



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 68TH YEAR

Volume 36, Issue 2

SEMARA W1AEC

February 2000

## HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED

After three years in the making, the history of our club is finally in print! One hundred copies of the first edition have been ordered from the printer. The book will sell for \$11.00 each. President Chris Smith is handling sales and should be contacted if you wish to secure a copy of the first edition. They also will be available at business meetings until all copies are sold.

In addition to the history of the club, the book has an extensive appendix with a lists of all officers and members since the club's inception. There are photos of every building the club held meetings in over the years, a selection of photos from throughout the years, and copies of important club documents. It's a keeper!

Southeastern Massachusetts  
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION  
1932 - 1999



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The January business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Chris Smith. Thirty-two members and three guests 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* - Power amp on repeater out of service. *Activities* - No report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Chairman Andy Reuter once again reminded everyone to please shut lights off. Club lights are frequently found left on. *Ham Class* - Chairman Brad Anselmo reported instructors are needed for the classes, and also members willing to "Elmer" those seeking to get licenses or upgrade. *Scholarship* - Chairman Larry Houbre reported that a scholarship can be awarded this year and applications are being accepted. *Constitution* - No report. *Tower* - The committee's work is complete. The first check from NETCOM has arrived at the club.

Communications - Sympathy card sent to "Rocky" Pimentel's family.

*Ratifications* - Len Gadowski, WA1CNO, was voted a life member.

*Special Board of Director's meeting report* - The board elected to return the check for \$100 given to the club by the Fairhaven Road Race Committee. The board felt it was improper to accept money for work done by another group (SEMCARES).

*Old Business* - None

*New Business* - Larry Houbre Jr. requested an apology from the club for returning the check to the Fairhaven Road Race Committee. Action on this matter will be taken at the BOD meeting scheduled for January 12th.

# ZERO BEAT

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**EDITOR**

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR  
 Phone: (508) 996-2969  
 E-Mail: [billmiller@netzero.net](mailto:billmiller@netzero.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.

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

## MEETING- continued from page one

John Carreiro suggested the club should consider upgrading our building insurance which is quite low.

The following motions were made and approved:

1. Authorization for Treasurer to pay NETCOM \$1,000 per month for eight months to cover work done on our behalf.
2. Dissolution of Tower Committee.
3. Appointment of Scott Szala as Tower Coordinator.
4. Authorization for Treasurer to refund any life-member overpayments of dues.
5. Approval of standard "carry-over" motions as approved each year.
6. Approval of free coffee and donuts at all club meetings and gatherings.

Bill Miller reported that the club history book was complete and ready to go to the printer. The cost for a copy was set at \$11 each. With over 50 copies spoken for after the meeting, an order for 100 copies of the first edition was placed with the printer.

*For the Good of the Club* – President Chris Smith took orders and collected money from members wishing to buy a copy of the club's history book. Copies will also be available at the February business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

February 12, 2000

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

## LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

10 Providence, RI  
 Judy Nelson  
 401-231-9156

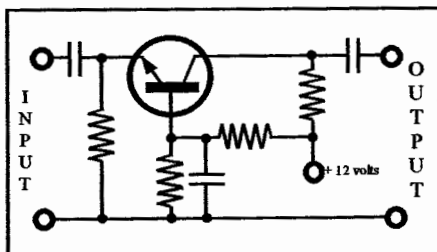
12 Falmouth, MA  
 Ben Fleck  
 508-540-2583

14 Brookline, MA  
 Bob Wondolowski  
 508-865-5822

16 Cambridge, MA  
 Nick Alterndbernd  
 617-253-3776

19 Marlborough, MA  
 William Wade  
 781-891-9079

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Grounded-Base Amplifier
- 2.) Grounded-Grid Amplifier
- 3.) Grounded-Emitter Amplifier
- 4.) Grounded-Cathode Amplifier
- 5.) Grounded-Collector Amplifier

ANSWER - See page 7

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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*“Do the right thing.  
 It will gratify some people  
 and astonish the rest.”*

*Mark Twain*



# CLUB NOTES

In some ways February is often the "heart" of winter. However, this year's winter has been very mild. Maybe February will change that! Lincoln's Birthday falls on Saturday, the 12th. Valentine's Day is Monday the 14th, and Washington's Birthday is celebrated on Monday, the 21st.



