



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 68th YEAR

Volume 36, Issue 3

SEMARA W1AEC

March 2000

VE TEST SESSION STANDING ROOM ONLY!

It was standing room only during the February 12th VE test session held at the clubhouse. The examinees arrived in force, not only club members looking for Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE), but also walk-ins with the same goal.

The driving force behind it all was the restructuring plan announced by the FCC earlier this year. By taking the examination now (the so-called Old Test), examinees can upgrade after April 15th without further examination. After April 15th the "new" test must be taken - a test with more questions. You might call it fear of the unknown, as a rumor was going around that the "new" test would be more difficult to pass. Whatever the reason, enough examinees showed up to fill all five test tables in the examination room.

The club's VEs deserve a big "THANK YOU" for the great job they did administering the examinations in a very professional manner.



EXAMINEES FILLING OUT PAPERWORK
 PRIOR TO THE TESTING SESSION.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The February business meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Chris Smith. Thirty 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* - Power amp on repeater still out of service. Autopatch volume on transmit increased. Transmitter intermittently failing to transmit. The exciter board will be totally resoldered when time permits. *Activities* - No report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Surveyor completed work on boundary marker on our west property line. A stone bound is set where the three properties come together in the middle of our boundary. *Ham Class* - None. *Scholarship* - None. *Constitution* - No report. *Tower* - None.

Communications - A sympathy card was sent to Matt Howland's family. The ARRL reminded us that our liability insurance is still \$15.00 a year.

Ratifications - Wayne Kingsley, WA1CCM, voted a Life Member of the association. Raymond Arruda and Peter Ryder voted into membership.

Old Business - The treasurer reported that Paul & Dixon insurance is asking \$440 for \$40,000 fire coverage on our clubhouse, and \$550 for \$50,000. Bill Miller, K1IBR, made a motion to renew our current insurance and further investigate increasing it in the future. Bill Field,

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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

WAIFYF, was appointed a committee of one to gather more information on insurance rates and check with Dartmouth town hall to find out when our property will next be evaluated again.

The membership was asked if anyone knew who donated the four antennas dropped off at the club last month. (This request was also made in ZERO BEAT.) No one had any knowledge of the antennas donor.

New Business - It was suggested that rather than getting a small wall plaque for the outgoing officers each year, we purchase a large display with brass plates listing each years officers. This is the ideal time to make the change as we enter the new century.

The following motions were made and passed: 1.) motion to get 500 fleamarket fliers printed. 2.) motion to purchase and install three galvanized posts on our west property line marking the end points and the center where other property joins ours.

For the good of the club - It was suggested we consider donating 1 percent of our income to needy families. The members took the idea under advisement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm and several members headed to "Me & Ed's" for a bite to eat and ragchewing.

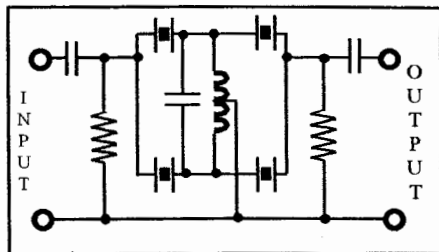
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

March 4, 2000
 10:30 am
 SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN MARCH

- 09 Providence, RI
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 11 Falmouth, MA
 Ben Fleck
 508-540-2583
- 13 Brookline, MA
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 18 Marlborough, MA
 William Wade
 781-891-9079
- 22 Cambridge, MA
 Nick Alterndbernd
 617-253-3776

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Bucket Brigade Crystal Oscillator
- 2.) AM Crystal Detector
- 3.) Synchronous Crystal Detector
- 4.) Crystal Lattice Bandpass Filter
- 5.) Quadrature Crystal Notch Filter

ANSWER - See page 7

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"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

George Bernard Shaw



CLUB NOTES

March - the windy month. The month Old Man Winter gets his last shot at us! Ash Wednesday falls on the 8th, and Saint Patrick's Day on Friday the 17th. Ah, corned beef and cabbage day!



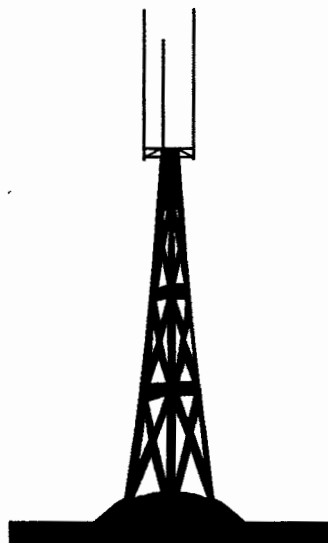
A big "WELCOME" goes out to new members **Raymond Arruda** and **Peter Ryder**. They were voted into membership during the February business meeting.

