



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 5



SEMARA



May 1998

Editor's Corner

IS IT FOXHUNT TIME?

Every spring, after the blood thins out a bit, most hams get the urge to engage in a foxhunt. I know I get the urge!

It seems that 30 years ago foxhunts ran year round. Maybe with the advent of stay-at-home toys such as VCR's, computers, electronic games, and similar high tech "goodies" the urge to foxhunt has been compromised. It takes the changing of the seasons (Spring & Fall) to stir the urge to foxhunt!

In the six-meter days of the late 50's and into the late 60's, foxhunting was almost a right of passage towards becoming a real ham (along with the hallowed Wouff-Hong!).



I can recall the day the "fox" hid on the roof of the locker room below the old wooden bleachers at Buttonwood Park. Another time the "fox" hid in the parking lot at Lincoln Park (on a Saturday night to boot!). Still another time the "fox" hid down by the old railroad station and was covered with crates and boxes in an alleyway. What great times we had back then.

Let's bring back the great times! At the upcoming business meeting let's plan a foxhunt (or two). Heck, maybe we could even offer prizes.



MEETING HIGHLITES

The April business meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Vice-President Andy Reuter. Twenty-four members and two 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 - SEMCARES will provide parts required to upgrade both the main and standby repeaters. Bill Miller will handle the installation and testing of the upgrades. *Buildings and Grounds* - The club grounds need to be cleaned to allow grass cutting this spring. May 3rd was set as "Spring Clean-up Day". (8 am to 12 noon) *Scholarship* - Last chance to buy ARRL trip tickets. *Tower Committee* - None.

Communications - None.

Ratifications - Octave S. Pimentel, K1VJP, was voted a life member of the association. Chris J. Smith, N1ZPI, was voted a conditional member of the association.

Old business - None.

New business - None.

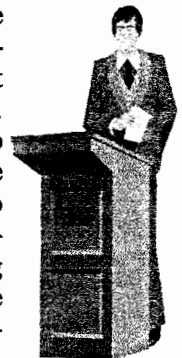
The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm, at which time a 50/50 raffle was held. The winner of the raffle was "Doc" Riley, W1ATI, who pocketed \$12. Then a 2 meter J-Pole antenna donated to the club by "Doc" was auctioned off to Dick Spinkin, WA1CRA, for \$15.

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED FOR HAM CLASS

The club is currently planning No-Code Technician Class amateur radio training sessions for January through April of 1999. The class coordinator is Brad Anselmo, N1VUF.

The course of instruction is based upon the ARRL study guide "Now You're Talking!". The guide breaks the course of instruction down into modules that can be taught in one session. All areas of amateur radio are covered in the various modules.

Instructors are solicited for the various modules that comprise the course. Here's a chance to put your knowledge of amateur radio to work. If you are interested in instructing one or more of the modules, please contact Brad.



Classes will be held Sunday nights from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The classes will start in January and run through April of 1999.

A brochure and a handout have been made to promote the class. Additionally, a large poster has been made to advertise the class at various civic events throughout the year.

Brad Anselmo can be reached at (508) 991-5466 or by E-Mail at n1vuf@amsat.com or via SEMARA at 54 Donald St., So. Dartmouth, MA 02748.

ZERO BEAT

Published monthly by the
**Southeastern Massachusetts
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**
 54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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.

CLUB SPRING CLEANUP SET FOR MAY 3RD

Sunday, May 3rd is club spring cleanup day from 8am to 12 noon. Drop by and pitch in to help spruce up the club and grounds.

Inside the club there is plenty to do! A general cleaning of the kitchen and rest rooms is due. The meeting room, class room, and ham shack could stand a good dusting and sweeping. All windows should be cleaned with a good glass cleaner.

Outside the clubhouse, the lawn needs to be rid of all tree branches and debris that has accumulated over the winter. A major concern is removing the large willow tree stump in the front yard. Also, a few strong bodies with shovels and rakes would go a long way toward filling in the potholes in the driveway.



As always, there will be coffee and donuts available. See you May 3rd at the club!

ARRL TOUR CANCELLED

Due to the unfortunate fact that the minimum number of tickets required to pay for the motorcoach could not be sold, the ARRL field trip was cancelled. Those that paid for tickets will have their money refunded.

DONATIONS OF RADIO EQUIPMENT SOUGHT

The Dartmouth Emergency Management Agency seeks donations of radio equipment to bolster their ability to provide emergency radio communications.



According to Tony Duarte, N1XRS, (Dartmouth Races Radio Officer) the Southeast Massachusetts Coastal Amateur Radio Emergency Services (SEMCARES) group is working with him to get the necessary equipment. The equipment sought includes:

- 2M/440 High Power Mobile Radio
- 2M/440 dual-band HT
- 2M base unit suitable for APRS
- Any 6M gear
- IBM compatible PC (386 and up)
- 2M/440 Base Antenna
- 2M Base Antenna
- Any type all-band scanner
- VHF High Power Business Radio

At the present time the Dartmouth Emergency Management Agency has virtually no equipment to speak of. Dependable radio equipment is essential to emergency response efforts. Even equipment at reduced cost will be considered.

