



ZERO BEAT

Southeastern Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street
South Dartmouth, MA 02148



OUR 68TH YEAR

Volume 36, Issue 1



SEMARA



January 2000

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

We are days away from the new millennium. The big question is what impact the Y2K computer "bug" will have on society. The prognostications have run the whole gamut of possibilities from *nothing at all* to *a total collapse of society*.

Only time will tell. In the meantime it would be prudent to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. As amateur radio operators, Y2K readiness and preparation should not only be restricted to stocking up on food, money, and supplies, but also assuring our amateur radio equipment is in tip-top operating condition. The amateur radio community might be called to action should conventional lines of communication fail.



So check out those handhelds, and be sure the batteries are all charged to maximum capacity. Y2K is a good excuse to replace that old battery pack that only holds half a charge! Fire up your portable generator. (Be sure to check the oil.) Stock up on gasoline. Check your antennas, and replace any frayed wires or suspect connections. You get the picture. Go to it!

Our club is also entering the new millennium. Financial security is now a reality for the club. Our lease with NET-COM provides a steady monthly income as we enter the new millennium. Membership is increasing steadily and will soon eclipse the previous peak set in the late 1970's. And after three years in the making, the history of our club from its beginning in 1932 to the end of the century is captured in a book. We are on a roll!

The last year has witnessed a renewal of faith in the club as old members returned and present members took a greater interest in the club. I sincerely believe our club will make tremendous strides forward in the coming years. My vision of the club's future is filled with good things happening. But ultimately it is you, the members, that determine the destiny of our club. I implore you, and the incoming officers, to be prudent in your decisions and thereby guide our club to new heights of achievement. Together we can do it! In fact, I for one am looking forward to it.

Bill Miller, KIIBR - Editor



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The December business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Chris Smith. Twenty-five members were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's report was read and accepted. Vice-President Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, read the Treasurer's report's for November and December, as the Treasurer was absent. The report was accepted by the membership.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - All solder joints in output amplifier in Kendecom repeater were redone. This fixed the intermittent problem we were experiencing with the power output. Subaudible tone decoder repaired and back in service. *Activities* - No report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Chairman Andy Reuter reminded everyone to please shut lights off when done in rest rooms. The ceiling fan exhausts the warm club air outside causing the furnace to run excessively. *Ham Class* - No report. *Scholarship* - No report. *Constitution* - Draft copy should be available soon for review on Sunday mornings. *Tower* -

ZERO BEAT

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 54 Donald Street,
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EDITOR

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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.

MEETING- continued from page one

A 10 x 20 precast concrete building has been installed at the site for NEXTEL cellular use. Fiber optic and metallic cable run into site by telephone company. Meter panel and power wiring approved by wiring inspector. *Communications*—Milton Francis, K1BOC, is undergoing rehabilitation in a local nursing home following a nasty fall down the stairs in his house.

Ratifications – **Marc Jodoin, KA1WBF**, reinstated as a member.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

For the Good of the Club – Nothing mentioned.

The election of officers for the year 2000 was held. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and by vote of the membership the Secretary cast one vote declaring all officers on the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee as elected:

- PRESIDENT** - Chris Smith, K1CJS
- V. P.** - Bob Metivier, N1XZJ
- SEC.** - Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- TREAS.** - John Carreiro, W1ZYV
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS** -
 Marty Jordan, KA1YFV
 Scott Szala, W1EV
 Bill Miller, K1IBR
- TRUSTEE** - Ed Blouin, KA1AW

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

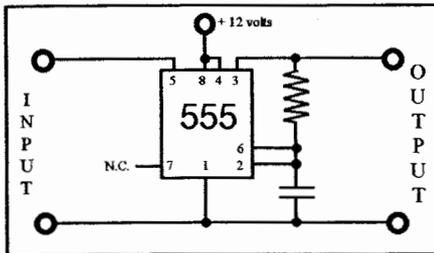
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

February 12, 2000
 10:30 am
 SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN JANUARY

- 08 Falmouth, MA**
 Ben Fleck
 508-540-2583
- 10 Brookline, MA**
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 13 Providence, RI**
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 15 Marlborough, MA**
 William Wade
 781-891-9079
- 19 Cambridge, MA**
 Nick Alterndbernd
 617-253-3776

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Root Mean Square Detector
- 2.) FSK Demodulator
- 3.) Sine Wave Oscillator
- 4.) Missing Pulse Detector
- 5.) Voltage Controlled Oscillator