A big "Thank You" goes out to Dick Simpkin's XYL Hilda who donated a 42 cup coffee brewer to the club. Now we don't have to wait for coffee to brew as we did in the past when all we had was a 10 cup machine. The brewer was "christened" at the January 9th Sunday morning coffee hour.

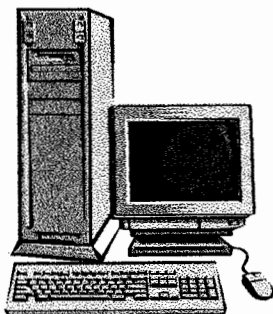


Joe Frois, N1YAL, chalked up the first contact of the new millennium from the club station W1AEC. On January 9th, Joe contacted Jan Stadman, PA1TT, on 28.428 MHz. Jan hails from Oldenzaal, Netherlands.



This site is the "Mother" of all search sites! It's a five-star site. For kicks, try clicking on "Other Interesting Searches" when you check it out:

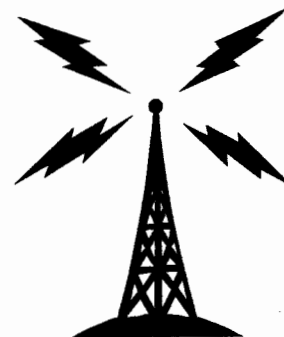
[www.allonsearch.com](http://www.allonsearch.com)



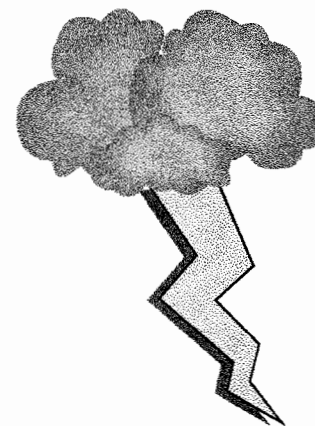
Will the member that left four used antennas outside the club please contact any club officer. We want to know the status of the antennas - gift? to be raffled? etc. Right now it's a big mystery.



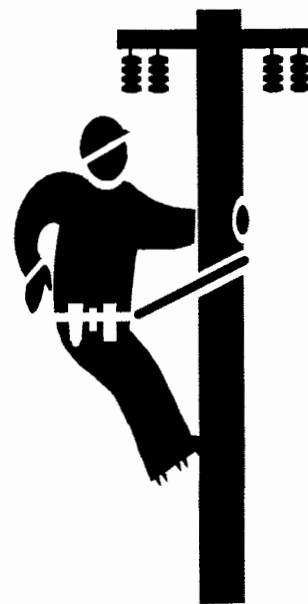
Ed Rovas, WA1VXY, was tooling around on 40 meters when he made contact with former club member Bob Brocklehurst, KB3SM, (ex-WA1MYH). Bob now lives in Philadelphia and says "Hi!" to everyone.



Dick Hay, W1LE, reports lightning wiped out everything but his 2 meter rig. He doesn't plan to replace the damaged radios, but will listen on the bands with his PC radio (RX-320). He sent 73s to the whole gang at SEMARA. Dick lives in a retirement community in West Columbia, South Carolina.



In early January the repeater power source was transferred from an extension running from the clubhouse to the new underground feed at the tower site. This change shall provide a more reliable source of power as the tower is fed from a substation less than one quarter mile away. The clubhouse, however, is fed from a substation located over three miles away on Cross Road in North Dartmouth.



# FCC ANNOUNCES AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING PLAN

On December 30, 1999, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced its long awaited **Report and Order** following the **1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97**.

