



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 67TH YEAR

Volume 35, Issue 4



SEMARA



April 1999

## TOWER REPORT



### SIGNING OF THE LEASE

Alan Costello of NETCOM signs the lease as Club President Chris Smith, K1CJS, readies his pen and Notary Public Joe Rodrigues, N1BZZ, looks on.

The tower project is moving along. On February 23rd the decision of the Dartmouth Board of Appeals was picked up from the Town Clerk. That evening the President of our club, **Chris Smith, K1CJS**, and the president of NETCOM Wireless Facilities, **Alan Costello**, signed the tower lease agreement in the presence of Notary Public **Joseph Rodrigues, N1BZZ**.

The following morning both the Board of Appeals decision and our lease with Netcom Wireless Facilities were registered with the Bristol County Registry of Deeds.

Following the business meeting on March 4th, an easement to COM-Electric was signed and notarized, allowing them to install power cables and a pad-mount transformer on our property.

On March 11th COM-Electric staked out the new pole location at the corner of Donald and West Bliss Street. We are now waiting for the Dartmouth Board of Selectman to approve COM-Electric's application to install a pole at that location.

The month of April should see major construction work at the site. The tower will soon be up and operational!

## BROADCAST HISTORIAN DONNA HALPER TO SPEAK AT CLUB APRIL 15TH

The April 15th Tech-Talk at 7 pm will feature noted author, lecturer, and broadcast consultant, **Donna Halper** of Quincy, MA. Donna's presentation will describe the link in the early years of radio between amateur and commercial radio in the New Bedford area.



### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The March business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President **Chris Smith**. Twenty-three members were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's report was not read (Secretary ill) and the Treasurer's report was read

MEETING Page 2

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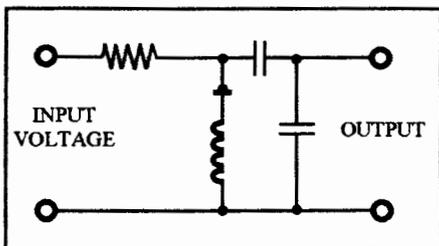
### ADVERTISING

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.

THE DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR  
PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH  
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

### NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Synchronous Detector
- 2.) Phantastron
- 3.) Tunnel Diode Oscillator
- 4.) Noise Filter
- 5.) Relaxation Oscillator

ANSWER - See Page 8

### MEETING- continued from page one

later in the meeting and accepted (Treasurer late).

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - Band-Pass unit for repeater tuned. Rest of tuning will be done just before transfer to new tower. *Buildings and Grounds* - No report. *Scholarship* - None. *Code Class* - Progressing well! 16 students still at it. *Tower* - See report on this page for details. *Communications* - None.

*Ratifications* - None

*Old Business* - The following motions were passed: 1) To reimburse Bill Miller for \$29.87 to cover remaining cost of officer's wall plaque.

*New Business* - The following motions were made and passed: 1) To install a cardkey system of access into the club. 2) Officer's authorized to grant required rights-of-way to utilities involved with tower project. 3) Joe Rodriques to be reimbursed \$115 in dues overpayments. 4) Old generator to be removed by March 15th by N1VUF's friend, or by Sam Wagstaff by March 31st, at which time the officers will dispose of it by any other means.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm and many members headed off to the usual ragchewing at the "Second Meeting".

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

April 3, 1999  
10:30 am  
SEMARA Clubhouse

## LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN APRIL

- 08 Providence, RI  
Judy Nelson  
401-231-9156
- 10 Falmouth, MA  
Ben Fleck  
508-540-2583
- 12 Brookline, MA  
Bob Wondolowski  
508-865-5822
- 17 Marlborough, MA  
William Wade  
781-891-9079
- 21 Cambridge, MA  
Nick Alterndburn  
617-253-3776

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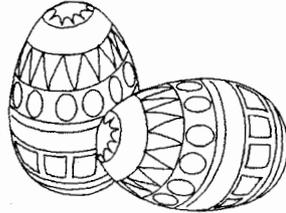
When you throw dirt,  
You lose ground.

