



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 67TH YEAR

Volume 35, Issue 8



SEMARA



August 1999

PARTY HELD FOR JOE FORTIN, K4KTZ

On July 21st, twelve club members joined Joe Fortin, K4KTZ, for a luncheon party held at Danny's Tavern in New Bedford. The party is a yearly tradition each summer when Joe comes up from Florida to visit his family.

As usual, the food was good, but the camaraderie was greater! It was an enjoyable day for all that attended and partook of the ragchewing and fun. See you next year, Joe!

TOWER REPORT

Work on the tower is moving slowly but surely. During July all the bolts on the tower were tightened to specification and the "T-Bars" used to support the feedlines were installed on all tower legs. Also installed was the safety cable used by workmen when climbing the tower. Site work was delayed slightly when the backhoe got a flat tire. As we go to press, plans call for the tree stumps to be removed, the driveway gravelled, and the control house built in the coming months.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The July business meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Chris Smith. Twenty-five members and were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's was read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's report due to the Treasurers being absent.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - Repeater almost ready for service at new tower site. The duplexer cavities have been tuned. The CTCSS system remains to be installed in the repeater. The frequency for both transmit and receive will be 67 hertz, and will be user activated/deactivated. *Activities* - No report. *Buildings and Grounds* - New oil level gauge installed on oil tank with a protective cover to prevent damage from stone throwing vandals. *Ham Class* - None. *Scholarship* - No report. *Constitution* - No report. *Tower* - See report on this page for details.

Communications - None.

Ratifications - Sam Wagstaff was voted a life member.

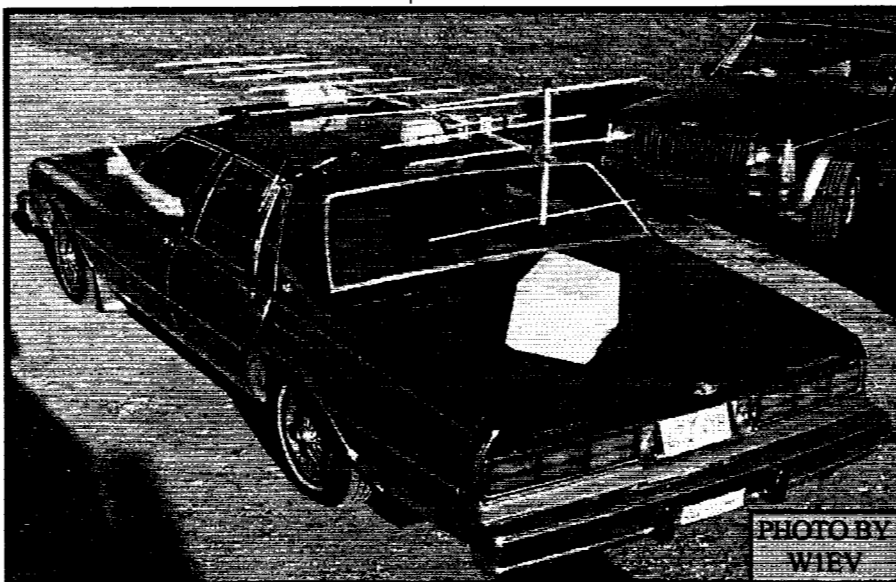


PHOTO BY
WIEV

WHAT'S THIS SETUP FOR?

Find out in the Foxhunt Report on page 4!

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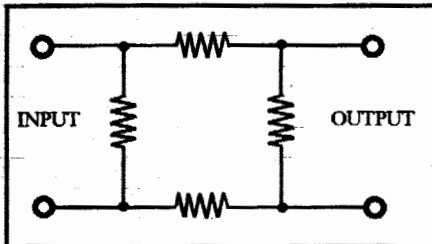
ADVERTISING

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.) Ferrite Circulator
- 2.) Attenuator
- 3.) Ring Modulator
- 4.) Type "O" Demodulator
- 5.) Quadrant Filter

ANSWER - See Last Page

MEETING- continued from page one

Old Business - None.

New Business - The membership voted to give the old tower sections away to any members that wanted any.

