



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 68th YEAR

Volume 36, Issue 6

SEMARA W1AEC

June 2000



DeMELLO SCHOOL 5th GRADE CLASS VISITS CLUBHOUSE

On May 1st, the fifth grade class from the DeMello School in Dartmouth paid the club a visit to learn about amateur radio and electronics. The visit was planned and coordinated by class student Brian Parent who made the necessary arrangements with the club. The students walked the mile to the clubhouse in less than 20 minutes under the guidance of their teacher Barbara Young.

Club member Bill Miller, K1IBR, welcomed the students to the club and gave a short talk on amateur radio. Next the students gathered around a table loaded with training aids used by the club when conducting radio classes. Bill briefly explained what each component was and how it worked. Following a demonstration

of crystal radio sets and old telegraph keys, the class checked out the club's radio room and listened to radio signals while examining QSL cards from around the world posted on the wall.

Returning to the meeting hall, it was "hands on" time as the students tuned crystal radios and sent Morse code with both old and new keys.

The visit concluded with a dramatic demonstration of a 14KV Jacob's ladder and a 200KV Tesla coil which really "sparked" their interest! After a fruit punch break, the students returned to the DeMello School carrying ARRL amateur radio brochures.

Following the visit, Bill Miller commented that the students were the best behaved group he had ever given a tour to.

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 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**
 54 Donald Street,
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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.

ZERO BEAT'S NEW LOOK

ZERO BEAT has a new look! The front page will be devoted primarily to important news and announcements.

Business meeting minutes that previously were split between page one and two are now on a separate page. This change allows the full minutes to be printed on one page.

Photographs shall be made as large as possible to enhance their content and viewability. Whenever possible photos shall accompany an article.

If you have any ideas about improving ZERO BEAT please don't hesitate to contact the editor. This is your newsletter, and your ideas are important as they reflect what ZERO BEAT should be.

So, get with it! Send me your ideas for new features, columns, trivia, and whatever. In fact, if you really are into it write an article! Editors are always looking for good articles to print. Send it in. Get published. Become a famous author. Well, OK, so I got carried away a bit... But you get the idea. It's called feedback. It makes for a better newsletter.

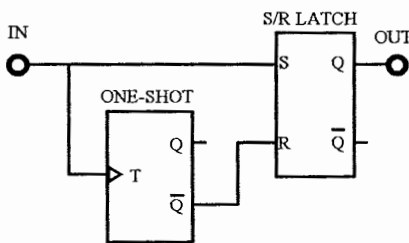
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

June 3, 2000
 10:30 am
 SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN JUNE

- 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 Alterndbernd
 617-253-3776

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Pulse Width Modulator
- 2.) Voltage Controlled Oscillator
- 3.) Touch-Tone Decoder
- 4.) Binary Decoder
- 5.) Pulse Stretcher

ANSWER - See page 7

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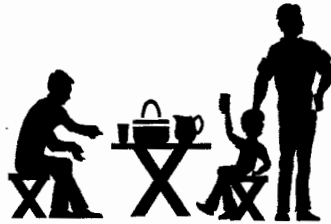
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*"Our greatest glory is not in
 never falling, but in rising
 every time we fall."*

Confucius

CLUB NOTES

June! Summer is here. Time to dust off the barbeque and hang the hammock. Flag Day falls on Wednesday the 14th, and Father's Day is celebrated on Sunday the 18th.



A hearty welcome goes out to new member **Victor Aguiar, N1TTR**, from Westport, MA. Vic also happens to be President of the Fall River radio club.

**WELCOME!
N1TTR**

Two former members were reinstated during the May business meeting: **Joseph Fortin, K4KTZ**, and **Bill Hargreaves, N1QMU**. *Welcome back!*

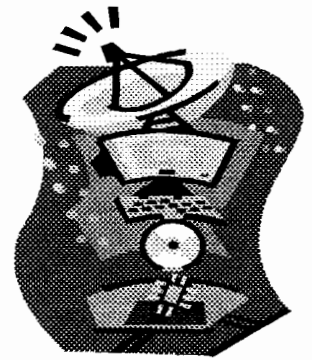
**WELCOME
BACK!**

A club member, who shall remain anonymous, tried to microwave some popcorn at the club. Nothing happened. Another member pointed out that removing the aluminum tray from the oven might help out. Bingo! The corn popped.



**NO METAL TRAYS
IN OVEN PLEASE!**

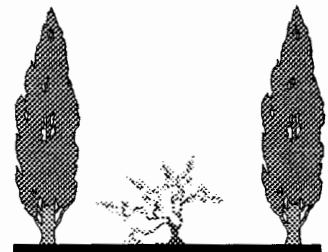
On May 1st, the U.S. military stopped scrambling the Global Positioning System (GPS) signals used by civilians for determining locations. It is anticipated that the readings will now be ten times more accurate!