ANSWER - See page 7

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*“Be true to your work,
 your word, and your friend.”*

Henry David Thoreau



FOXHUNT REPORT

BOB & HENRY FOUND! K1IBR & WA1JFD WINNERS

It took the dynamic team of Bill Miller, K1IBR, and Charlie Days, WA1JFD, 25 minutes to bag the fox. The fox had an excellent hiding spot, but not good enough. They hid partway under a metal stairway on the North side of the Kilburn Mill. Yea, a strict reading of the rules would invalidate that location as it wasn't truly a public access property. However, in the spirit of the Holidays they were given a free pass on this one. Next time will be different! Cooperation between all hunters, including the ones at home with beam antennas, ended Bob & Henry's plan to go on to month three! After the hunt, the group went to Me & Ed's restaurant for chow and ragchewing.

N1BTQ's FOXHUNT LOG & NOTES

6:50PM: Review of the rules, last minute boasting.	7:50PM: Bill and Charlie casually move in for the kill.
7:00PM: Final frequency selection - 147.530 Mhz	7:53PM: Bill and Charlie put another notch on their stocks... ***1st Place***
7:05PM: Hunters help Henry figure out rig problem... almost had a forfeiture!	8:01PM: Tim rolls in and notices flashing light illuminating Bill and Charlie's grins... ***2nd place***
7:12PM: Foxes leave for the den.	8:10PM: Ken's out sightseeing in the south end!
7:28PM: Fox snuggled in, hunt begins.	8:19PM: Ken grabs fox by the tail... ***3rd Place***
7:30PM: Participating fixed stations polled.	8:23PM: Chris backs his way down to the fox. ***4th Place***
7:35PM: Fixed stations confirm location with beam antennas. (Heh, heh, heh!)	8:24PM: Chris almost rams the fox with his rear bumper as he screeches to a halt!
7:40PM: Bill and Charlie play with the bait.	8:27PM: Marty and Brian Parent find white van but no fox...
7:45PM: Tim chases something...but not the fox!	8:33PM: Yea! Marty and Brian are on the scene! ***5th Place***

SEMARA CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS BEST YET!

The SEMARA Christmas Party held at Thad's Steakhouse the night of December 11th was called the best ever by several members. Everyone praised Janice Smith for the great job she did organizing the event. Susan Metivier also helped keep things going, especially during the gift exchange which was the highlight of the evening.

Prior to the gift exchange, members drew slips of paper from a bag. The person with number one got to pick which gift they wanted, and had to open it for all to see. Then the person with number two selected a gift and opened it too. This is where the fun began, because person number two had the option of keeping their gift or exchanging it for number one's gift! Number three in turn had the option of keeping their gift or exchanging it with either number one or two. And so it went until the lucky person with the last number got their

choice of all gifts opened that evening.

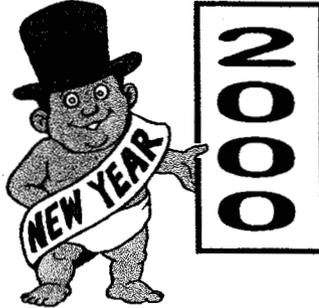
The lucky person with the last ticket was Ed Blouin, KA1AW, who exchanged his gift for a bunch of lottery tickets. Ed promptly gave the tickets to his wife who handled the scratching. Since there was no screaming, there was no big hit!!!





CLUB NOTES

Wow! The year 2000 is upon us. January is a good month to relax following the holidays and get in some ham radio activity. The BIG holiday is New Year's Day, followed by Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the 17th.



A hearty welcome goes out to **Marc Jodoin, KA1WBF**, who rejoined the club at the last business meeting. *Welcome back, Marc!*



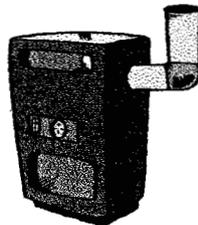
Oops! I did it again. No sooner had the last issue of ZERO BEAT been mailed when I started getting phone calls and E-Mail. Yep, another mistake! The URL for the FCC Universal Licensing System was listed wrong - the correct URL is:
<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>



A big "Thank You" goes out to member **Wayne Kingsley, WA1CCM**, who made two new handicap parking signs to replace the old signs that were falling apart. *Thanks, Wayne!*



Members are reminded to please shut the lights OFF when leaving the rest room. The ceiling fan sucks the warm out of the club and causes the furnace to run excessively.