TEXAS PROVERB



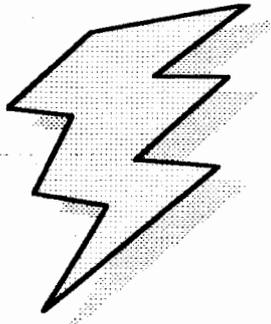
# CLUB NOTES

The club business meeting falls on April Fool's day. Watch Out! Good Friday falls on April 2nd, followed by Easter on the 4th. Don't forget to send your Secretary a card on Secretary's Day, the 21st. Last, but not least, is Arbor Day on the 30th.



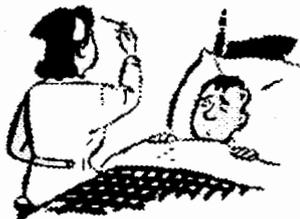
Did you ever wonder what's in those black boxes called filters? Well, wonder no more! Tony Oliveira, W1PWL, will present a Tech-Talk on filters this coming June. Tony was head of filter design at Cornell-Dubilier in New Bedford before retiring. Tony asks that anyone with questions about filters send him a letter at 94 Potomska Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. He will research the questions and present the answers during the Tech-Talk. The letters will also give him an idea of what to focus on during the presentation.

# RFI



# EMI

Talk about it being a small world! Over the March 6th weekend, club members Henry Blanchett and Frank Fonseca both ended up in St. Lukes hospital for a few days. Even more incredible is the fact they ended up *sharing the same room!* We bet a bit of ragchewing was the order of the day.



**Wishing You Well  
Frank & Henry**

Over 65? Since the club records don't record your age, it is vital that you notify the Treasurer when you turn 65. He will then check to see if you are eligible for a life membership. If you are not eligible, he will advise you when you will meet the requirements. Recently one member eligible for life membership unnecessarily paid dues for several years. (Note - The club refunded the overpayments.)

The club's repeater control operators remind all members to please announce your call prior to and after an autopatch. *Thanks.*

This was the month for members ending up in the hospital! **Martin Butler, N1QLA**, is recovering from recent surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery Martin!

A list of the club offices for the year 1951 was recently discovered by **Art Marshall, W1FJI**. Art was searching through old QST's when he came upon it as part of a club report. *Thanks Art* - that was a year we were missing information on.

Did you know the first club newsletter was called "KEY KLIX"?

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dues free Life Membership will be bestowed on any member at the age of 65 years or older, provided said member has been a full member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding assignment of this type of membership.

Article IV, Section 3 of the Club's Constitution

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

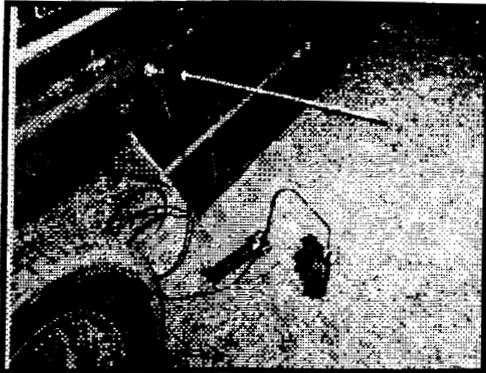


### CLUB OFFICERS

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# KEY KLIX 1938

## UNIQUE FOXHUNT HELD ON CLUB PROPERTY



VIEW OF FOX HIDING UNDER TRUCK



THE FOX REVEALED!

The March 11th foxhunt was a truly unique experience. The fox actually hid on the club's property! To disguise his presence, the fox brought a huge 7+ ton truck onto the property and sunk it down to the frame in the soft ground north of the old Quonset hut. Then the fox crawled under the truck (as foxes do) and the hunt was on. Although Ken, N1AVA, was scheduled to be the fox that night, he became a hunter with the rest of us as a result of this strange turn of events. In fact it was Ken that first noticed the magnetic antenna stuck on the side of the truck under which the fox hid. Ken, N1AVA, was the winner of this unique hunt – and will be next month's fox. Runners up, right behind Ken were Ed Blouin, KA1AW, Tony Duarte, N1XRS, Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, Tim Smith, N1BTQ, and Bill Miller, K1IBR. Oh, the fox? None other than wily, crafty, Brad Anselmo, N1VUF! Following the hunt, a pizza party was held at the club. A grand time was had by all. (NOTICE – Any similarity in the about fable to actual events is pure coincidence, except for the pizza party segment. To get the TRUE story of what happened, contact anyone named above. Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction!)

