasting "live" from the site.

Refreshments will be available (including at least one for "free" - cranberry juice). There will be plenty of free brochures and informational material.

NWS-Taunton is located in the Taunton Industrial Park at Exit 9 off route 495 in Taunton. Look for the big "golf ball" Doppler radome and you are there!

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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.

ARRL FIELD TRIP IS ONLY ONE MONTH AWAY!

The April business meeting will be your **last chance** to buy **ARRL field trip tickets**. Be sure to get your tickets early as they are being sold on a first come, first serve basis. Please remember that proceeds from the trip will benefit the club's scholarship fund. Don't miss out on this great trip!

The field trip will depart from the clubhouse at 9.00 am SHARP on Saturday, May 9, 1998. Please plan to be at the club no later than 8:45 am to allow time for check-in.



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 for the last time at the April meeting, or you may contact Larry Houbre, AA1FS, at 508-991-6055.

For more information check the February and March issues of Zero Beat or 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 should not interrupt the speaker, and only speak when recognized.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay the recently received bill for club liability insurance. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Following the meeting a 50/50 raffle was held with Henry Blanchette, W1GYL, winning the pot.

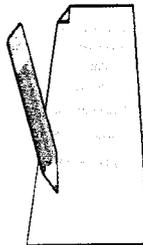


LICENSE CLASS POSTPONED TO JANUARY 1999

The licensing class slated for March through June of this year has been postponed until January 1999.

The short time frame between the class announcement and the starting date resulted in only three candidates applying for the class. It was previously decided that unless five or more applied for the class it would be postponed.

In an effort to better publicize the upcoming class in January, a tri-fold brochure is being made to promote the class. The brochure will include a tear-out postcard to facilitate signing up for the class. A large display board promoting the classes will have a built-in holder containing the brochures. The display will be shown at various events throughout the year in an effort to secure students for the class.



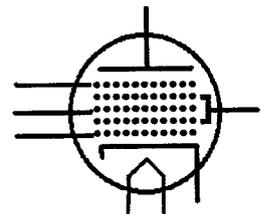
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

April 4, 1998
Saturday, 10:30 AM

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN APRIL

- 09 Providence, RI
Judy Nelson
401-231-9156
- 11 Falmouth, MA
Joanne Reid
508-548-1121
- 13 Brookline, MA
Bob Wondolowski
508-865-5822
- 22 Cambridge, MA
Nick Alterndburned
617-253-3776
- 25 Dartmouth, MA
Larry Houbre
508-991-6055

NAME THAT TUBE



1. Geiger-Mueller
2. Klystron
3. Beam Power Tube
4. Pentagrid Converter

ANSWER - See Page 6

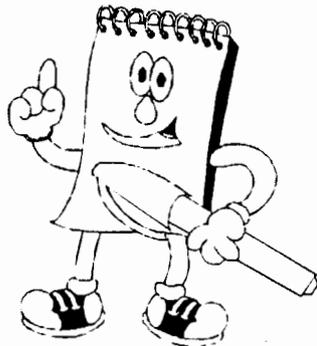


CLUB NOTES

Not much of a winter this year! Here it is April, yet it seems like it was April all winter long. Watch out for April 1st! (Heh, heh!) Passover starts on the 11th, and Easter Sunday falls on the 12th.



Plans are available at the clubhouse for the single and dual-band J-Pole antennas demonstrated during the February Tech-Talk. Also available are copies of the antenna size chart covering 10 through 160 meters along with details of a dipole antenna "adjusting" device.



What's in a name? Check out this list of 1998 Atlantic Hurricane names provided by Bob, N1XZJ:

- | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| Alex | Hermine | Otto |
| Bonnie | Ivan | Paula |
| Charley | Jeanna | Richard |
| Danielle | Karl | Shary |
| Earl | Lisa | Tomas |
| Francis | Mitch | Virginie |
| Georges | Nicole | Walter |



The best Internet sites listing links to amateur sites are:

- www.qsl.net/ham-www
- and
- pw2.netcom.com/~ac6v/index.html

A super-duper site that list only search engines is:

- www.vvm.com/~john/search.html



The WebPage address for the SEMARA homepage was recently changed. The new address is: www.lrh.net/semara/semara.htm Check it out - the homepage has been completely revised and updated by Larry, AA1FS.



