



ZERO BEAT

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



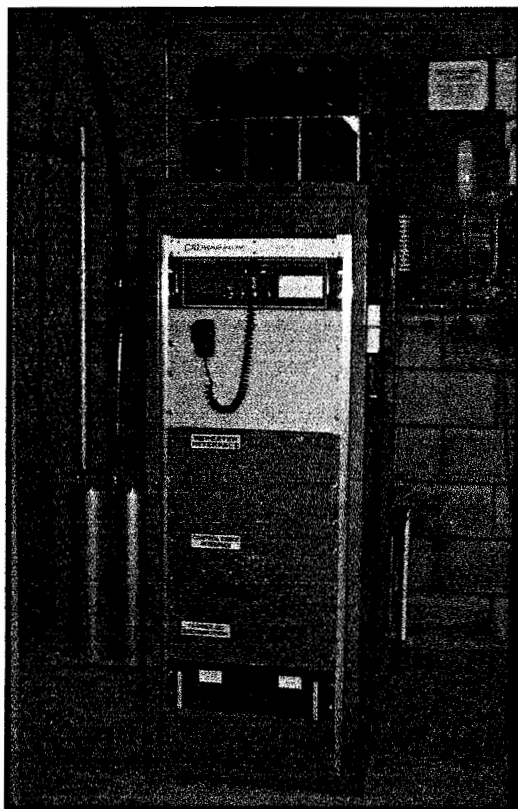
OUR 69th YEAR

Volume 37, Issue 2

SEMARA W1AEC

February 2001

NEW REPEATER GOES ON-LINE



The new SEMARA repeater went on-line Wednesday morning, January 10, 2001. The measured increase in receive sensitivity as compared to the back-up repeater is 12 dB. The calculated increase in transmit power is at least 6 dB.

To date, the new system has met all expectations. The range of the repeater increased dramatically. Additionally, the new repeater offers several features not available on the old Kendecom repeater that served the club for over 12 years.

Some of the features now available to members include Autopatch, Speed-dialed Autopatch, Speed-dialed emergency numbers (police), time of day, keypad test, CTCSS override, club and event announcements, codes to turn on the club floodlights, or put the furnace on high heat (70 degrees), and playback of your voice to check how you are getting into the repeater!

Additionally, the controller automatically turns the club heat on high Thursday afternoons (3 pm) and Sunday morning (3 am) so members arrive at a cozy, warm clubhouse on those meeting days.

Repeater code/information sheets and laminated wallet-sized code lists are available at the clubhouse on the table next to the front door.

The repeater will send emergency alert paging tones and announce loss of power or heat in the clubhouse. Loss of utility power at the repeater site will cause a short low-pitched tone to be sent immediately after the squelch tail but prior to the courtesy tone.

Repeater Control Operators are: Rick Cabral, W1RJC; Larry Houbre, AA1FS; Bob Metivier, N1XZJ; Bill Miller, K1IBR; Tim Smith, N1TI; and Scott Szala, W1EV. Repeater Programmers are Rick Cabral, W1RJC and Bill Miller, K1IBR.

REPEATER SPECIFICATIONS

- TOWER - 180 foot high self-standing
- ANTENNA - Celwave PD-220, 5.25 dB gain omnidirectional Super Stationmaster.
- COAX - 1-5/8" Andrews hardline
- DUPLEXER - Celwave PD 497-1
- CONTROLLER - CAT-1000
- TRANSMITTER/RECEIVER - Motorola Micor set for 50 watts output into the antenna system.
- PRESELECTOR/PREAMP - GLB
- POWER SUPPLY - Astron 50 ampere rack mounted unit with battery backup.

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

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.

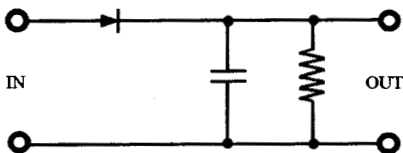
THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR
PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

REMEMBER WHEN?



RALPH MORRIS, W1QUE

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Zener Diode Clipper
- 2.) QPSK Driver
- 3.) SSB Modulator
- 4.) Peak Limiter
- 5.) Crystal Detector

ANSWER - See page 7

Shown above is long-time club member Ralph Morris, W1QUE, back in the 1950's. The NC-240D receiver in the picture was bought by Ralph in 1948 and then sold in 1958 to Bart Brady-Ciampa, a 16 year-old student at the time. Bart kept the radio and 34 years later in 1992 while living in Vancouver, Washington he noticed Ralph's barely discernable name and call letters in the NC-240D owner's manual. Bart tracked down Ralph and gave him a call. It was a most interesting call as Bart and Ralph reminisced about the "good old days." The saga of the NC-240D was written up in the November 1993 issue of QST on page 30.



