



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 70th YEAR

Volume 38, Issue 3

SEMARA W1AEC

March 2002

FAMILY APPRECIATION DINNER

The Family Appreciation Dinner was a great success. After feasting on cheese and fruit appetizers followed by chicken soup, members enjoyed a deluxe buffet meal. Among the items available were Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Baked Ham, Fried Chicken, and the usual fixings. Dessert was a scrumptious chocolate mousse.

Following the meal, members sat back and enjoyed the Susie Starr Show. Following her opening monologue, Susie read jokes sent in by various club members. Next Susie read words of wisdom and conducted a stress management

seminar to help members relax. Additionally, every member got an "Anti-Stress Kit."

However, when Susie attempted a magic trick (pulling a rabbit out of a bag), she got a chicken! But the chicken carried a note reminding members that a Chicken BBQ is scheduled for this coming August.

After several members received gag awards, a bubble blowing contest was held pitting table against table. Every table was a winner!

The show ended with Susie reading a poem titled "Friends." It was most appropriate.



BUBBLE BLOWING TIME!



SUSIE STARR MAGIC



W1ZYV TIME-OUT AWARD

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: EDITOR@SEMARA.ORG

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.

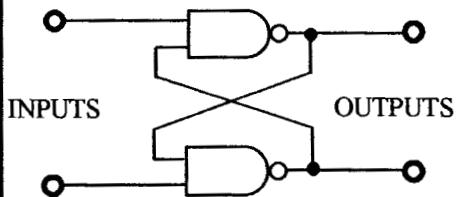
NEW CLUB COMPUTER



The new club computer is up and running! The basic computer is an AMD 1.3 GHz processor with 256 Meg of RAM, a 20 Gig hard drive, and a 250 Meg ZIP drive. A 56 K modem connects to the Internet using the free NETZERO service. When the computer goes on-line, all telephone service to the club and the repeaters (2 meters and 440) is terminated to prevent interruption problems.

A Buckmaster HamCall database is available off-line to look up calls. Club files have been loaded into the machine along with the minutes of previous meetings. Copies of the club's Constitution and membership lists can be printed on call. Space is also allocated for member's folders. The old club computer is now used to download data from the club's cardkey system. (Recycling in action!)

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) One-Shot Multivibrator
- 2.) FIFO Shift Register
- 3.) PWD Modulator
- 4.) Voltage Controlled Oscillator
- 5.) S/R Latch

ANSWER - See page 7

2002 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX

Vice President
 William Miller Jr., K1IBR

Secretary
 Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

Treasurer
 Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees:

Martin Jordan, KA1YFV - Chairman
 William Vincent, W1POW Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Norman Riley, W1ATI Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM

Board of Directors:

Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 Richard Simpkin, WA1CRA

MEETING MINUTES

The February business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX. Thirty members were present. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports -

Technical - Crackling noise on repeater to be investigated. Committee looking into new receiver and possibly a cardioid antenna for repeater.

Buildings and Grounds - Muddy driveway. Considering crowning it with new material.

Activities - Family appreciation dinner February 16th. Clambake set for April 13th.

Scholarship - No report.

Internet - No report. (Bill Miller mentioned site should be online in a few months if all goes well.)

Communications - Thank You note received from Ralph Morris for sympathy card sent to him.

Ratifications - The following applicants were voted members of the club:

- Ronald Barr**
 - Richard Brochu**
 - Alfred Croft, K1DML**
- Welcome to the club!*

President's Comments - President Arruda thanked **John Carreiro, W1ZYV**, for securing a refrigerator for the club from Stan & Pauls. **Scott Szala, W1EV**, was appointed club delegate to CEMARC. The Fall River Radio Club's newsletter is posted on our newsletter exchange board. We are now on their mailing list.

Old Business - None

New Business - The following motions were made and passed:

- 1) \$150 allocated to cover luncheon for CEMARC meeting at clubhouse on April 20th.
- 2) NO SMOKING in clubhouse on business meeting nights after 4 pm.

For the good of the club - **John Carreiro, W1ZYV**, will see if SMU or Voke-Tech can help develop plans for our new meeting hall. President Arruda solicited members for the Building Committee and **Bill Gifford, WA1HKJ**, volunteered to be a member. **Carl Bredberg, K1KID**, inquired about getting the tri-band beam to rotate. It was pointed out it needs a new rotator and must also be moved as it will hit the vertical in its current location.