A giant surprise box of radio "goodies" was auctioned off following the March business meeting. The surprise box was donated by Sam Wagstaff, N1BGN. After several minutes of intense bidding, Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, was declared the successful bidder. Bob refused to open the box at the club! Say, Bob, what was in the box?



TRIVIA NOTE - Did you know that in general, all nations that start with an "A" end with an "A"? Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Angola, etc. One exception to the rule, however, is Afghanistan. Can you name the other? Answer on page 5.



A big welcome goes out to new member Steve Saunders, N1ZGX, who was voted into the association at the March business meeting. WELCOME to the club Steve!

N1ZGX

A grand time was had by all that attended the Tech-Talk slide show of the new clubhouse construction in the 1970s. Popcorn and soda, in addition to the usual coffee, was available. Among the slides shown was one of the old outhouse that once graced the yard behind the clubhouse.





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>

SETI RECEIVERS MAY HAVE BEEN SETUP WRONG!

After straining for decades to find hints of intelligent life in space, astronomers now suspect they may have setup their receivers incorrectly.

Three researchers at Cornell University - James Cordes, Joseph Lazio, and the late Carl Sagan - recently published an article in the *Astrophysical Journal* stating that real messages from outer space may already have been recorded.

The system designed to Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) looked for repeating sequences in the signals from outer space. The researchers proposed that some signals that met all the parameters setup by the system except for repeatability may have indeed been messages from intelligent life in outer space. A new search is underway where repeatability is not absolutely required.



HAMS HELP FOLLOWING FLORIDA TORNADOES

Hams pitched in to help in the aftermath of tornadoes that hit Central Florida on February 23rd killing more than three dozen people and injuring hundreds of others. The tornadoes struck along a path from Orlando to Daytona Beach early Monday morning while most people were asleep. Many were left homeless by the tornadoes, now recorded in history as Florida's deadliest and most destructive.

Amateurs provided communications for the many Red Cross shelters that opened following the storm. Because Osceola County (where the tornadoes hit) has few hams, amateurs from surrounding counties were called upon to assist in providing communications and help. Seminole County ARES/RACES even provided dog-handler hams to assist in the search and rescue efforts.

Tens of millions of dollars in damage was reported.



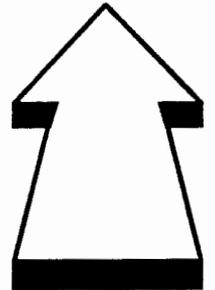
MIR ASTRONAUT CONTACTS SCHOOL VIA AMATEUR RADIO

US astronaut Andy Thomas, KD5CHF, answered several questions from students at Carey Junior High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming via amateur radio. Carey Junior High has an active amateur radio program and a club station, KC7OEK.

One of the more interesting questions was if Andy had seen any flashes of light when sleeping or when his eyes were closed. Such flashes are caused by intense geomagnetic activity on the sun. Andy reported that he had seen a few.

Andy also reported that he has gained an inch in height after being in space for six weeks. This is a common phenomenon in the weightlessness of space.

All contacts are made on 70 cm. with six more schools slated to be contacted by mid-April of this year (Including one school in Massachusetts!).



HALLMARKS OF THE TRUE HOMEBREWER by K11BR



- Not only collects cigar, oatmeal and plastic boxes, but also tends to hoard them.
- Winds his own coils, always using #10 or larger wire.
- Seldom labels switches and control knobs, and when labeled they are in pencil.
- Doesn't hesitate to design circuits with "hard to get" (even obsolete!) parts.
- Builds control panels with more meters and indicating lights than switches and knobs.
- Favors designs featuring two-digit tubes: 80, 59, 27, 30, 45.
- Spends Saturday mornings "browsing" in junkyards and dumps.
- Coverts the Raytheon CK722 PNP transistor. (Will kill for a CK721!)
- Often builds rigs with a positive ground.
- Proudly displays a lighted picture of Nikola Tesla over his workbench.
- Scours fleamarkets for National "velvet vernier" knobs, and buys all he can find.

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -		WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1OEG	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
147.000 +		W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Yarmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	77.0	N1FDX	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham
220			
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
440			
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	WIARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston
NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER:		4. Pentagrid Converter	

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SEMARA

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FIRST CLASS

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