RALPH TODAY

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



Chuck Wyrick
Manager
KM4NZ

224 N. Broadway
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750, 1-800-444-0047

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA
PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA
SUNNYVALE, CA • VAN NUYS, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

*"A paranoid is someone who knows
a little of what's going on."*

William Burroughs



CLUB NOTES

February! The very middle of winter. Snow. Cold. What happened to Global Warming? But hang in there - Spring is just around the corner. Don't forget Valentine's Day on the 14th and President's Day on the 19th.



Two new members joined the club at the January business meeting - **Jean A. Jason** and **Richard Mello**. *Welcome to the club fellows!*

Welcome!

Boy did we drop the ball! **Tim Smith** changed his call from **N1BTQ** to **N1TI** awhile back and we never reported it. Better late than never... Congratulations, Tim, on your new call!

~~N1BTQ~~

N1TI

John Lima, WB1ATO, donated a collection of QSTs covering several years to the club library. They will be a nice addition to the library planned for the new annex to the clubhouse. *Thanks, John!*



Club Vice-President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, upgraded to amateur EXTRA during the January 6th VE session held at the club. Ray studied hard in preparation for the test and it's nice to see he passed. *Congratulations, Ray!*

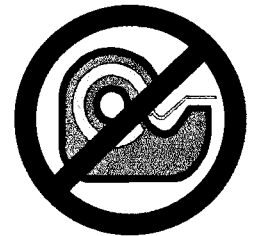
KB1EVX

Amateur EXTRA

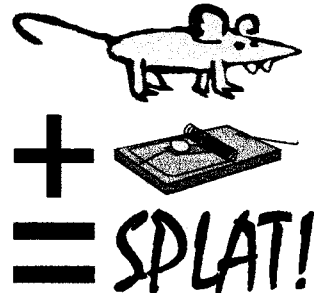
The club received a surprise visit from ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager **Phil Temples, K1HI**, at the January business meeting. Phil will be back to the club on March 8th to present an update on the ARRL. Joining him will be **Stan Laine, WA1ECF**.



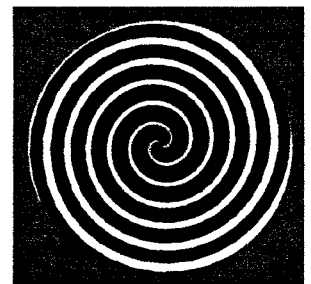
Members are reminded not to use tape when attaching anything to the wall paneling in the club. The tape ruins the surface of the paneling when the tape is removed.



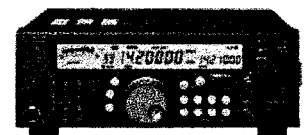
No name will be mentioned, but one member has been in a constant battle with MICE lately. They recently invaded his home and are causing him great distress and grief. However, word is the mice will go....SOON!




Bill Vincent, W1POW, had the great misfortune of getting the "Hybris" virus in his computer. All he got every time he turned on his computer was a hypnotizing spiral on the screen. What a bummer!



Charles Pelletier Jr., CKD1DA, donated a Kenwood TS700S 2 meter transceiver complete with a Kenwood MC-50 desk mike to the club for use by the members in the club's station. This is a valuable donation which fills a void that existed in the club equipment inventory. *Thanks, Charley, for this most generous donation.*



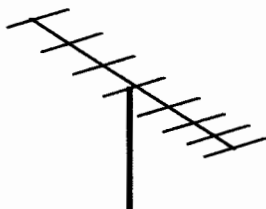


CLUB NOTES

The January foxhunt was cancelled when several hunters were unable to attend the event. Only two hunters and the fox showed up at the clubhouse. After waiting a half hour for any late comers, it was decided to cancel the event and head out to Me & Ed's Restaurant for a bite to eat and some ragchewing.



New club member **Jean Jason** recently donated a 2 meter beam antenna and an audio amplifier (PA) to the club. Jean is taking the radio class the club is presently conducting. *Thanks, Jean!*



Speaking of the radio class, **Seleven** students showed up on the opening night. After the students were registered and the instructors introduced themselves, **Tim Smith, N1TI**, presented an introductory video and slide show on the basics of amateur radio. *Well done, Tim!*



And speaking of **Tim Smith**, Tim gave an excellent presentation at last month's Tech-Talk on the APRS radio system. Tim revealed neat features such as the Internet sites that track all sorts of APRS activity and present it in a format useable by amateurs. Weather reports, active DX stations, radio-location and several other uses of the APRS system were discussed.