## SHOULD YOU GO TO THE DAYTON HAMFEST?

Well, that time of the year is fast approaching again - MAY 13, 14 & 15, 1999. This is usually hyped as the pinnacle event of the Spring for Ham Radio enthusiasts from all over the world. They don't go there for an Ohio Clam boil/chowder or the greasy tube steaks and flat, warm beer! Over 30,000 people from all over the world will be attending just to find those one or two special interest items, attend a seminar or to plain socialize and party.

Okay, so your world revolves around Thursday meetings at W1AEC, and you don't really even fire the rig up anymore. (Do solid state rigs have fire like the ol' tube jobs?) Going to Dayton for an enthusiast is like waiting up to catch a glimpse of Santa on Christmas eve. First of all, it is an opportunity to take a trip and maybe see a different part of the country. They say you can't take it with you, so spend it!

It is also a chance to get some of those old cronies who operated that long ago field day together and go have some fun. By planning a trip out with shared expenses, you get a chance to split the gas money, motel lodgings and really lower the price of a stay away from home. My mot-

ley group usually packs four people per room. The group of attendees this year will be from FLA, WASH, MASS, MI, and JA (not a misprint). We usually have about 8 people in our group which cuts the cost of lodging, a flea market space and for the MI hams, some transportation costs commuting.

I Don't need anything. Fine, for a measly \$15.00 three-day admission ticket, and if you get that ticket in the drum, you have a chance on hourly door prizes and about 100 bigger prizes raffled off on Sunday afternoon (You don't need to be present to win big drawings). This means you can easily depart on Sunday and beat the traffic all the way home. Some prizes are premium high dollar stations. There are about 12 foot ball fields of flea market. That item you've looked for during the past 20 years is under someone's table.

Oh, you just buy new rigs? All the Ham manufacturers, Drake, Ten-Tec, Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom, Cushcraft, Hygain, Mosley, etc are there presenting their latest and greatest products. And here's a tip – order your tickets in advance. If you would like some assistance in planning a trip to Dayton, call me any evening at (810) 781-9717. I'd be glad to share some planning pointers with you, and help out with the reservations too!

73's es Gud DX – Bill, WA1APX/8

## FINALLY, A CLUBHOUSE OF OUR OWN ! By Art Marshall W1FJI

**R**ake tin cans ? Some members might remember this a bit better than I do but here goes...

I don't think I had my Novice yet, so it was either late 54, or early in 55. I was a member of the club, had taken my Novice test, and had attended some of the meetings of the club when they were down on Blackmer Street in the south end of New Bedford. At that time, some of the talk was about buying some 3-1/2 acres of old dump land on Donald St. in South Dartmouth, as well as buying Wally's Hut. Wally's Hut was a small diner-type eating place on Rockdale Ave., just south of Dartmouth Street, on the left side going towards Clark's Cove. The plan was to move Wally's hut to the land and start what is know today our club.

Well, the club officers pulled work parties together and we went up to the dump land with rakes and whatever else we had. Have ya ever tried to move mounds of tin cans and bottles with rakes? "Fun" wasn't the word. Would this stuff ever settle, and would we be able to put the hut here without it just becoming one more tin can at the dump? I wish I could remember how long we worked and raked but I really can't. Next we needed some fill, and then we needed to get the hut there.

The day of days arrived, and when the hut also arrived,

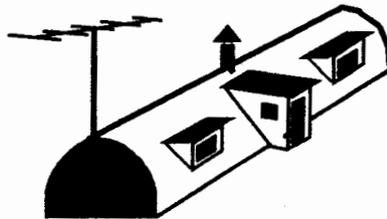
our future looked brighter. The hut was put into position, and you could almost hear the tin cans and bottles giving way under the load. Level ?? Hmm... well fairly close, lets slip under and block it up and lever it out. This was a task that took some thought. Once completed, there it was, one giant WWII tin can on the top of smaller tin cans - would it last? We didn't know. I do remember at one point thinking, Hmm... What if this thing starts to sink...

40 foot wooden tower, some 3 foot at the base, this thing would hold not only the prop pitch motor and beam but Columbus and his entire crew. As I remember, our equipment at that time was an HQ129X receiver, and a HT-9 transmitter. By the way, this was the equipment we had at our Blackmer Street location.