The bottom line? A complete restructuring of the Amateur Radio license classes, and a single Morse code requirement of 5 words-per-minute for General and Extra class licenses. Testing for new Novice, Technician-plus, and Advanced class licenses is eliminated. In sum, the six current amateur licenses will be reduced to three, and the eight test elements will be reduced to four. See the restructuring plan on this page for details.

The new regulations go into effect on April 15, 2000. On that date the following major changes occur:

1. **No new Novice, Technician Plus, or Advanced licenses will be issued by the FCC.**
2. **RACES station licenses shall be eliminated.**

Additionally, the following shall apply:

1. **All current license classes and privileges will remain the same.**
2. **All existing licenses can be renewed indefinitely. (No one will lose the license or privileges they currently hold.)**
3. **All amateur band plans shall remain the same, in-**

AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING PLAN	
OLD PLAN	NEW PLAN
Novice - 5 WPM (1A, or B, or C) Element 2	Technician - No code Element 2
Technician - No code Elements 2 & 3A	General - 5 WPM (1) Elements 2, 3
Tech-Plus - 5 WPM (1A, or B, or C) Elements 2 & 3A	Extra - 5 WPM (1) Elements 2, 3, 4
General - 13 WPM code (1B or 1C) Elements 2, 3A, & 3B	
Advanced - 13 WPM code (1B or 1C) Elements 2, 3A, 3B, & 4A	
Extra - 20 WPM (1C) Elements 2, 3A, 3B, 4A, & 4B	
TEST ELEMENTS	TEST ELEMENTS
1A. 5 WPM Morse Code Test 1B. 13 WPM Morse Code Test 1C. 20 WPM Morse Code Test 2. Novice Test, 35 Questions 3A. Technician Test, 30 Questions 3B. General Test, 30 Questions 4A. Advanced Test, 50 Questions 4B. Extra Test, 40 Questions	1. 5 wpm Morse Code Test 2. Technician Test, 35 Questions 3. General Test, 35 Questions 4. Extra Test, 50 Questions

- cluding sub-band plans for the various license classes.
4. **Only Technician (no-code), General, and Extra class licenses will be issued using the new test plan shown on this page.**

However, the devil is in the details as usual. And those details primarily impact the Technician and Technician Plus licenses.

First, effective April 15, 2000, Technician and Technician Plus licenses will be melded together into one FCC database labeled "Technician". Therefore, any Technician Plus licensee renewing after April 15th shall get

a Technician Class license issued. He will still have the same High Frequency (HF) privileges he enjoyed as a Technician Plus, but the burden of proof that he previously passed the required 5 WPM code test rests on his shoulders. (It would be a good idea to keep a copy of your old Technician Plus license!)

Second, amateurs presently holding a Technician Plus license because they passed the Technician test prior to March 21, 1987 can upgrade after April 15, 2000 to General Class *without further testing*. They must complete FCC Form 605 and providing documentary proof the license was issued prior to March 21, 1987. Documentary

proof can be the original or a copy of your Technician class license issued prior to March 21, 1987. Other acceptable proof include an original CSCE for element 3 issued prior to that date, a letter of verification from the FCC that you held a Technician class license prior to that date (Send requests to: FCC, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325), or a document from ITS, Inc. indicating you held a Technician class license prior to that date. ITS, Inc. is an FCC contractor that provides verification service (for a fee!) based on old FCC records. ITS, Inc. can be contacted at [www.itsdocs.com](http://www.itsdocs.com). You possibly could use a *Callbook* that lists you with a technician class license prior to that date as proof. This upgrade is permitted because the only difference between the Technician and General Class tests prior to March 21, 1987 was the code speed requirement. The written test was the same. **However, you must apply for this upgrade - it's not automatic!**

This change in the licensing structure also presents a golden opportunity for post March 21, 1987 Technician Plus licensees to upgrade to General, and current Advanced Class licensees to upgrade to Extra Class.

Technician Plus licensees (post March 21, 1987) wishing to upgrade to General should take the test for Element 3B prior to April 15, 2000 and secure a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). Then after April 15, 2000 they may apply for the General class license. There is a slight advantage to doing this as the present examination Element 3B has only 30 questions, whereas the new examination Element 3 shall have 35 questions.