For the Good of the Club - Nothing mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

NOTICE

At the last business meeting the membership voted to give the old repeater tower sections away to any members that wanted them. So far about 100 feet of tower has been removed from the club's property. The remaining sections are stored in the area where the emergency generator was located between the Quonset hut and the meeting room. The key to the north gate is on a hanger under the kitchen counter. Look for the long plastic strip with the key ring. If you want a few (or all) of the remaining tower sections (about 60 feet), take them away! Be aware that the sections have rust and will need some work to make them useable. You take the sections at your own risk, as the club makes no claim as to suitability of the tower sections for tower or any other use.

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

August 7, 1999
 10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN AUGUST

- 09 Brookline, MA
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 12 Providence, RI
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 14 Falmouth, MA
 Ben Fleck
 508-540-2583
- 18 Cambridge, MA
 Nick Alterndburnd
 617-253-3776

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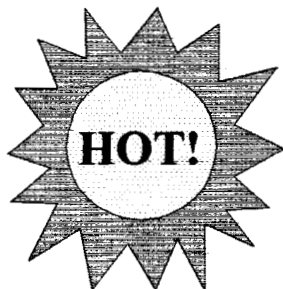
*"People who know little
 are usually great talkers,
 while men who know much
 say little."*

Jean Jacques Rousseau

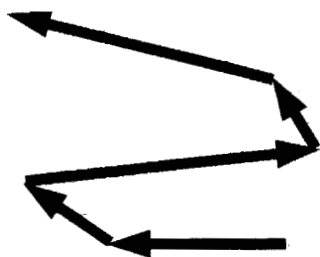


CLUB NOTES

August is not one of my favorite months. Too hot and humid. The beginning of another hurricane season. No holidays. The only good thing to be said is you don't have to cut grass - it's all dead!



If you've been by the club lately you've noticed that all the inside doors are left open. This is to allow cool air that enters the club through the screened windows in the radio room to flow through the whole club then up through the open access hole in the main meeting room ceiling to the roof vents.

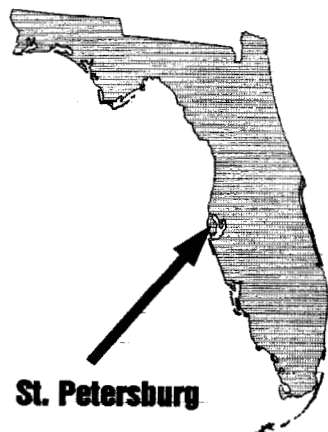


**NATURAL
CONVECTION
COOLING**

A new fill level indicator was installed on the oil tank. The old one was smashed by a rock thrown by vandals. A steel cage was placed over the new indicator to prevent future damage.

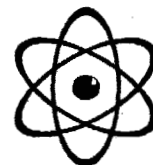


Longtime association life member **Fernandes "Chico" Pacheco, WA1ZXH**, dropped by the club several Sunday mornings recently for the coffee hour (and to "officially" inspect the new radio tower!) Chico now lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and was in the area for a visit. Nice to see you again Chico!

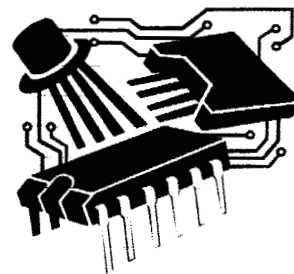


Remember last month we reported that **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**, moved from the second floor to the first floor in his apartment house? Well, Dick's XYL wanted it clarified that *Dick sat and watched TV* while she, her daughter, and grandchild did the actual moving!

Comment overheard at the club's Sunday morning coffee hour: "I hate electrons - they're so negative!"



Bill Miller, K1IBR, presented the July Tech-Talk on 555 timers. The 555 is one of the most versatile chips ever developed as Bill demonstrated with circuits from modulators to latches.



Scott Szala, W1EV, isn't a happy camper. There was more than fireworks over the Fourth of July weekend at his house. Lightning struck a direct hit and zapped his computer monitor, Astron 35 ampere 12V power supply, Yaesu FT-990EC, and Yaesu FT-736R! Traces on the PC boards were actually vaporized!

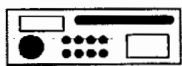


BOB & HENRY SAID "PACK A LUNCH!" BUT TIM SMITH, N1BTQ, TAKES ONLY HALF AN HOUR TO WIN THE FOXHUNT YET AGAIN!