It was all due to the foresight of those few members back then who had the vision and the dream of our own clubhouse on our own land. It finally came true!

### *It finally came true!*

You could see the excitement in the eyes of the members. Our own place, no more rent, we can put up antennas, what a



day! Every now and then someone would have to slide under and make the old hut level again. Leak ? Did someone say leak? Yep, then it was up on the roof with tar and seal all the joints, not once or twice, but many weekends of helping the hut survive.

Later on we poured a pad off to the side of the hut, and one Saturday, don't ask me where we got it, but somehow and from somewhere we got ourselves a

It was a great feeling for me recently, after all these years to once again walk into the new club house built in 1976 and then into the old WWII tin can (HUT - a Quonset Hut!).

It brought back a lot of great memories.

I wish you could have been there back then to have met some of the old guys. Myself, I was around 15, had just received my Novice call, WN1FJI, and enjoyed listening to their stories, and discussions, some of which I might add were heated.

They passed along to us not only the keys to the club, but the keys to the continuing future of Amateur Radio. As Amateur Radio moves forward, into the next century, who knows what it will bring. We have gone from Spark, to CW, to AM, to DSB & SSB, to all forms of Digital communications, and now onto the Internet. Keep up the GREAT work, because sitting in the back ground are the ever present founders of our Radio Club - we can't see them, but they are there!

de Art Marshall, W1FJI

FAIRHAVEN REPEATER  
WEATHER NET  
SPRING MEETING  
SET FOR MAY 8TH

Hank Riley, NILTV, announces that the FRWN Spring Meeting is set for Saturday, May 8th, at 12:30 pm in the Southworth Library, on Dartmouth Street in South Dartmouth.

Featured speaker will be Bill Babcock from the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Taunton, MA.



THE CRAZY

PHONETIC ALPHABET

A	ARE	S	SEE
B	BEE	T	TEA
C	CZAR	U	URBAN
D	DEE	V	VEE
E	EYE	W	WYE
F	FEE	X	XYLOPHONE
G	GNU	Y	YEW
H	HE	Z	ZEE



I	IN
J	JOSE
K	KNOW
L	LEE
M	ME
N	NO
O	OH
P	PHONE
Q	QOPH
R	RITE

## REMEMBER WHEN?

Old timers in the club will remember the large parabolic dish that sat atop four telephone poles about 30 feet up in the air, and 75 feet behind the old Quonset hut that was the clubhouse in the early 1970s. If nothing else it was impressive!

The dish was erected by members of the local astronomy club from New Bedford with the help of several club members. It was a joint venture, with each group having access to the dish.

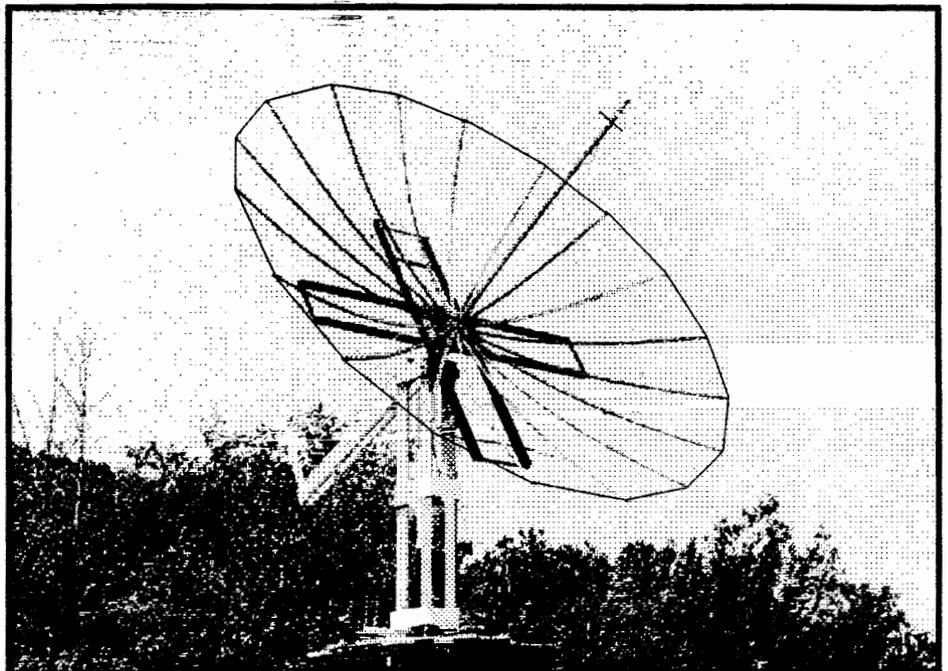
The dish was constructed of redwood struts that were tensioned by way of a cable that ran along the circumference of the dish. The whole assembly was covered with chicken wire which acted as a reflector.

