



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 12



SEMARA



December 1998

## SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION TO ERECT NEW TOWER FILED WITH BOARD OF APPEALS

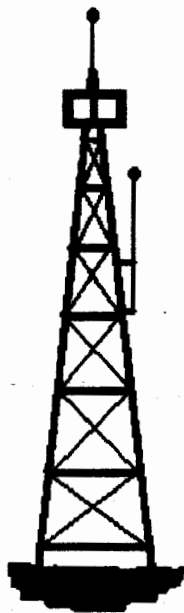
On Tuesday, November 10th, NETCOM Wireless Facilities of Plymouth applied for a Special Permit in the Town of Dartmouth to increase the present tower on our property to 180 feet, and also permit commercial use of the tower. Additionally, an A-1 Site Inspection was filed with the Conservation Commission.

These are the first steps in the process that leads to securing a building permit for the new tower. It is anticipated that the permitting process will be accomplished by early next year and construction will be completed by summer.

Current plans call for the tower to be situated in the woods to the rear of our property. We shall have three antennas initially installed at the top of the tower. Two will be Super Stationmasters, one on 2 meters, the other on 440. The third antenna, backing up the two prime antennas, will be a Diamond dual bander donated by the South Coastal Massachusetts Amateur Radio Group (SCMARG).

The repeater systems will be housed in a cement block building (8' X 8') located at

the base of the tower. It shall be connected to the main clubhouse by underground conduit for phone line and control wiring. NETCOM Wireless Facilities has agreed to furnish 120/240 volt power to our repeater building free of charge.



A draft lease agreement between the Association and NETCOM is complete, and currently under review by NETCOM's lawyer. Additionally, a General Agreement covering the various arrangements that fall outside the terms of the lease between the Association and NETCOM is in development. Both agreements shall be signed at such time that a building permit is secured.

The hearing for the Special Permit will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8, 1998, in the Dartmouth Town Hall. Board of Appeals hearings are held on the third floor of Town Hall in room 304 (John Marland Room).



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The November business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Rick Cabral. Twenty-seven members 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* - None. *Buildings and Grounds* - None. *Scholarship* - None. *Code Class* - None. *Tower* - The membership was informed that a lease has been worked out, and the following Tuesday Netcom Wireless Communications will file for a Special Permit to raise the tower to 180 feet and permit commercial use. In all likelihood the tower will be installed this coming spring after all required permits are secured. *Communications* - None.

*Old Business* - None.

*New Business* - The following motions were made and passed: 1) A motion to pay the insurance bill. 2) A motion to block Third Party Calling, 900 Calls, and Collect Calls (in addition to long distance calls) on

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**EDITOR**

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 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.

**MEETING-** continued from page one

the club phone. 3) A motion to have two officer's names on the club checking account. 4) A motion to change the original Tower Committee authorization to negotiate with NYNEX to "any party", all other conditions to remain the same.

*Nominations:* The following members were nominated for the offices listed:

- PRESIDENT**  
 Chris Smith, N1ZPI  
 Rick Cabral, N1RFH
- VICE-PRESIDENT**  
 Bill Miller, K1IBR
- SECRETARY**  
 Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- TREASURER**  
 Larry Houbre, AA1FS
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3) -**  
 Andy Reuter, WA1FNM  
 Marty Jordan, KA1YFV  
 Scott Szala, W1EV
- TRUSTEE**  
 Bill Vincent, N1LTY

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. No raffle or auction was held following the meeting.

## 1999 DUES RATES

It's that time of the year again!  
 Time to pay your dues. Dues are the same as last year:

- Associate Member - \$15.00
- Conditional Member - \$25.00
- Full Member - \$25.00
- Family Membership - \$30.00

## 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, 54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA

02748, or by E-Mail from AA1FS@lrh.net, or by calling Larry Houbre, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at (508) 991-6055.

For every action,  
 there is always  
 equal and  
 opposite criticism.

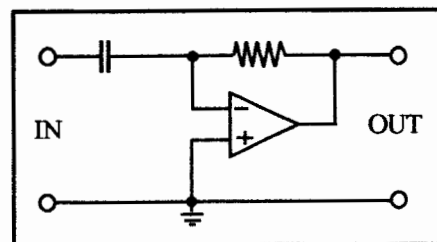
## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

**December 5, 1998**  
**10:30 am**  
**SEMARA Clubhouse**

## LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN DECEMBER

- 10 Providence, RI  
 Judy Nelson  
 401-231-9156
- 12 Falmouth, MA  
 Joanne Reid  
 508-548-11211
- 14 Brookline, MA  
 Bob Wondolowski  
 508-865-5822
- 19 Marlborough, MA  
 William Wade  
 781-891-9079
- 23 Cambridge, MA  
 Nick Alterndburnd  
 617-253-3776

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Comparator
- 2.) DC Restorer
- 3.) Differentiator
- 4.) Precision Clipper
- 5.) Intergrator

ANSWER - See Page 6



# CLUB NOTES

We are in the midst of the holiday season. What a great time of the year! Be sure to get your Christmas shopping done early, for before you know it December 25th will be here.