Although he started late, Tim Smith, N1BTQ, finished first. Bob and Henry of "Pack a lunch!" fame were no match for Tim. Tim managed to sniff them out in a little over half an hour. Coming in second was the team of Scott Szala, W1EV, and Bill Miller, K1IBR. Next came Ken Howland, N1AVA. Fourth and last place went to the team of Ed Blouin, KA1AW, and Ritchey Guild, KB1EAJ. Bill Miller threw a scare into Bob and Henry prior to their departure from the club at the beginning of the hunt. Bill attached a 2 meter "long-john" beam to a roof rack atop his car. Ed Blouin chimed in that he helped test it a few days earlier and it was absolutely deadly! As soon as Bob and Henry left the clubhouse to hide, the whole phony contraption was removed off Bill's car and everyone had a good laugh. We could mentally picture the sweat rolling down Bob and Henry's foreheads! Bob and Henry didn't find out they had been "had" until later that evening, when everyone had another good laugh. Following the hunt, everyone met at Me & Ed's restaurant for a bite to eat and the usual ragchewing.

WANTED



LOOKING FOR A SMALL
MOBILE TRANSCEIVER
FOR 2M/440

ALSO SEEKING A
SMALL TRI-BAND
BEAM, 10-15-20



PHONE: Ed Blouin,
KA1AW
(508) 997-8974

REMINDERS



The International Lighthouse/
Lightship Weekend runs from 001
UTC on Saturday, August 21st until
2359 UTC Sunday, August 22nd. For
full details see page 6 in the June issue of
ZERO BEAT.

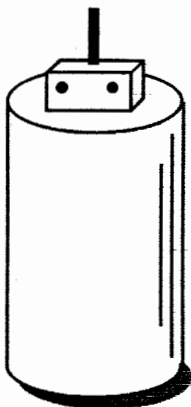


Members are reminded to renew
their subscription to QST via the
club. The club gets a small fee for handling the transaction, and you get QST delivered to your home uninterrupted. Contact the club's Treasurer Brad Anselmo for full details.

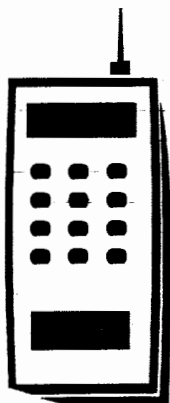
REPEATER NEWS AND UPDATE

Talk about an overhaul! That's just what the club's repeater got during the last month. No portion of the repeater was left untouched. It was probably the most extensive overhaul ever done to the club's repeater.

All six duplexer cavities were taken apart and the coupling loops were resoldered and realigned. Several of the cavities had what appeared to be dead fleas in them! (They must be leftovers from when we rented the clubhouse to the dog trainers years ago!) The duplexer base was painted gray and new mounting feet were installed. After the mechanical work was completed, all cavities were tuned for maximum performance using a Wavetek sweep generator, along with Hewlett-Packard and Measurements Corporation test equipment. The tuning resulted in improved insertion loss at the pass frequency and provided greater notch attenuation at the stop frequency 600 kilohertz away.



CTCSS (PL tone) was added to the repeater by way of an outboard unit. The transmitter now has a 67 hertz CTCSS tone always present. The receiver has a user controlled 67 hertz CTCSS squelch system. It can be turned "on" and "off" by sending the # tone for 3 or more seconds. The tone toggles a latch that turns the receive CTCSS system "on" if "off", and "off" if "on".

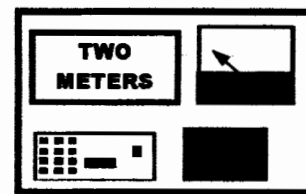


This feature permits members to access the repeater using older radios and walkies that do not have CTCSS capabilities. For example, if you find you can't bring up the repeater with your older set, send the # tone for 3 or more seconds. That will turn off the CTCSS system and place the repeater on "carrier" squelch only. Now you should have no problem using the repeater.

It is anticipated that the receiver CTCSS system shall be "on" only when distant signals using other repeaters are tripping our repeater. The transmitter

CTCSS tone will always be present allowing those members with CTCSS decoders to block unwanted distant repeaters from being heard. This is a handy feature during band openings and ducting conditions.