In a similar vein, current Advanced Class licensees should take examination Element 4B now and secure a CSCE. Then after April 15, 2000 they can upgrade to the Extra Class license. There is a big advantage to upgrading this way. The present test Element 4B consists of 40 questions, while the new test Element 4 in use after April 15th shall contain 50 questions.

Finally, the FCC's Report and Order (FCC 99-412) mentioned a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator". This is a new position, and was not fully explained in the recent Report and Order. However, an FCC spokesperson said a *Public Notice* shall be forthcoming shortly with full details on the program, including information on how to apply to serve as a call sign administrator for club station applications.



## JANUARY FOXHUNT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

The January foxhunt was cancelled due to stormy, icy weather. The fox, Bill Miller, K1IBR, said he plans to use the extra time until the next hunt to check out a few more possible hiding spots. Hopefully we won't get zonked by the weather on the next hunt!

## DUES NOTICE

This will be your last issue of ZERO BEAT unless your dues are paid for the year 2000. 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). Please mail dues payments to: SEMARA, 54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA 02748



## HELP WANTED

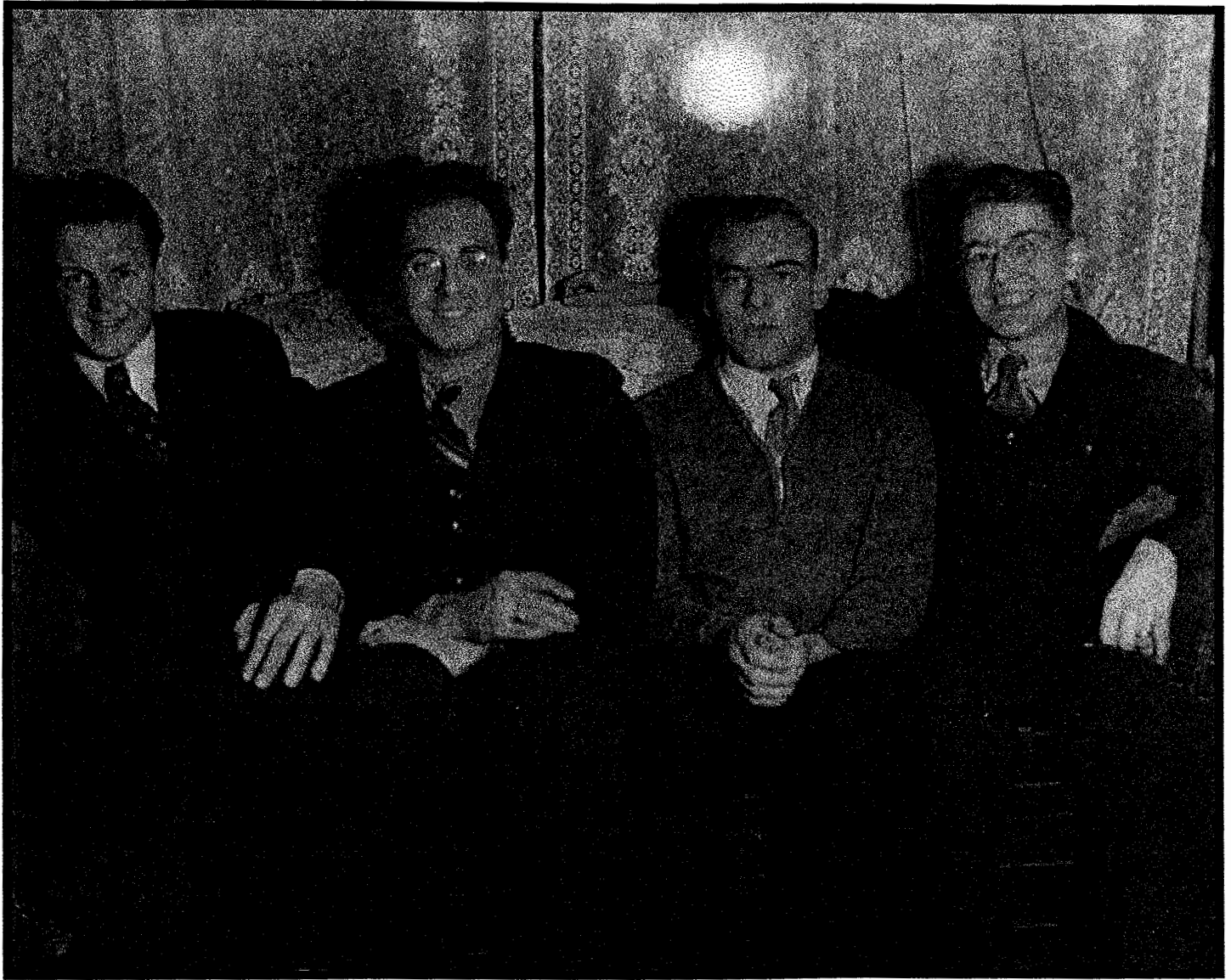
**Seeking club member or other individual to plow the driveway to the tower site in the rear of the club's property. Plowing will be done whenever the snow is four inches or greater in depth, or otherwise by notice. For complete details contact:**