The dish was manually aimed into the heavens. As the earth

turned, the dish swept an arc through the heavens. Each day the astronomy club advanced the dish a little higher until eventually they had a radio map of the whole sky.

The output from the homebrew receiver used to scan the skies was recorded by a strip chart recorder. Each strip chart represented the radio field strength across a segment of the sky. Laid side by side, the charts mapped the heavens.

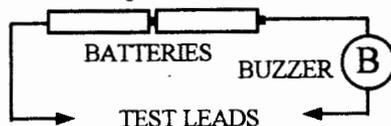
When not in use, the dish was aimed straight up and bolted in place. This practice led to the dish's demise. During a long wet snowfall, the dish reached its breaking point and collapsed. All that was salvaged were the telephone poles which were pressed into service supporting "ham" antennas from that time forward.



THIS IS THE PARABOLIC DISH ANTENNA THAT WAS USED BY THE LOCAL ASTRONOMY CLUB TO RADIO-MAP THE HEAVENS. IT WAS MOUNTED ATOP FOUR TELEPHONE POLES ABOUT 75 FEET BEHIND THE OLD CLUBHOUSE IN THE EARLY 1970'S

### TECHNICAL TIPS

A handy device to have around the shop is a continuity tester. In fact, some of the newer VOMs give a "beep" on the low ohms scale to indicate continuity. However, you don't have to buy a new VOM to do continuity testing. You can make your own tester using two AA batteries and a piezo buzzer. Be sure to use a piezo unit that contains a built-in oscillator circuit. Simply wire the batteries and the buzzer in series with test clips on each end. Anytime the circuit is completed, the buzzer goes off indicating continuity. Put the whole works in a plastic case with the leads coming out two small holes.



### 1999 FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

- \*\*\*\*\*
- April 11 - Framingham, MA
  - April 18 - MIT Cambridge, MA
  - May 7-8 - Hoss Traders Rochester, NH
  - May 15 - RIAFMRS Forestdale, RI
  - May 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
  - May 29 - Vernon, CT
  - June 20 - MIT Cambridge, MA
  - Sept 12 - SEMARA Dartmouth, MA
  - Sept 18 - RIAFMRS Forestdale, RI
  - Sept 19 - MIT Cambridge, MA
  - Oct 8,9 - Hoss Traders Rochester, NH
  - Oct 17 - MIT Cambridge, MA

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

### VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES



WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM  
MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RICABRAL/HAM/SEMARA

### SEMARA OFFICERS 1999



- President* Chris J. Smith, K1CJS
- Vice-President* Robert Metivier, N1XZJ
- Secretary* Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- Treasurer* Bradford Anselmo, N1VUV

**Board of Directors:**

- Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM
- Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
- Scott Szala, W1EV

**Trustees:**

- William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR- Chairman
- Norman Riley, W1ATI
- Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
- Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV
- William Vincent, N1LTY

### SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

#### APRIL 1999

- 1 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 3 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 8 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 15 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "Radio History" By Donna Halper
- 17 - VE Session, 8:00 pm
- 22 - Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 pm

#### MAY 1999

- 1 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 13 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ Clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 17 - SEMCARES Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 20 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "Networking Computers" by Tim Smith, N1BTQ



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	KBIBWN	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	WGIU	Assonet
442.200 +		N1NRL	Fall River
442.350 +	141.3	N1OFD	Acushnet
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.600 +		NSIN	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WAIGPO	Falmouth
444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston

3. Tunnel Diode Oscillator NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER:

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**SEMARA**

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**FIRST CLASS**

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*January 2011*