Lincoln Park nostalgia night was a great success! Several non-members dropped by including a couple that lived next to the park. Two pounds of melted butter was consumed along with the popcorn! The videos shown that night brought back many memories.



A tip o' the hat goes out to **Dave Dean, K1JGV**, for fixing up the front of the clubhouse. Dave also donated the wood chips that he placed around the bushes and trees.




Members using the clubhouse for parties and similar events are reminded to **PLEASE** leave the clubhouse meeting hall setup as you found it. *Thanks!*



IMPORTANT NOTICE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARD LOCK SYSTEM HAS BEEN POSTPONED. FULL DETAILS SHALL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING

NOQUOCHOKE ORCHARDS
594 Drift Road, Westport, MA 02790
(508) 636-2237

 Apples - Pears - Peaches
Sweet Apple Cider - Squash
Westport Macomber Turnips
Hay & Custom Work



STANDING ROOM ONLY AT MAY 6TH VE SESSION!

The May 6, 2000 VE session at the club was standing room only! It was one of the biggest turnouts ever at a club VE session. Every table in the clubhouse was pressed into service.

The large number of applicants was precipitated by the recent change in the amateur radio licensing structure. Many amateurs took advantage of the new rules and upgraded. However, by taking the required test before April 15th, you got a test with less questions as compared with the new test administered after the 15th.

Well, the last three months were busy times at the VE sessions as amateurs took the old tests and

got their Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). May 6th was the first VE session scheduled at the club following April 15th. Applicants filed in the door one after the other with their certificates in hand. D-Day had arrived! The hams were ready to upgrade.

It took over three hours, but every applicant got his chance to upgrade. On top of this several walk-ins took the new tests so they could become hams too. One such applicant went from nothing to General Class.

We owe the VE crew a big "THANK YOU" for a job well done!



DPW INSTALLS DRAIN

The Town of Dartmouth DPW recently installed a complex drain system in front of the club. A catch basin was installed north of the driveway. A culvert was placed under the driveway draining the catch basin into a drainage ditch installed south of the driveway leading all the way to the creek at the corner of Donald and West Bliss streets. The drainage system works well! No longer will we be plagued with large puddles of water in the road outside our driveway.



MEETING MINUTES

The May business meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Chris Smith, K1CJS. Twenty-six 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* – Plans in place to replace the repeater duplexer this fall. It also appears our receiver needs tuning as amateurs on 147.57 simplex are getting into the repeater. The receiver specifications indicate the attenuation at that frequency should be down 125 decibels. This problem shall be checked out in the coming month. *Activities* – No report. *Buildings and Grounds* – No report. *Ham Class* – No report. *Scholarship* - No report. *Constitution* – Still under review. *Tower* - Work on access driveway to be done soon, along with spreading of loam on the grassy areas.

Communications - None.

Ratifications - **Victor Aguiar, N1TTR**, voted into membership. (Vic is also President of the Fall River radio club.) **Joseph Fortin, K4KTZ**, and **Bill Hargreaves, N1QMU**, reinstated as members.

Old Business - Motion to buy lamination pouches for new card-lock system approved.

New Business - The following motions were made and approved:

- 1) Motion to pay member Dave Dean, K1JGV, \$300 a year to cut the grass at the club.
- 2) Motion to make Richard Houghton, KA1YVI a life member of the association.

Good of the Club - Members are asked to bring quotes for cleaning the clubhouse to the next meeting from anyone they know in that business. The membership is considering hiring someone to clean the club-

house on a regular basis.

Members were alerted to the "I Love You" computer virus. Two members had fallen victim of the virus already! Another reported his workplace fell victim to the virus too. The bottom line—if you get an E-Mail with an attachment called "I Love You" **DON'T OPEN IT!** Delete it.

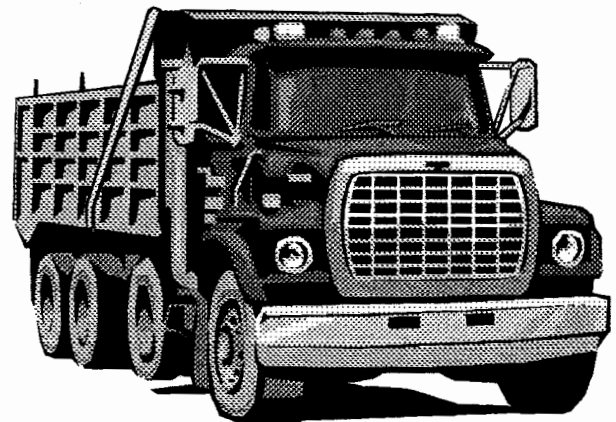
Following the meeting, a used Tektronix oscilloscope was auctioned off to benefit the club treasury. After some rough and tumble bidding, **Marty Jordan, KA1YFV**, was declared the successful bidder. The oscilloscope was donated to the club by member **Milt Francis, K1BOC**. *Thanks, Milt!*

After the meeting was adjourned several members headed to "Me & Ed's" for a bite to eat (steak sandwiches!) and some ragchewing.