It is with deep regret we announce the death of member **Octave "Rocky" Pimentel, K1VJZ**, age 74. Rocky, who always had a smile, was Chairman of the 1977 Building Committee that erected the club's new meeting hall. He was a tireless worker on behalf of the club. *Rest in peace, Rocky.*



A member (who shall remain anonymous) made a pot of coffee for club members. However, he forgot to put the cover on the coffee pot. This is required or the brewed coffee can't drip down into the pot. Well, the coffee holder at the top of the brewer overflowed. Hot water and coffee grounds went all over the kitchen counter!



Club member **Milton Francis, K1BOC**, took a nasty fall down the stairs in his home and ended up in a nursing home. You may visit him or send cards to:

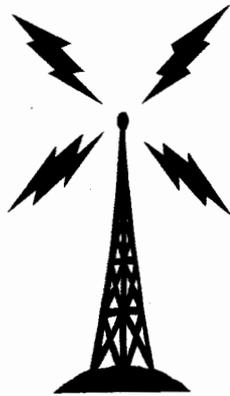
Milton Francis
Hathaway Manor, Room 100
863 Hathaway Road
New Bedford, MA 02740



A large hawk has started using the new radio tower as his lookout perch. From his vantage point on the tower he can swoop down and scoop up unsuspecting birds which he hauls back up the tower to feast on.



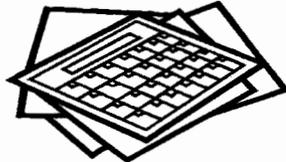
The New England Spectrum Management Council, Inc. has approved our new repeater location and the increase in effective radiated power. The approval is valid until November 1, 2002. Our repeater has been on the air over 25 years serving the Southeastern Massachusetts amateur radio community.



It's time to pay your yearly membership dues. Dues are \$10.00 per year. This flat rate applies to all membership classes. Each and every member pays \$10.00 per year, except for Honorary and Life members (Free). Mail dues payments to: SEMARA, 54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA 02748



DUES TIME!



Having trouble with your computer? (Who isn't!) Then check this site out. It gives you on-screen directions, with pictures, of how to accomplish most tasks:



www.pcshowandtell.com

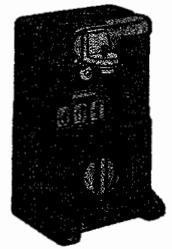
An impromptu coffee hour was held at the club on Wednesday, December 1, 1999. One member announced over the repeater he was brewing a pot of coffee. The members came out of the woodwork! One even brought a box of donuts. It was party time!



Several members asked that the club phone number be published in the newsletter. It is 992-0163. Please note the phone is shared with the repeaters and they automatically answer after several rings. Also, the autopatch may cut in on your call!



A big "Thank You" goes out to Ed Blouin, K1AW, who donated an electric can opener to the club. The old hand cranked one was actually ripping the coffee cans open, rather than cutting them cleanly!



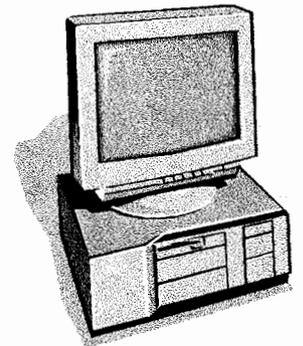
There is a 40 foot free standing tower behind the shed at the club. It's first come first serve for this free tower donated by NETCOM. The tower is rugged, and will require a 4 foot square concrete block to anchor it in place. If the tower isn't gone by January 15th, it's going to the junk yard...

FREE TOWER

Ralph Morris, W1QUE, sent in a clipping from the Boston Globe reporting that over 80 Maine hams will be on standby watch New Years Day in case the 911 phone system fails. They will be at strategic locations in police stations, fire stations, and hospitals.



Tim Smith, N1BTQ, gave a very informative Tech-Talk on computer hacking last November. Tim demonstrated the ease with which access can be gained to most on-line systems. The importance of using passwords was driven home!



FISTS

Gene Demers, N1MVY, is looking for club members that are also members of FISTS. Founded in 1987 by George Longden, G3ZQS, FISTS is a well established CW organization. Currently there are thousands of members worldwide, and the number is growing daily.

Telephone: (508) 994-9570

E-Mail: n1mv@webtv.net



A TALE ABOUT A FILTER

This tale began when club member Tony Oliveira, W1PWL, cleaned up his shack last summer. He donated tons of radio equipment to the club fleamarket last fall and also gave Bill Miller, K1IBR, several "goodies". One of those "goodies" was a World War II surplus R. L. Drake filter, type F-15/U. The F-15/U is a low pass filter with UHF type (SO-239) connectors.