A power amplifier has been donated to the club for use on the repeater. Although rated for 180 watts, it will be run at a conservative power level of 100 to 120 watts. On loss of AC power, the power amplifier switches to the "bypass" mode. This feature allows battery backup of the basic repeater during power outages. (The basic repeater also lowers its power output to about 20 watts to conserve battery power.) Coupled with the low-noise receiver preamp, the combination should greatly extend the operating range of the repeater. Addition improvement of the operating range shall come about with the use of 1-5/8" low-loss hardline and a new Super Stationmaster antenna.



POWER AMPLIFIER

The new repeater backup battery shall be installed in a plastic storage box outside the repeater control house. The existing charger was partially rebuilt and upgraded to supply 75 amperes. Additionally, a new 12 volt power distribution panel was constructed for the new repeater site.

The club's Technical Committee has invested a great amount of time in assuring the club will have a quality, reliable repeater at the new tower site. Hang in there, it won't be long before the overhauled repeater is on the air..

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CLUB NOTES

W1FJI

Mark Sunday, August 8th, on your calendar! Then be at the club coffee hour (9 am) and say "Hi!" to Art Marshall, W1FJI. Art will be up from Florida visiting and plans to drop by that morning.



So, an unnamed club member noticed that his car's air conditioner was blowing air only on one side of the car. Thinking that something was blocked, he went to a repair shop to get it fixed. While parking the car at the shop, he notices that the vents are SHUT OFF on one side of the car. He quietly left the parking lot with mixed feelings - embarrassed but happy.



Andy Reuter, WA1FNM, and Bill Miller, K1IBR, tarred several locations on the old Quonset hut roof to put an end to leaks. Every time it rained, the Quonset hut floor got washed! Hopefully, all the leaks have been sealed and the hut will stay dry during the next rain storm.



BITS - N - PIECES

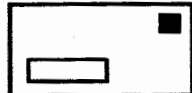
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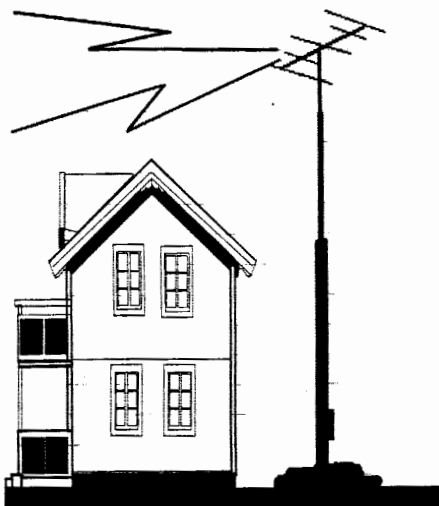
K1MAN - WHERE ARE YOU?

The FCC wants to know who was the control operator of Glenn Baxter's, K1MAN, station in Belgrade Lakes, Maine when they paid it inspection visits on two consecutive days in mid-May. No one was home, and no vehicles were on the property. Yet the station was locked and transmitting on both days!

On June 25th, the FCC send Baxter a formal letter of inquiry into the circumstances of his station's operation in mid-May. They want to know if the station is remotely controlled, and if so the name, address, and telephone number of such controller(s). Baxter must also provide the FCC a detailed schematic of the control circuit used. Furthermore, he must provide the FCC with complete records of all transmissions from his station for the first five months of 1999.



Baxter was given 30 days to provide the requested information.



FCC CLARIFIES STAND ON MULTIPLE CALL SIGNS

The FCC recently took an initiative to reduce the "warehousing" or "hoarding" of amateur call signs. According to the FCC's top Amateur Radio enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, several amateurs have been "hoarding" vanity call signs.

He said one trustee of a radio club had three dozen such calls hoarded, and when challenged he gave up all but one. In another case several members of a family in California were challenged over their hoarding of several call signs.

- KISS
- KICK
- WOOL
- KOOL
- WOOD
- KNOW
- KOALA
- WILLY
- KODAK

As long as calls are held for legitimate purposes there is no problem according to Hollingsworth. He is only concerned about those who "work" the system and abuse the licensing process. Such hoarding of call signs adds to the workload of the FCC and will not be tolerated, added Hollingsworth.

He also stressed that radio clubs with multiple calls need not worry as long as there is a legitimate need for each call, such as for repeaters, packet stations, etc. There is no limit on the number of such calls a club may hold.