**Alan Costello**

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# RARE PHOTO OF CLUB'S FIRST OFFICERS



Charles Rock, W1FXB  
Treasurer

Alan Cooper, W1HSR  
President

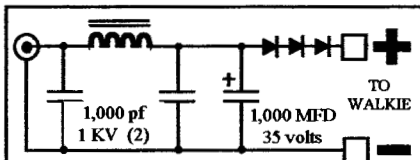
Chester Codere, W1DOP  
Vice-President

Roland Hyham, W1KSY  
Secretary

**P**ictured above are the first officers of the club when it was founded in 1932. The picture was given to the club by Joseph Gaspar, W6UGK (ex-W1IWJ), prior to his death last year. Joe was an active member and officer of the club in the 1930's prior to moving to California. Roland Hyham, the first Secretary of the club, is still alive and resides in Hemet, California. His present call is N6DEO. This is one of several old photos in the recently published club history book.

### TECHNICAL TIPS

Don't throw out that old battery pack. Recycle it into a mobile power pack complete with hash filter. Simply remove all the guts out of the old battery pack. Connect a cigar plug and cable to the pack using the hole where the charger plug went, or drill a new hole. Fabricate a hash filter from an old radio output transformer using only the 3 or 8 ohm leads that went to the speaker. (Cut the primary wires off.) Add filter capacitors as shown, and diodes to give you the proper output voltage. An 8 volt regulator chip can also be used to lower the voltage.



### 2000 FLEAMARKETS

- Feb 13 - Marlborough, MA
- Mar 18 - Saugus, MA (outdoor)
- Mar 25 - Falmouth, MA
- April 7 - Southington, CT
- April 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 12, 13 - How Traders Rochester, NH
- May 28 - Falmouth, MA
- May 31 - 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](http://WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM)

[WWW.RADIOHZ.COM/SEMARA](http://WWW.RADIOHZ.COM/SEMARA)

SEND E-MAIL TO: [W1AEC@ARRL.NET](mailto:W1AEC@ARRL.NET)

### "NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

1. Grounded-Base Amplifier

### 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, KA1YFV  
 William Miller Jr., K1IBR  
 Scott Szala, W1EV

**Trustees:**

Norman Riley, W1ATI - Chairman  
 Frank Fonseca, W1IASD  
 Martin Jordan, KA1YFV  
 William Vincent, W1POW  
 Edward Blouin, KA1AW

### SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

#### 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



#### MARCH 2000

- 2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 4 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 9 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 16 - Tech-Talk, "Effective Presentations" by Brad Anselmo - 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
<b>144</b>							
145.150 -	123.0	WAIDGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven	442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth	442.350 +		N1OFD	Acushnet
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth	442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth	443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Dennis	443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater	443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
<b>220</b>							
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis	444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
				447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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