If you can help this worthwhile effort, please contact Tony by phone at (508) 993-4696 or by E-Mail at n1xrs@amsat.org

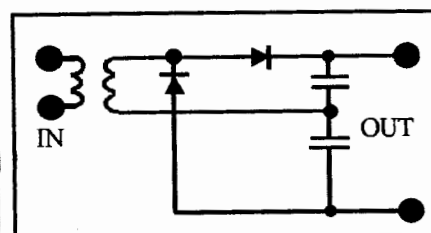
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

May 2, 1998
 Saturday, 10:30 AM

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN MAY

- 09 Falmouth, MA
 Joanne Reid
 508-548-1121
- 11 Brookline, MA
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 14 Providence, RI
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 16 Marlborough, MA
 William Wade
 781-891-9079
- 20 Cambridge, MA
 Nick Alterndburned
 617-253-3776

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



1. Foster-Seeley Discriminator
2. Voltage Doubler
3. Ratio Detector
4. Dual-Diode Mixer

ANSWER - See Page 6



CLUB NOTES

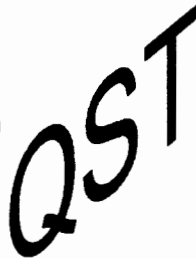
Wow! What a spring. Here it is May, yet we've had May weather since late in March. Two very important holidays fall in the month of May - Mother's Day on the 10th, and Memorial Day on the 25th.



A big "WELCOME" goes out to one new member and one "old timer" voted a life member in the club. The new member is Chris J. Smith, N1ZPI, and the life member is Octave "Rocky" Pimentel, K1VJZ.



Reminder - When you renew your ARRL membership please do it through the club. The club will benefit financially if you do so. Contact the club Treasurer for details. Thanks!



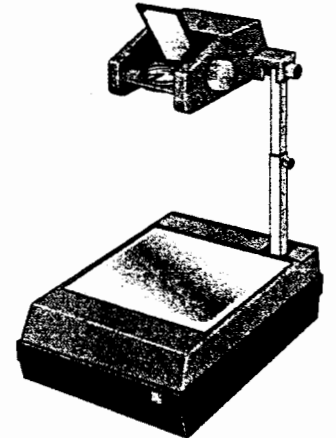
What is a "copper cactus" antenna? Well, members of SEMARA found out at the April business meeting. Norman Riley, W1ATI, showed off a "copper cactus" two meter antenna he built using 1/2" copper tubing and plans from the February 1992 issue of 73 magazine. The antenna, which looks like a cactus plant, was tested "as built" using a MJF-259 SWR Analyzer and found to be resonant right in the middle of the two meter band! Nice job, Doc!



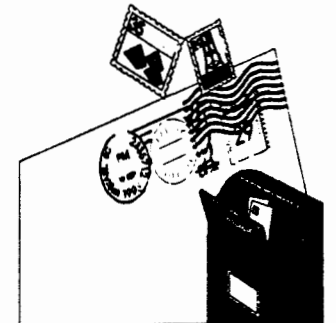
A large cabinet with four compartments secured with locks was donated to the club by Sam Wagstaff, N1PGN. The cabinet will be used by either the VE's or technical instructors in the club. Thanks Sam!



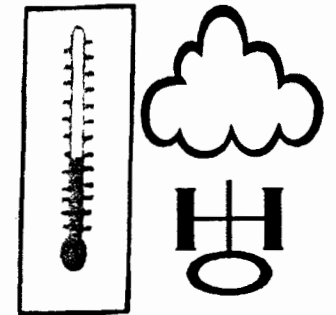
Wanted: an overhead projector for the club. Several Tech-Talk presenters have requested an overhead projector to facilitate the use of transparencies with their presentation. Since we don't have one, many presentations do without and the quality of the presentation suffers. If you know how we can get one, please contact Bill Miller, K1IBR.



The club has entered into another newsletter exchange. We now swap newsletters with the Wareham Radio Club who publish "The Gateway". Their secretary is Jerry Fortin, N1RXZ, son of none other than Joe Fortin, K4KTZ! Small world, huh?



Reminder: The National Weather Service will be hosting their open house on Saturday, May 30, from 10 am to 5 pm & Sunday, May 31, from Noon to 5 pm. NWS is located off exit 9 on Route I-495. Follow the signs to designated parking in the GTE lot.



Several members attended the April 16th Tech-Talk "All about ARES" by Rob Macedo, KD1CY. It was a most informative presentation outlining the differences between ARES and RACES. Thanks, Rob!





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>

FCC PROPOSES RULES AFFECTING HAMS

In NPRM Docket WT 98-20, the FCC proposes several dramatic rules changes that could affect hams.