TECHNICAL TIPS

Solder work on PC boards can be a challenge. Too much heat can damage the PC board itself or cause the copper runs to lift off the board. To prevent such damage caused by long applications of heat, try the following: Cut the leads off old components being removed! For example, if you're removing a blown IC chip, carefully cut all the leads close to the chip. The chip will fall free from the board. Then solder-wick each lead off the board one at a time. This is particularly handy on two sided boards where large amounts of solder may exist on the chip side of the board, as now you can solder-wick both sides. The same technique can be used on other components. Try it!

1999 FLEAMARKETS

August 27 - MITT Cambridge, MA
 August 28 - MAJIC Gardner, MA
 August 29 - VEDUEZT Can. Falls, CT

SEPTEMBER 12

SEMARA

DARTMOUTH, MA

Sept 13 - BEATHEED Cambridge, MA
 Sept 14 - GARDI Middlefield, MA
 Sept 17 - MITT Cambridge, MA
 Sept 20 - FARA Framingham, MA
 Oct 2 - New Freedom Southbury, CT
 Oct 24 - VEDUEZT Can. Falls, CT
 Oct 31 - MITT Cambridge, MA
 Nov 20 - WARA North, MA

NET DIRECTORY

— Sunday —

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| 8am | 28.375 | SEMARA NET |
| 9:30 am | 50.225 | Yankee SSB |
| 3pm | 28.470 | UFO |
| 7pm | 147.000+ | Swap Net |

— 4th Sunday —

| | | |
|-----|---------|---------|
| 9pm | 449.575 | EM-ARRL |
|-----|---------|---------|

— Daily —

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------------|
| 5:30 pm | 3.915 | EM/RI NTS ssb |
| 7&10 pm | 3.658 | EM/RI NTS cw |
| 6:45 pm | 147.315+ | NTS/Trivia |
| 7pm | 146.550 | SEMARA NET |
| 8pm | 145.230- | EM-NTS |

— Monday to Friday —

| | | |
|-----|----------|------------|
| 8am | 14.262 | SEMARA NET |
| 8pm | 145.490- | Weather |

— Saturday & Sunday —

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----|
| 8am | 7.237 | UFO |
|-----|-------|-----|

— Thursday —

| | | |
|-----|----------|--------|
| 7pm | 14.264 | UFO |
| 8pm | 147.180+ | Trivia |

— Saturday —

| | | |
|---------|--------|-------------|
| 7:30 pm | 3.978 | UFO |
| 1800G | 14.300 | Coast Guard |

— SEMCARES NET —

1st Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm
 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)

VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES



WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM

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SEMARA OFFICERS

1999



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 Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 Scott Szala, W1EV

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 Norman Riley, WIATI
 Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
 Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV
 William Vincent, N1LTY

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST 1999

- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 12 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 16 - Quarterly SEMCARES Meeting, 7:30 pm @ clubhouse
- 19 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "Radio Collecting" by Charles Days



SEPTEMBER 1999

- 2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 9 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ Clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 12 - SEMARA FLEAMARKET! VE session @ 10 am
- 16 - Tech-Talk, "Internet Hacking A-Z!" by Tim Smith - 7:00 pm



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 - | | KAIWBF | Fairhaven | 442.200 + | | NINRL | Fall River |
| 146.445 +1Mhz | 91.5 | KB1BWN | Dartmouth | 442.350 + | 141.3 | NIOFD | Acushnet |
| 146.655 - | 88.5 | WA1GPO | Falmouth | 442.600 + | 100.0 | KILIQ | Tiverton, RI |
| 146.685 - | | N1OEG | Plymouth | 443.450 + | 88.5 | K1MYL | Westport |
| 146.950 - | 88.5 | K1PDO | Dennis | 443.600 + | | NSIN | Norwell |
| 147.000 + | 67.0 | 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 | 444.350 + | 88.5 | W1ACT | Fall River |
| 147.315 + | 156.7 | N1BBT | Wareham | 444.550 + | | N1FDX | Bridgewater |
| 220 | | | | 447.075 - | | N1DZD | Kingston |
| 224.340 - | | N1SGK | Dennis | NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER: 2 Attenuator | | | |

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