Welcome!

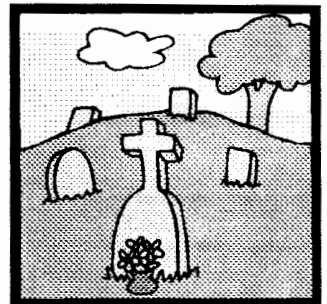
A letter from the first Secretary of the club was posted on the wall of the clubhouse in a suitable frame. Roland Hyham, N6DEO, (ex WIKSY) also sent some old amateur radio stamps which are also on display in the frame. *Thanks Roland!*



Bill Miller, K1IBR, and **Scott Szala**, W1EV, gave a short talk on our new 180 foot high communications tower to the Falmouth Amateur Radio Association (FARA) on Thursday, January 27th. Both Bill and Scott were impressed with the caliber of questions asked following the formal presentation. Bill had laryngitis, so Scott did most of the talking! FARA members referred to our club as the "Millionaire Club"! I wonder why? ;-)



It is with deep regret we announce the passing of yet another member. Life member **Matthew Howland**, K1DIY, died at home on January 19th at age 79. Matt joined the club in 1937, and was an active member in his younger years. Matt always had a smile and will be missed by all. *Rest in peace, Matt.*



Matthew Howland
1921-2000

Looking for the address of an Internet site that administers and grades sample amateur radio examinations? Here it is:

INTERNET EXAMINATION SITE

<http://w5ac.tamu.edu/ham-exam-v2/ham-exam.html>

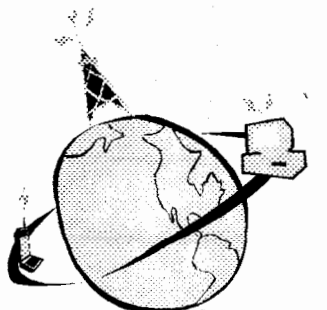
The annual AMSAT Symposium will be held for the first time in New England this year. The event is scheduled for the weekend of October 28th at the Holiday Inn West in Portland, Maine. Anyone interested in helping make AMSAT 2000 a success is urged to contact George Caswell, W1ME, at (207) 883-3362 or by E-Mail: w1me@ime.net



AMSAT

AMSAT 2000
Portland, Maine
October 27-29

On Saturday morning, January 22nd, club member **Mathew Vangel**, KA1THM, presented a Tech-Talk on his Amateur Radio Internet Gateway and the World-Wide Converse server. This was followed up with a demonstration of GPS units. It was a most captivating and interesting session!



USING THE SEMARA-L LISTSERVER

The SEMARA-L listserver is an automated mail system that sends E-Mail to everyone subscribed to it. This free member benefit is provided by "Dreamer's Online!" as a public service. "Dreamer's Online!", a local Internet service provider, is owned and operated by club member Larry Houbre, AA1FS. Currently, over 50 members are subscribed to the listserver.

So, how does one use the system? Easy! To send an E-Mail to every member on the list, address the E-Mail to:

SEMARA-L@LRH.NET

The message will automatically be sent to every member subscribed to the list.

NOTICE: You must be subscribed to the list in order to post messages to it.



IMPORTANT: You must subscribe or unsubscribe only from the E-Mail address that the listserver sends the mail to.

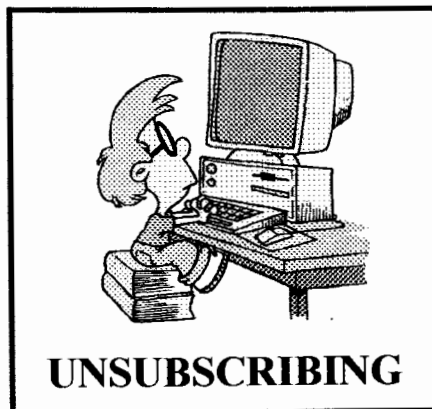
To get on the SEMARA-L list send an E-Mail to:

LISTSERV@LRH.NET

You can type in any subject or even leave it blank, but only the following message must be in the text area:

SUBSCRIBE SEMARA-L

After you subscribe to the list, you will get a confirmation E-Mail welcoming you to the service.



To remove your name from the SEMARA-L listserver, follow the same procedure for subscribing, except enter:

UNSUBSCRIBE SEMARA-L



"Dreamer's Online!" also supports other mailing lists, including the ARES list:

SEMCARES-L

and a list for students in the club amateur radio classes:

RADIOCLASS-L

To get a printout of all lists supported by "Dreamer's Online!" send an E-Mail to:

LISTSERV@LRH.NET

You can type in any subject or even leave it blank, but only the following message must be in the text area:

HELP

Not only will you get a list of all mailing lists, but also information on subscribing and unsubscribing.