The Quarter Century Wireless Association was organized to promote friendship and cooperation among Amateur Radio operators who were licensed at least a quarter century ago.

If you now have an amateur radio license, and you were also licensed as a ham 25 years or more ago, you are eligible to join QCWA. It is not necessary that you have been continuously licensed during the twenty-five year period. If you are not absolutely sure of when you were first licensed, and do not have a copy of that license, ask HQ for help. They have nearly all of the past years' *Callbooks*, and can check to verify the year when you were first listed.

QCWA maintains a full-time, fully-staffed Headquarters office in Eugene, Oregon:

Jim Walsh, W7LVN,
General Manager

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.
159 East 16th Avenue,
Eugene, OR 97401-4017

Voice (541) 683-0987

Fax (541) 683-4181

Email: jwalsh@teleport.com

Internet: <http://www.qcwa.org>

FREE COMPUTER!



Ralph Morris, W1QUE, is offering a free TRS-80 Color Computer to any club member that wants it. It's operational and Ralph will demonstrate it's operation when you pick it up. If interested contact:

Ralph Morris, W1QUE
(508) 998-7967



MEETING MINUTES

The January business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Bill Miller, KIIBR. Thirty-seven members were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Incoming President Bill Miller thanked last year's officers and Board of Directors for the fine job they did running the club during the year 2000.

Committee reports followed:
Technical – Preamps just arrived and tested AOK. Programming of controller almost complete and new repeater should be on-line within a week or two. *Buildings and Grounds* – Oil tank about 1/2 full, will order oil soon. It was suggested the driveway be sanded when icy. *Ham Class* – Classes to start January 14th, 10 students signed up for the class. *Scholarship* - No report. *Constitution* – Work ongoing. *Field Day* - No report. *Fleamarket* - No report.

Communications - A new card-lock system shall be installed during the month of January with

plans to go on-line at the February business meeting.

The members gave a big "Thank You" to the members that donated the following items to the club:

E. K. Rogers, W1EB - A Hallicrafters radio station consisting of a HT-44 transmitter, a SX-117 receiver, Hallicrafters power supply and speaker, and spare tubes.

Charles Pelletier, KD1DA - a Kenwood TS-700S and MC-50 microphone.

Richard Simpkin, WA1CRA, a new rug runner for the entrance to the club.

Ratifications - The following applicants were voted into the club: **Jean Jason, and Richard Mello.**

Old Business - Andy Reuter and Pete Carreiro will investigate getting replacement fire extinguishers for the club and report back at the next business meeting.

New Business - The following motions were made and passed:

1. "Carry-over motions" approved each year. A -

Sending of sympathy cards to members and former members or family when a death occurs. B - Dues of \$5 for the first year for all newly licensed hams. C - New members joining the club after September 1st shall be considered paid through the next year also. D - Committee contingency fund shall be \$30 per month. E - Free coffee, donuts, etc. shall be provided to members and guests as was the past practice.

2. Motion to "lock up" all equipment recently donated to club pending recommendations from Board of Directors.
3. Motion to give John Carreiro \$30 to cover expenses of ink cartridges while Treasurer last year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Several members headed out to Burger King for a "second meeting" and good old ragchewing!

FINAL DUES NOTICE

2001 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW - THIS MAY BE YOUR FINAL ISSUE!

Members are notified that club dues for the year 2001 are payable now. Dues are only \$10 per year and checks may be sent to:

SEMARA Treasurer
 54 Donald Street
 South Dartmouth, MA
 02748

If you are not sure what year you are paid through, check the mailing label on this issue of ZERO BEAT. The first line of the label is coded as follows:

2000 (Dues paying member - year paid through)

LIFE (Life member)
HONORARY (Honorary member)
ADVERTISER (Advertiser in ZERO BEAT)
ARRL (ARRL official)
CLUB (Club newsletter exchange participant)

2000
 John Q. Hamm WIHAM
 73 Radio Drive
 So. Dartmouth, MA 02748

Get your Technician Class Amateur Radio License

In one weekend!

