



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 70th YEAR

Volume 38, Issue 4

SEMARA W1AEC

April 2002

SEMARA WEBSITE ON-LINE

SEMARA.ORG

The SEMARA website is officially on-line! After months of planning and web page development, the SEMARA website went live the first week in March.

Although several web pages remain to be finished, the major pages are on-line. Among the features available on the site are directions to the club (with a map) as well as forms such as membership and scholarship applications.

The site is designed for fast loading with minimum graphics. For example, most photos appear as "thumbnails." However, if you want a full size photo, clicking on the thumbnail will cause the full size photo to be downloaded. A

site map is even provided to allow those familiar with such navigation to "jump" directly to the site feature they desire.

This is your web site, and all members are encouraged to send any suggestions to improve or upgrade the site to the Internet Committee at:

webmaster@semara.org

**HAPPY
SURFING!**



W1GYL AND N1XZJ WIN FOXHUNT!

Ten members arrived at the clubhouse on Thursday, March 14, 2002 for the first foxhunt of the season. After pairing up in teams of two, lots were drawn to determine who would be the fox that evening. That honor went to the team of **Marty Jordan, KA1YFV**, and **George Kirkwood, KB1HJL**.

After checking that all hunters had their radios on the correct frequency, the fox took off for its hiding place. It seemed to take an eternity before the fox called in from the hiding place and the hunt began.

Since Doppler units were not allowed on this first hunt of the season, it took about 1/2 an hour before the first hunter found the fox.

And that winner was... the dynamic duo of **Henry Blanchett, W1GYL**, and **Bob Metivier, N1XZJ!**

Listed below is the final standing of all the hunters. Following the hunt several hunters went to Ma Raffa's restaurant in the south end of the city for a "second meeting." Every hunter had a plausible reason why he didn't come in first! Although only one team could claim "first place," all the hunters had a great time!

MARCH 2002 FOXHUNT WINNERS

- 1) Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, and Bob Metivier, N1XZJ
- 2) Carl Bredberg, K1KID, and Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA
- 3) Al Dulong, WB1FQP, and Bill Miller, K1IBR
- 4) Bob Simcik, WX1MAN, and Charles Days WA1JFD

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

EDITOR

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR
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 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.

REMEMBER WHEN?

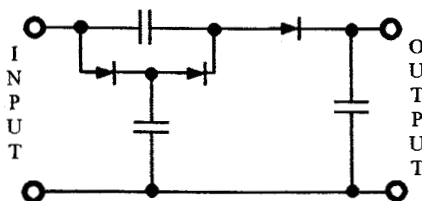


Captain (USNR) Richard Hay, W1LE, is shown operating CW on the club's station in this 1970 photograph. Dick was first licensed in 1929, and presently lives in a retirement community in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Old-time members will recognize the STAR transceiver and Collins receiver the club owned at the time. Not as clear in this old photo is the Swan 350 to the left of the Collins receiver. The club also had 12 antennas on the property at the time and they all terminated at the patch panel under the shelf above the Swan 350. The control for rotating the beam antenna is atop the Swan 350.

The radio room at the time took up about one quarter of the Quonset hut and had a large "U" shaped Formica desktop area against the walls. Coax ran from the antenna patch panel to each operating position in the room. Prior to the installation of the desktop, all equipment was mounted on relay panels - impressive, but not 'user friendly.'

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Voltage Tripler Rectifier
- 2.) FM Slope Detector
- 3.) Tunnel Diode Oscillator
- 4.) Frequency Selective Rectifier
- 5.) Bridged-T Diode Filter

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, WIPOW Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Norman Riley, W1ATI Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM

Board of Directors:

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

MEETING MINUTES

The March business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX. Twenty-Eight members and no guests were present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted with corrections. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Committee reports -

Buildings and Grounds - Chairman Andy Reuter urged all members to clean up after themselves as the club doesn't have a janitor. In particular, lights are being left on, and coffee cups left all around the clubhouse. If you use a foam coffee cup please throw it away when done. If you use one of the ceramic mugs, please wash it out after use.

Technical - Chairman Bill Miller recommended the club buy a new repeater receiver and upgrade the antenna system for more gain. Preliminary thoughts are to buy another Super Stationmaster and phase the two antennas together for the radiation pattern desired. Cel-wave engineering has been contacted for recommendations and suggestions.