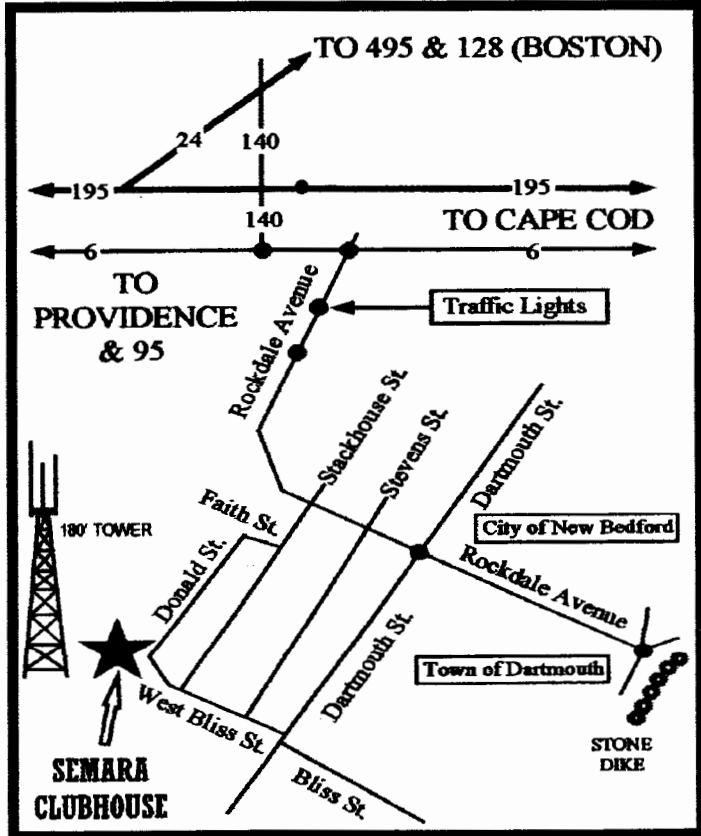
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.
A "members only" auction followed the meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

At the Board of Directors meeting held on January 24, 2002, the following items were discussed:

- 1) **TAXES** - The club Treasurer will file Form ABC to get a rebate on our property taxes.
- 2) **COMPUTER** - The Board sees no need to have one person in charge of the new club computer. The Board recommends that NO smoking, drinking, or consumption of food take place near the computer.
- 3) **BUILDING** - The Board recommends an architect be hired to develop a plan regarding the club's flooring, south side of meeting hall repairs, and a new meeting hall.
- 4) **CLAMBAKE** - A clambake is planned for Saturday, April 13, 2002, at the club.
- 5) **ARRL QUESTIONNAIRE** - Ray Arruda will complete the form after soliciting input from members.
- 6) **CEMARC** - On April 20, 2002, CEMARC will hold a meeting at our clubhouse. The Board recommends the club pick up the tab for a luncheon plate from D'Angelos or a similar vendor.
- 7) **SMOKING** - The Board recommends NO SMOKING in the clubhouse on business meeting nights, as well as making the kitchen and computer areas NO SMOKING zones.

DIRECTIONS TO CLUB



CLUB NOTES

The "Windy" month is upon us. March. St. Patrick's Day is on Sunday, the 17th. Then, on the 20th Spring officially begins! Passover starts at sundown on the 27th, and Easter is celebrated on Sunday, the 31st.



The Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) will hold their Spring meeting at our clubhouse on Saturday, April 20, 2002 starting at 9:30 am. Members are requested to refrain from "dropping by" the club that day to avoid any disruption of the CEMARC meeting. *Thank You.*



CEMARC MEETING

Three applicants were voted life members of the club during the February 7, 2002, business meeting:

Ronald Barr

Richard Brochu

Alfred Croft, K1DML

Welcome to the club!

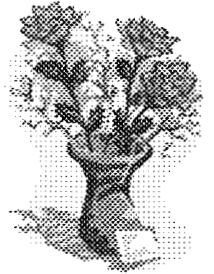


Immediately following the February 7th business meeting, a member's only auction was held with **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, as auctioneer. Equipment left over from the fall Fleamarket was auctioned off. Everything from oscilloscopes and radios to computers and programs was sold with the club making \$29.35 to boot.



It is with deep sadness we report the death of former member John P. Aguiar Jr., K100, on Thursday, January 24, 2002. John is the brother of current member James Aguiar, W1OBJ.

Rest in peace, John.



Laz Lazarov III, LKB1GSK, and his wife **Elaine Sciog-Lazarov, KB1HIY**, recently donated a neat electric heater and fan combination to the club. At the present time it's in the radio room. (Foot warmer!) *Thanks Laz and Elaine!*



The first club foxhunt of the year will be held on Thursday, March 14th. The hunt area will be the same as last year. No "Doppler" units will be allowed on the first hunt in an effort to "level" the playing field. Be there!



SEMARA CLAMBAKE

Saturday, April 13, 2002

Chowder at 12 Noon

Bake immediately following



SEMARA CLUBHOUSE
54 Donald Street
So. Dartmouth, MA 02748

An old-fashioned New England clambake will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, April 13, 2002. Come around 10 am and see the bon fire ignited that heats the rocks used in the bake. Watch as the hot rocks are covered with rockweed and the bake set under wet canvas taups. Then top it all off with the actual bake! Tickets are limited (60) and it's first come, first serve.

TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH

CEMARC REPORT

I was recently appointed as the club's delegate to the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs. The following is a recap of the most recent CEMARC meeting I attended on Jan. 19, 2002 at the Framingham Amateur Radio Club in Framingham.

First an explanation of what CEMARC is and what it hopes to accomplish should be noted. CEMARC is ARRL Affiliated Council of Clubs representing the Ham Radio Community in Eastern Massachusetts. It's purpose is to highlight, address and help in solving club/members problems or concerns brought before the council. It is only a forum for recommendations and ideas and acts only in an advisory capacity.

The most recent meeting I attended had the following agenda that was discussed.

1. What do the delegates want from the meetings?
2. Field Day issues such as inter-club activities where desired. Coming up with a simplex Freq. for VHF and UHF field day contacts.
3. Discussion on Ham Class postings and coordination between clubs. There were several thoughts on how to do the best instruction - 1 weekend vs. longer term classes.
4. There was discussion on the need for Code Classes.
5. Discussed whether CEMARC would want to host a on air Net.
6. Summer activity - picnic?
7. High School Clubs and how can CEMARC help foster same.
8. Discussion on how to achieve more Ham Radio Publicity.
9. Club surplus/needed equipment list.
10. Feedback from clubs on their speakers list.

As you can see there were many issues and some very good ideas from other member delegates. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th at SEMARA. If any one wishes further information or clarification please contact me. If anyone has any issues or ideas for the next CEMARC meeting please contact me. As a final note CEMARC has a Internet site www.qsl.net/cemarc.

Scott E. Szala W1EV

2002 FLEAMARKETS

March 10 - Amherst, MA
 March 16 - Pomfret, CT
 April 14 - Southington, CT
 April 21 - MIT
 May 3,4 - Hamtraders (NH)
 May 19 - MIT
 May 21 - Vernon, CT
 June 8 - Falmouth, MA
 June 16 - MIT
 July 21 - MIT
 August 18 - MIT
 August 24,25 - Buxboro
 Sept 8 - SEMARA!
 Sept 15 - MIT
 Sept 22 - Newtown, CT
 Oct 4,5 - Hamtraders (NH)
 Oct 6 - Wallingford, CT

FULL DETAILS AT:
mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/mc-files

SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

—Sunday—
 8 am 28.700

— Daily —
 7 pm 146.550

— Monday to Friday —
 7:30 am 14.262

— SEMCARES NET —
 1st Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm
 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)

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Sunday, April 21, 2002**

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Sun 9 am-2 pm**

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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

March 2, 2002

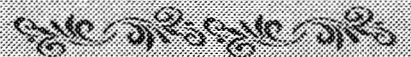
10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

VE SESSIONS IN MARCH

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

POINT TO PONDER



*"I don't make jokes.
I just watch the
government and
report the facts."*

Will Rogers

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SEMARA**

**SEND E-MAIL TO:
INFO@SEMARA.**

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

<p>MARCH 2002</p> <p>2 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>14 - FOXHUNT, 7:00 pm</p> <p>21 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Amateur Radio's Role in the NWS Taunton SKYWARN Program" by Rob Macedo, KD1CY</p>	<p>APRIL 2002</p> <p>4 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>6 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>11 - FOXHUNT, 7 pm</p> <p>18 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "All about PSK31" by Carl Bredberg, K1KID</p> <p>20 - CEMARC meeting at clubhouse, 9:30 am.</p>
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Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

TECHNICAL TIPS

A frequently asked question is, "Should I use a balun on my dipole antenna?" There is no standard answer as several factors determine the need for a balun.

In general, a balun should be used if A) the coaxial cable feeding the dipole departs from the antenna at an angle other than 90 degrees, or B) the center insulator on the antenna is an appreciable portion of the antenna's length. Either of these cases will cause an RF current to flow on the outside shield of the coax cable and thereby alter the radiation pattern of the antenna. Another consequence of such RF current is a nasty RF burn to your lips when speaking too close to the mike!

OK, so you need a balun. (Or just want to play it safe!) Many physical types of baluns are available - toroidal core, air core, ferrite rod, ferrite bead choke, etc. Then there is the issue of electrical design - Guanella vs. Ruthoff. One design, however, stands out in front of all others for dipole antenna use. That elegant design is the brainchild of Joe Reisert, W1JR. His balun (10 to 80 meters) is made by simply winding 12 turns of coax around a large ferrite core with a permeability of 125. 50 ohms in and out. Be sure to use a small high power cable when winding the balun. RG-8U is a no-no in this application!

Joe's design is so easy to make and so effective in use that even the "guru" of balun design, Jerry Sevick, W2FMI, acknowledged its superiority over all other designs.

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
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich	444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
220				444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI				

SEMARA

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54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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