NETCOM COMPLETES FINAL YARD WORK

On May 11th NETCOM Tower Facilities completed the final yard work on our property. Thirty-two tons of stone dust was placed along the road to the tower site and a large parking area was made south of the road near the tower site. Dips and valleys in the yard, including the big "hole" on the north side of the clubhouse, were filled in to level off the grassed areas. Two large truckloads of screened loam was spread around the property to provide a base for grass. Members raked in 40 pounds of grass seed the following weekend. All the members that worked on the project were pleased with the results. Heck, it even looks good without the grass up!





SCOTT SZALA WINS FOXHUNT



It was another crazy foxhunt plagued with problems right from the start! Tim Smith, N1BTQ, who was scheduled to be the fox couldn't make it. Business obligations had him out of town that evening.

So the participants tossed coins to determine who would be the fox. The winner (or loser!) of the coin flips was Chris Smith, K1CJS.

As the hunters tuned up on the usual foxhunt frequency (146.46 MHz), it was noticed that the noise level was higher than normal on that frequency. So, an alternate frequency (147.99 MHz) was chosen just in case the noise level got worst as the hunt progressed. (It did!)

Once Chris was hidden, he

announced it and the hunt was on! It soon became evident that Chris was hidden down towards Fort Rodman in the south end of the city. The hunters felt a chilling sensation pass through their bodies as they recalled the events surrounding the last hunt in that part of town! The infamous *sewer treatment plant fiasco*.

The further down Brock Avenue the hunters went, the higher the noise level on the hunter's frequency became. It appeared somebody (or something) was transmitting a low level signal right on the hunt frequency. All hunters and the fox switched to the alternate frequency.

The signal continued to get stronger as the hunters proceeded southerly. The hunters began to

wonder if Chris was hiding in the sewerage treatment plant!

Finally, Scott Szala, W1EV, using only a handheld radio, found Chris on a side street near Me & Ed's restaurant. Scott was the declared winner of the hunt!

Right behind Scott was Bill Miller, K1IBR, who came in second once again - even though he had a directional finder setup in his car.

Finally, the last hunter, Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, found the fox and the hunt was officially over.

Since the whole crew was right around the corner from Me & Ed's restaurant, they went there for a bite to eat and some ragchewing.

ENGINEERS PUT TO THE TEST



Two young engineers applied for a position at a computer company. They had exactly the same qualifications, but there was only one opening. In order to determine which individual to hire, the applicants were asked by the Engineering Department Manager to take a comprehensive test.

Upon completion of the test, it was discovered that each applicant missed only one question. The manager went to the first applicant and said, "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the job to the other applicant."

"Hold it just a minute! Why would you be doing that? We both got all the questions right, except for one," the rejected applicant inquired.

"Well, our decision isn't based on the number of correct answers, but on the *question you missed*," said the Engineering Department Manager.

"And just how would one incorrect answer be any better than the other?" the rejected applicant asked.

"Simple!" said the manager, "Your fellow applicant answered question #45 with 'I don't know.' You put down, 'Neither do I.'"

TECHNICAL TIPS

A tool that is real handy around the work bench is a stainless steel dental pick. I use one that is straight like an ice pick. Just look at what you can do with a pick:

- Open up solder-filled holes in PC boards.
- Pull the center conductor of coax through the braid when making test cables that end in two lines.
- Start small nuts on bolts like size 2-56. Just place the nut on the pick. Put the pick in the center of the bolt and rotate the nut until it engages!
- Wind small coils for use as UHF chokes.
- Stab ants and other critters that venture onto your workbench. (Ah, you are paying attention!)

2000 FLEAMARKETS

- June 4 - Newington, CT
- June 10 - FARA Falmouth, MA
- June 17 - Goshen, CT
- 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 - Forestdale, RI
- Sept 17 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Oct 6, 7 - Rochester, NH
- Oct 8 - Wallingford, CT
- Oct 15 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Nov 4 - Londonderry, NH
- Nov 5 - Framingham, MA
- Nov 18 - Newton, MA

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 —
 7:30 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 WEBSITE

WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM

SEND E-MAIL TO: W1AEC@ARRL.NET

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

(S) Pulse Stretcher

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, WB1ASD
 Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 William Vincent, W1POW
 Edward Blouin, KA1AW

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 2000

- 1 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 3 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 8 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 15 - Tech-Talk, "The Weather and You" by Bob Metivier, N1XZJ

SEMARA

JULY 2000

- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 8 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 15 - Tech-Talk, "To Be Announced" by "Mystery Man"



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	WA1DGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -		KAIWBF	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 +		N1SIN	Norwell
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Dennis	443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	N1DIN	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
220				444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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