The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association

*****License in a weekend class*****

Pre-registration required, no walk-ins, 1 CEU credit

Friday, April 20 through Sunday, April 22, 2001

Location

Barnstable County Fairgrounds Classroom
Route 151 Falmouth Ma.

Text

ARRL's Technician Q & A Book, 3rd Edition

Schedule

Fri. 7-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-2pm
(ARRL VEC exams 2pm Sunday)

Course Fee

\$45.00

Includes lunch Sat & Sun, exam fee
and 1 year membership in FARA

To register and for more info

Call Bob, N1WAT @ 508-477-0771 or e-mail,
bodot@gis.net

Or register on the web at WWW.FALARA.ORG

Note

*No prior experience required-no age limit-all
are welcome. Class size limited so register early
to assure placement. Registration closed
7 days prior to start of session.*

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

February 3, 2001

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

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

RADIO PIONEER AL GROSS, W8PAL, DEAD AT 82

The man who brought the world such indispensable wireless communications concepts and devices as the walkie-talkie, pager and cordless telephone has died. Al Gross, W8PAL, of Sun City, Arizona, passed away on December 21. He was 82.

Gross obtained his Amateur Radio license in 1934 at the age of 16. His early interest in Amateur Radio helped set his career choice while he was still a teenager. Gross pioneered the development of devices that operated in the relatively unexplored VHF and UHF spectrum above 100 MHz. His first invention was a portable hand-held radio transmitter-receiver. Developed in 1938 while he was still in high school in Cleveland, he christened it the "walkie talkie." During the 1950s and 1960s, Gross secured several patents for various portable and cordless telephone devices. As his IEEE biography put it: "It is clear that Mr. Gross was a true pioneer and helped lead the way to today's wireless personal communications revolution."

TECHNICAL TIPS

Here is a neat trick if you need a low-frequency Strobe Light. Connect an LED to the output of a square-wave generator. Place a small limiting resistor (10 ohms) in series with the LED. If the generator puts out over 2 volts you will need a larger resistor such as 100 to 330 ohms.

A frequency counter connected to the generator will give you the exact frequency of the strobe light. Since LEDs don't put out a bright light you may have to dim the room lights when using this method.

Be sure to put an index mark (gummed label) on the shaft or pulley you are measuring. The new bright-white LEDs are great for this application, but require a high output signal generator.

2001 FLEAMARKETS

- March 25 - Framingham, MA
- April 1 - Southington, CT
- April 15 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 19 - Foxondale, RI
- May 20 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 26 - Vernon, CT
- June 17 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- July 15 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 19 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Sept 9 - SEMARA FLEA!
- Sept 15 - Foxondale, RI
- Sept 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Oct 21 - MIT Cambridge, MA

NET DIRECTORY

- Sunday —
- 8 am 28.375 SEMARA NET
- 9:30 am 50.225 Yankee SSB
- 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 WEBSITES

- WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM
- WWW.EGROUPS.COM/GROUP/SEMARA
- SEND E-MAIL TO: W1AEC@ARRL.NET

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER
5.) Crystal Detector

SEMARA OFFICERS 2001



- President** William Miller Jr., K1IBR
- Vice-President** Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX
- Secretary** Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- Treasurer** Scott Szala, W1EV
- Board of Directors:**
 - Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 - Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 - Robert Metivier, N1XZJ
- Trustees:**
 - Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD - Chairman
 - Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 - William Vincent, W1POW
 - Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 - Norman Riley, W1ATI

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2001

- 1 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 3 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 8 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 15 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "The NTS Traffic System" by Andy Reuter, WA1FNM

MARCH 2001

- 1 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 3 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 8 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "ARRL UPDATE" by Phil Temples, K9HI, and Stan Laine, WA1ECF.
- 15 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- NOTE: Normal Tech-Talk/Foxhunt dates swapped.

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							
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -		KD1CY	Fairhaven	442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth	442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth	443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth	443.500+	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	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
220							
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

Please support these fine sponsors of our newsletter

NEW BEDFORD LINGUICA COMPANY, INC.
Manufacturers Of



56 Davis Street
New Bedford, MA 02746
[Http://www.fragozo.com](http://www.fragozo.com)

Phone (508) 992-9367
Fax (508) 992-9398
Credit Cards Accepted



Cappuccino
Gourmet
Espresso

Bagels
Muffins
Cream Cheeses



Boston Coffee & Bagel

122 Allen Street, New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 992-3064

Also serving fine deli lunches

SEMARA

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

PLACE LABEL HERE

FIRST CLASS

Scanned by N1TI
January 2011