Reminder! It's that time of the year again, time to renew your membership. Dues shall be the same as last year.

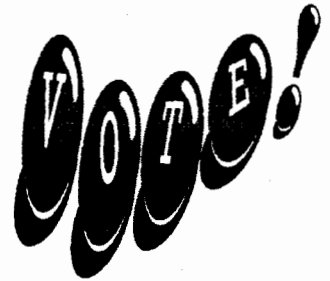
- Associate: \$15.00
- Conditional: \$25.00
- Full: \$25.00
- Family: \$30.00

DUES  
ARE  
DUE!

Do you have an area of expertise? How about sharing that knowledge with other club members. Tech-Talk speakers are always in demand. Contact Bill Miller to set up a date for your talk. Call (508) 996-2969 or E-Mail to K1IBR@LRH.NET



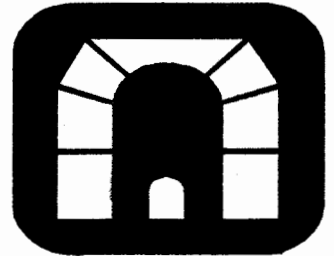
For the first time in recent memory we actually have two members running for the office of President. Incumbent Rick Cabral, N1RFH, is being challenged by Chris Smith, N1ZPI. All other positions are uncontested.



Reminder - from 1:30 to 2:00 pm every Monday thru Friday it's ragchewing time at the Boston Coffee & Bagel shop, corner of Dartmouth and Allen Street in New Bedford. Drop by and join in the fun!



Speaking of fun at the coffee shop, one member happened to notice that Dick, WA1CRA, has a "Cape Cod Canal Tunnel Permit" sticker on his car. Of course all the other members there played along with Dick as he explained how he was able to get the permit only because he used to work at Woods Hole Oceanographic. Comments such as, "The tunnel is probably the best kept secret on Cape Cod" were bantied about. However, fact is there is no tunnel!



## TIM SMITH, N1BTQ, WINS AGAIN!

It was the fastest foxhunt in history! Since the designated fox Ken Howland, N1AVA, was in Maine, the alternate, Bill Miller, K1IBR, went into hiding. Or so he thought! In about 6 minutes Tim, N1BTQ, had found the hiding place. He was quickly followed by the second place winners, Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, and Bob Metivier, N1XZJ. Seconds behind was Chris Smith, N1ZPI, the third place winner. The hunt was over in just 11 minutes! It appears the hunters are getting better with every hunt. One thing is sure - this was the shortest hunt ever held by the club. By the way, Bill, K1IBR, hid on the southern end of Lombard Street in New Bedford. Unwittingly he had parked directly across from Rob Macedo's, KDICY, house. This was pointed out by Bob, N1XZJ, who knew where Rob lived. As usual, the team headed to Friendly's for food, fun, and frivolity following the hunt! "Short but sweet" sums up this hunt.



## 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>

### NEW JERSEY HAM FINED

James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, was fined \$7,500 by the FCC for interfering with a net operation on 40 meters. The fine must be paid in 30 days. Additionally, Thompson, 58, of Waretown, New Jersey, was ordered off 40 meters until further notice after the October 18th incident.

The FCC took action following numerous complaints from other amateurs and the Association of North American Radio Clubs which conducts a Sunday morning net on 7240 kHz. The FCC alleged that Thompson willfully interfered with the net by retransmitting standard broadcast (AM) signals on 7240 kHz. Thompson was also charged with failure to properly identify his station.

This case was the first FCC enforcement action since amateur enforcement responsibility was transferred to the Compliance and Information Bureau. Anyone wishing to report amateur radio violations can call the Amateur Enforcement Line at (202) 4-8-1184.

### R. L. DRAKE COMPANY ENDS FACTORY SERVICE FOR OLDER GEAR

R. L. Drake Company has announced that it will no longer service most of its older line of amateur equipment.

Citing the difficulty of obtaining repair parts, Drake reached the point where it could no longer service older equipment in the manner their customers were accustomed to. Drake also pointed out that the cost of repairing old tube-type equipment could easily exceed the value of the radio being repaired.