The proposed changes include replacing Form 610 with a new Form 605 that would also be used by other services in an effort to standardize license applications.

Also proposed is automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the United States. Foreign hams would no longer have to file Form 610-A.

Other changes proposed include privatizing the issuance of club station licenses, and a requirement that all hams file electronically and supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN).

SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL FILED

In an effort to protect amateur frequencies from further encroachment, the ARRL requested a bill be filed to meet such objectives. The bill, HR 3572, was introduced by Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R) of Florida and Ron Klink (D) of Pennsylvania.

The bill precludes any reallocation of primary Amateur Radio frequencies unless the FCC at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.



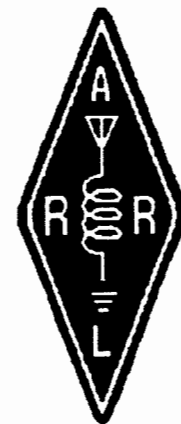
The bill was filed in response to FCC actions in the last several years that resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of amateur radio spectrum! Stay tuned - this is one bill we must get passed!

VOLUNTARY BAND PLANS AND THE FCC

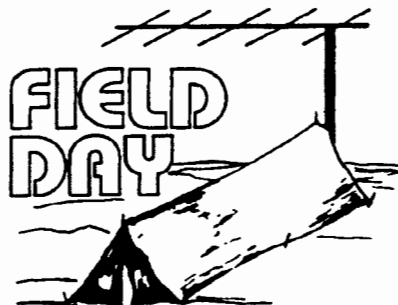
The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to affirm that amateur operations that conflict with established voluntary band plans, causes interference, or adversely affects those amateurs operating in accordance with applicable band plans be made a violation of FCC rules.

The ARRL contends that amateurs that operate with a disregard for established voluntary band plans are not operating "in accordance with good amateur practice". The league's filing builds upon a 1983 declaration by the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau that simplex operation on a recognized repeater frequency was contrary to good amateur practice.

A complete copy of the league's filing can be found on the Internet at: www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf



WANTED: Ambitious Amateur To Organize Field Day Activities For The Club!



June 28 & 29, 1998

Field Day is just around the corner. Now is the time to begin organizing and planning for the event. The club needs a volunteer to get the ball rolling. Not only is Field Day a lot of fun, but valuable operating and logging experience is gained by every participant! How about it, is someone ready to step up to the plate and hit a home run for the club by making Field Day a reality? Let's make Field Day 1998 the best ever!

TECHNICAL TIPS

Water is the natural enemy of coaxial connections to antennas. Filling connectors with silicon grease helps keep water out and thus prevents corrosion. Rubber boots especially designed for use on coaxial cable connections are available. Also obtainable is a rubber tape that vulcanizes to itself when stretched and thus provides a waterproof barrier. You can also use electricians tape to help seal connections. Be sure to buy a quality tape that's ultra-violet resistant. Also, wrap each layer from bottom to top to make the tape overlap like shingles on a roof. Finally, seal all wrapped connections with a water resistant sealer such as "Scotchcoat".

1998 FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

- May 2 - Smithfield, RI
- May 2 - Barnstable, MA (auction)
- May 8,9 - Rochester, NH
- May 16 - Forestdale, RI
- May 17 - MIT
- May 23 - Vernon, CT
- June 7 - Newington, CT
- June 13 - Dennis, MA
- June 20 - Greenwich, RI
- June 21 - MIT
- July 18 - Wellesley, MA
- July 19 - MIT
- August 16 - MIT
- August 23 - Enfield, CT
- August 28,29,30 - Boxboro, MA
- September 13 - SEMARA!
- September 19 - Forestdale, RI
- September 20 - MIT
- October 2,3 - Rochester, NH
- October 18 - MIT
- November 21 - Newton, MA (auction)

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/SEMARA/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 Henry Blanchett, 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

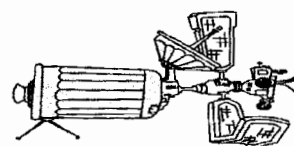
MAY 1998

- 2 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 3 - CLUB SPRING CLEANUP 8am-12 noon
- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 11 - Tech Class Instructors Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 21 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "All About SWR"



JUNE 1998

- 4 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 6 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 18 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "AMSAT" by Ed Harrington, W1VF



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	WGIU	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	KILIQ	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:		2. Voltage Doubler	

Please support these fine sponsors of our newsletter

Bridal and Baby Showers
Weddings
Anniversary
Birthdays



The Cake Lady

Lisa Houbre
Cake Consultant
991-6057



Custom and novelty cakes for all occasions.



Cappuccino
Gourmet
Espresso



Bagels
Muffins
Cream Cheeses

Boston Coffee & Bagel

122 Allen Street, New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 992-3064

Also serving fine deli lunches

SEMARA

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

FIRST CLASS

Scanned by N1TI
January 2011