If you're not sure what lists you've subscribed to, you can ask the listserver. Send an E-Mail to:

LISTSERV@LRH.NET

You can type in any subject or even leave it blank, but only the following message must be in the text area:

WHICH

The listserver will return a listing of all lists you are currently subscribed to.



If you have a fax machine that is online 24 hours a day, the listserver can send your messages to it, instead of by E-Mail. This service is only available for fax machines within the local New Bedford calling area. (No toll calls.) The fax service has to be manually setup, and is available only if you don't have E-Mail service. To get your fax machine on SEMARA-L or any other list, contact Larry Houbre, AA1FS, at (508) 991-6055.



BOB & HENRY WIN THE FOXHUNT AGAIN!

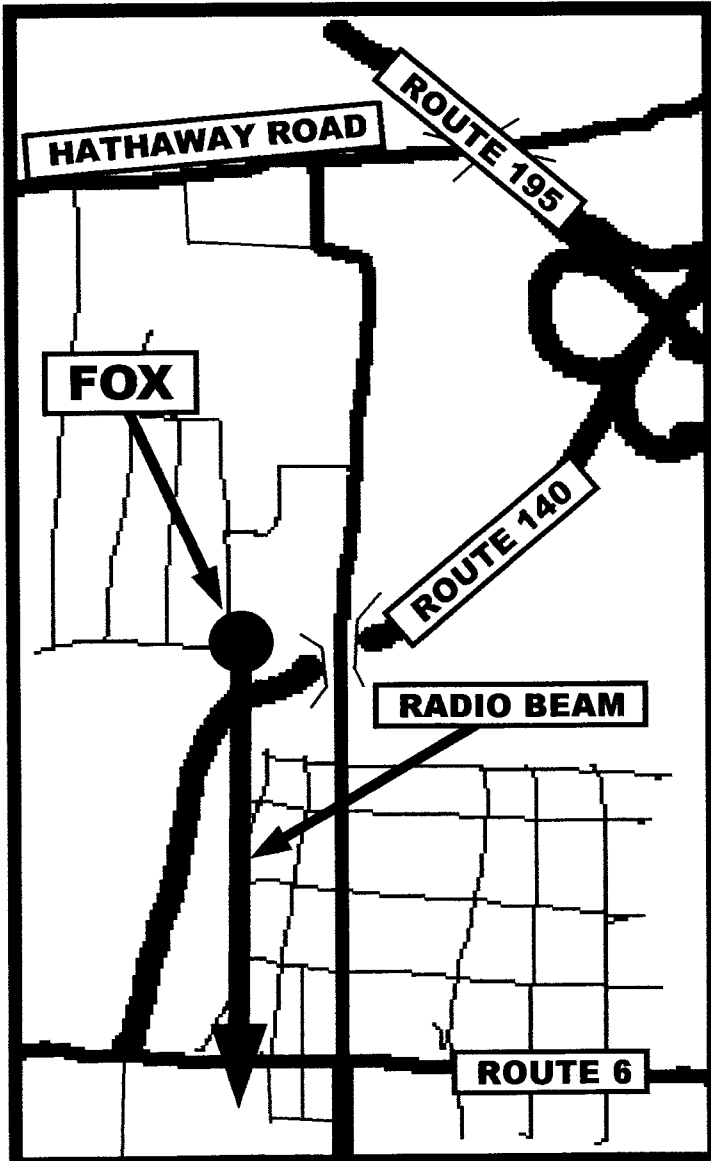
The dynamic duo of **Bob Metivier, N1XZJ**, & **Henry Blanchett, W1GYL**, did it again! It took them over a year to get their first win, but ever since they've been kicking butt. It goes to show that "Practice makes perfect!" After the hunt they were very modest about their recent victory - for at least 10 microseconds! Then the

"CROWING" began. To say it was unbearable would be an understatement.

Second place went to **Tim Smith, N1BTQ**, and **Charlie Days, WA1JFD**. They pulled off a real neat trick - Charlie had a 300 milliwatt walkie that he kept calling the fox with. When he finally got a reply he knew he was in the vicinity of the fox. Clever idea!

However, the fox, **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, also had a trick up his sleeve. Once he parked at the hiding spot, he placed a portable reflector atop his car, using the existing quarter wave vertical as the driven element. The whole affair was similar to a corner reflector made out of chicken wire. It worked! The reflector was adjusted to focus the beam towards the south. Both teams of hunters stayed south of Bill's hiding spot! Since the road to where Bill hid came from the north, whenever the hunters headed that way the signal faded because of the corner reflector atop Bill's car. The hunters would then turn back!