Bill knew that Bill Rovas, WA1APX, was an avid fan of R. L. Drake equipment. In fact Ed Rovas, WA1VXY, mentioned that his son APX was so dedicated that he made regular check-ins on the Drake net. With such dedication in mind, Bill, K1IBR, gave Bill, WA1APX, the old Drake filter.

Now it just so happens that the world's largest collection of R. L. Drake equipment is maintained by Sindre Torp, LA6OP, in Helligvaer, Norway, about 22 miles south of the arctic circle. Bill Rovas knows Sindre by way of his father Ed Rovas, WA1VXY. Ed originally met Sindre at the Dayton hamfest. Ed was wearing a Drake hat with his call letters embroidered on it. The hat caught Sindre's eye and he made Ed's acquaintance, and later Bill's, WA1APX, acquaintance too.

Bill, WA1APX, thought the old World War II R. L. Drake filter should be in Sindre's great collection, so he made arrangements to ship him the filter. Bill donated the filter to Sindre's collection **in the name of our club** and paid the shipping charges (\$20.00) to boot! The filter found a new home, and this tale has a happy ending.

Reproduced below is a copy of the E-Mail of thanks sent to Bill Rovas, WA1APX, by Sindre Torp, LA6OP.



December 7, 1999

Dear Bill,

I received the old Drake F-15/U filter from you today. No damage during transport. Thank you very much.

And please give my greatest thanks to the W1AEC Radio Club, South Eastern Mass. Amateur Radio Association. I will try to make a video and send them. But we use the PAL-color system here, and you use the NTSC-system. But I will try to convert it to your system.

I'm VERY thankful to have added the filter from W1AEC to my collection. I feel really honored to have received this old Drake item from the club.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thanks and 73,
Sindre, LA6OP

TECHNICAL TIPS

Printed Circuit board stock can be used for more than making PC boards via etching.

Dual sided PC stock can be cut and soldered to fabricate neat little shielded boxes for RF circuits. Single pieces can be used as inter-stage shields.

Breadboarding circuits is a snap when a scrap of PC board is used. You can assemble the circuit right onto the board, using the board as a ground plane and return. Long strips of PC board scrap are especially suited to this use as feedback problems are minimized when the circuit is fabricated in a long run. Be sure to decouple the power feed at each amplifier stage. As a bonus, the bypass capacitors used for decoupling support the power line along the board!

2000 FLEAMARKETS

- Feb 17 - Marlborough, MA
- Mar 18 - Nantuxet, MA (amateur)
- Mar 19 - Uxbridge, MA
- April 2 - Southampton, CT
- April 14 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 12, 13 - HamTraders
Rochester, NY
- May 20 - Farmdale, RI
- May 21 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- June 18 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- July 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 20 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 26, 27 - Boston, MA
- Sept 10 - SEMARA!

NET DIRECTORY

— Sunday —

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

— 4th Sunday —

- 9 pm 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
- 7 pm 146.550 SEMARA NET
- 8 pm 145.230- EM-NTS

— Monday to Friday —

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

— Thursday —

- 8 pm 147.180+ Trivia

— Saturday —

- 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

MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RICABRAL/HAM/SEMARA

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

5. Voltage Controlled Oscillator

SEMARA OFFICERS

2000



- President** Chris J. Smith, K1CJS
- Vice-President** Robert Metivier, N1XZJ
- Secretary** Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- Treasurer** John Carreiro, W1ZYV

Board of Directors:

- Martin Jordan, K1YFV
- William Miller Jr., K1IBR
- Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees:

- Norman Riley, W1ATI - Chairman
- Frank Fonseca, W1ASD
- Martin Jordan, K1YFV
- William Vincent, W1POV
- Edward Blouin, K1AW

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY 2000

- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 12 - Board of Director's Meeting, 7 pm
- 13 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 20 - Tech-Talk, "Internet Packet Gateway" by Matt Vangel, KA1THM - 7:00 pm



FEBRUARY 2000

- 3 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 10 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 12 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 17 - Tech-Talk, "Antenna Myths" by Bill Miller, K1IBR - 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
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Dennis
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham
220			
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
440			
441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
442.350 +		N1OFD	Acushnet
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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FIRST CLASS

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