The radios no longer repaired include: R-4 and R-4A receivers, the popular T-4X, XB, and XC transmitters, the TR-3 and TR-4 transceivers, most power supplies for older equipment, the SSR-1 receiver, and the TR-22, 22C, and TR-33C 2-meter transceivers. Limited repair is available for the R-4B, R-4C, TR-5, and TR-7 radios.

### MINI-SPUTNIK LAUNCHED BY HAND FROM MIR

During a spacewalk from the MIR space station, cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev launched Sputnik 41 (RS-18) by hand. Avdeyev gently tossed it towards the moon.

New Hampshire amateur Ken Carlstrom, N1WED, was among the first to report hearing Sputnik 41. He reported hearing it from 0604 to 0609 UTC on November 11th, on 145.8145 MHz.

Aeroclub de France financed the construction and launch of Sputnik 41 to mark its centennial.

Sputnik 41 weighs almost 9 pounds and is just under 8 inches in diameter. It carries a 200 mW transmitter that operates on 145.812 (+/- 5 kHz and Doppler shift). The spacecraft has no solar cells and is expected to operate about 30 days on the internal batteries. Sputnik 41 transmits a message in three languages along with "beeps".



## NO-CODE TECHNICIAN CLASS TO START THIS JANUARY

No-Code Technician Class amateur radio classes are set to begin on January 10, 1999. The classes will run for about three months every Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. It's not too late to register for the class. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a "ham", please notify them of this opportunity to prepare for the required examination. The course is based on the ARRL book "Now You're Talking!" (third edition). There is a \$5.00 fee for the course if you bring your own book, or for \$20.00 the club will provide both the book and training. (Having the club supply the book is more cost effective.) Act now! Brochures with an application form are available at the club, or call Brad Anselmo at (508) 991-5466 for further information. Brad can also be reached by E-Mail at: [fragozo@aol.com](mailto:fragozo@aol.com)

## TECHNICAL TIPS - TROUBLESHOOTING

Troubleshooting is almost an art according to some folks. In reality, it is mostly logical analysis with a good dose of common sense. For example, power supplies are one of the most overlooked items when troubleshooting. The adage, "Is it plugged in?" rings true more often than not. Another common mistake is ASSUMING the output voltage is correct because the radio or whatever partially works. Don't assume! Always check the power supply for correct voltages first. One good practice is to write down your initial observations of the equipment before beginning to troubleshoot. Is smoke pouring out of the enclosure? If so, does it smell like Bakelite (burnt resistor?), does it smell like acrid tar (burnt transformer?), or does it smell like rotten eggs (selenium rectifier?). Your eyes and nose can help you troubleshoot! Your ears can troubleshoot too. Do you hear arcing or sparking? Is there a loud hum? Did something "POP" when the equipment failed? Listing all these observations and then carefully analyzing them can speed up your troubleshooting by pointing you in the right direction. What if the equipment "lights up" but doesn't work? No smoke, no arcing, just nothing. A time proven method in these cases is to "split" the problem in half. In other words, go to the middle of the circuitry and check if the first half of the equipment is working. For example, in the case of a dead radio check the output of the detector. If you have a signal then the RF stages are OK and the problem is in the audio output stages. If so, then split the audio stages in half. Check for drive into the final output stage. Got the idea? Simple, huh? Give it a try!

## 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](http://WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM)

[MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RICABRAL/HAM/SEMARA](http://MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RICABRAL/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

### DECEMBER 1998

- 3 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 5 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 10 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 14 - Instructors Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 17 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - Networking Computers, by Tim Smith, N1BTQ

### JANUARY 1999

- 2 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 10 - Ham Class, 6:30 pm
- 14 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 21 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - to be announced

**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
<b>144</b>				<b>440</b>			
145.150 -		WA1DGW	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	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	N1DIN	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
<b>220</b>							
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis				

3. Differentiator

Please support these fine sponsors of our newsletter

**Len's Dog Obedience School**

**Tuesday evenings**  
at New England Dog Training Center, 47 Mason Rd., East Freetown, MA

Do you walk your dog or does he walk you? Will your dog stay put when told or come when called? Solve your problems, come to class.

**Beginners: 8:30 PM, Advanced: 7:30 PM, Open & Utility 8:30 PM**  
**Len Godomski, Trainer**      for more info: 508 995-8749

Directions: From Rte. 140 North take exit 8 and turn left or from Rte 140 South take exit 8 and turn right. After the first intersection, we're 1/2 mile down the road on the left.



*Cappuccino*  
*Southern*  
*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

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