Only when "clues" (every three minutes!) were given out by the fox was any reasonable headway made. The hunt was over in an hour and the group headed to "Ruby Tuesday's" for a bite to eat.



K1IBR's CHICKEN WIRE CORNER REFLECTOR

FREE !!

Morse Code Class... for Non-Hams and Hams

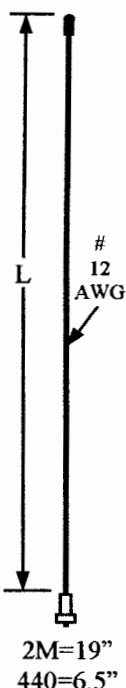
Over the Air !!

Study From the Comfort of Your Home

- **WHO:** For those with **Little** or **No** Morse Code (CW) skills.
- **WHAT:** This is an over-the-air interactive class, designed to build one's skills to pass a 5 word per minute (wpm) code test.
- **WHERE:** Tune to the **Bridgewater, MA Massasoit Amateur Radio Association (MARA) 2 meter repeater**. If you can only listen via a scanner or radio receiver, tune to 147.180 MHz (This is FM). If you are licensed for 2 meters, then set your transceiver for a plus 600 KHz offset (**147.180/147.780**).
- **WHEN:** Weeknights, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, for 10 weeks.
- **STARTS:** Monday, February 7, 1999 at 7:30 to 8:00 PM, for 10 weeks, this a **PROVEN** method to pass the 5 WPM test and to get on the HF bands under the new FCC restructuring.
- <http://www.qsl.net/w1mv/> Free download of Morse Academy, and CW Lessons are posted here after the session, and can be downloaded into your copy of Morse Academy for further review.
- k1vv@tmlp.com

TECHNICAL TIPS

Cheap and dirty 1/4 wave antennas for walkies can be made from just a connector, some solid wire, epoxy, and your time. Simply cut the solid copper wire to size plus a few inches and solder into the connector. (PL-259 or BNC) You will need a small transition wire to make the connection to the small BNC center pin. With the wire centered in the connector, epoxy it in place. After the epoxy is hard, cut the wire to size and add an end protector - either a loop of wire soldered tight or dip the wire in the plastic goop used to put handles on small tools. You can even roll the antenna up to store it!



2000 FLEAMARKETS

- Mar 18 - Saugus, MA (auction)
- Mar 19 - Uxbridge, MA
- April 2 - Southington, CT
- April 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 12, 13 - Rochester, NH
- May 20 - Forestdale, RI
- May 21 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- June 10 - FARA Falmouth, MA
- June 18 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- July 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 20 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 26, 27 - Boxboro, MA
- Sept 10 - SEMARA!
- Sept 16 - Forrestdale, RI

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

WWW.RADIOHZ.COM/SEMARA

SEND E-MAIL TO: W1AEC@ARRL.NET

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

4.) Crystal Lattice Bandpass Filter

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, KAIYFV
 William Miller Jr., KIIBR
 Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees:

Norman Riley, WIATI - Chairman
 Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
 Martin Jordan, KAIYFV
 William Vincent, W1POW
 Edward Blouin, KA1AW

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

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



APRIL 2000

- 1 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 13 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 20 - Tech-Talk, "<OPEN>" by ? - 7:00 pm

SEMARA

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 -	123.0	WAIDGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WGIU	Assonet
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven	442.200 +	88.5	NINRL	Fall River
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth	442.350 +		NIOFD	Acushnet
146.655 -	88.5	WAIGPO	Falmouth	442.600 +	100.0	KILIQ	Tiverton, RI
146.685 -		WILM	Plymouth	443.450 +	88.5	KIMYL	Westport
146.955 -	88.5	KIPBO	Dennis	443.500 +	141.3	KIPBO	Barnstable
147.000 +	67.0	WIAEC	Dartmouth	443.600 +		NSIN	Norwell
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Dennis	443.800 +	88.5	NIRFH	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.200 +	118.8	NIYHS	Bourne
147.180 +	67.0	WIMV	Bridgewater	443.850 +	131.8	WIARM	Chatham
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham	444.250 +	141.3	WAIGPO	Falmouth
220				444.350 +	88.5	WIACT	Fall River
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis	444.550 +	88.5	WIMV	Bridgewater
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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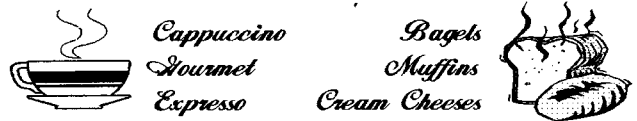


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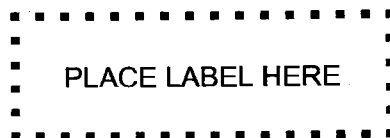
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FIRST CLASS

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