Activities - Chairman Scott Szala reports that half of the clambake tickets are already sold. They are moving fast and members are urged to buy now or miss out on the bake, as tickets are limited to 60.

Scholarship - Chairman Larry Houbre reports that an application form will be on the Club's Internet site soon. Students interested in applying for a scholarship can download the form, fill it out, and mail it in to the club's Scholarship Committee.

Internet - Chairman Larry Houbre reported the club's new Internet site (semara.org) is online and being updated almost daily. Members can send suggestions to improve the site to webmaster@semara.org

Communications - Requests for help at the Boston Marathon and the Eastern States Exposition were posted on the bulletin board. Members interested in helping out should have a 2 meter handheld with a gain antenna and spare batteries.

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

Wayne Sellin, KG4FRL

Phillip Choate, N1GLC

Andrew Perron, KB1DOZ

Paul Ciaburri, WA1ZDQ (reinstatement)

Welcome to the club!

President's Comments - President Arruda urged all members to feel free to bring any subject before the business meetings. Member's input is vital to the continued growth of the club. Bill Miller was given a round of applause for the fine job he did chairing the club's

Family Appreciation Lunch. A request for help in planning our new building was sent to New Bedford Voke. A club survey requested by the ARRL was completed and sent in, and a copy is posted on the bulletin board for members review.

Old Business - A motion was passed to repair the south side of the clubhouse. The sheathing will be totally replaced and the existing window raised as part of the job. This work is being expedited because of leaks during rainy weather. The wall is in bad condition.

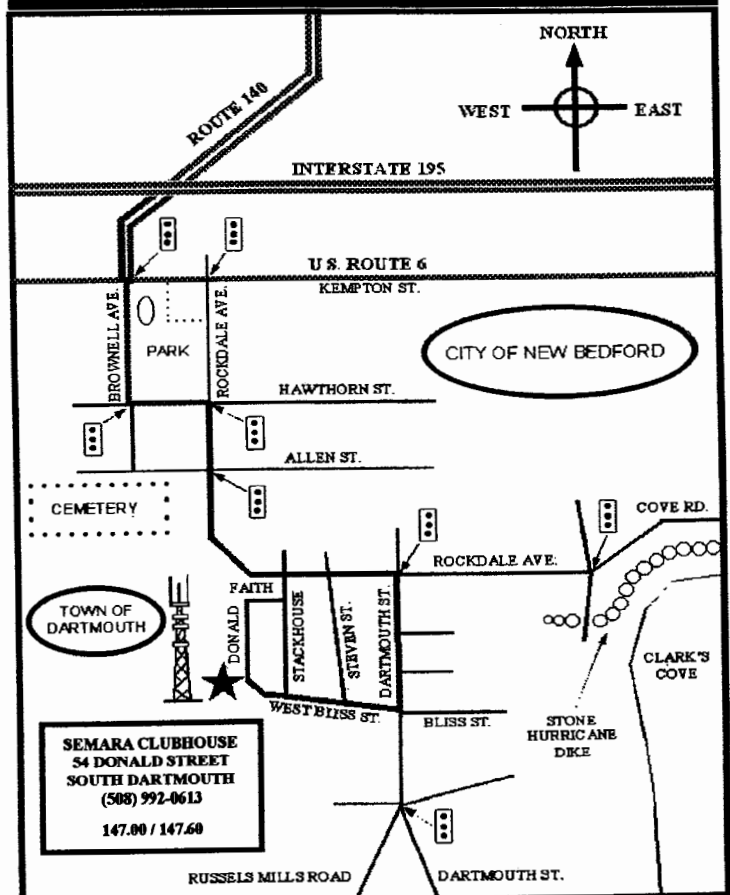
New Business - The following motions were made and passed:

- 1) A motion to upgrade the repeaters antenna system for more gain.
- 2) A motion to buy a new receiver for the repeater.
- 3) A motion to hold a MEMBERS ONLY raffle of a VERTEX VX-150 2 meter handheld at the club's Clambake in April.

For the good of the club - Treasurer Scott Szala noted that our quarterly federal tax payments are now \$954.00 as determined by our accountant. (We pay no state tax.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





CLUB NOTES

April already! Where did winter go? *What* winter is the better question! Remember to turn the clocks **AHEAD** on Saturday night, the 6th, as daylight savings time begins. Of course, April showers...



Four applicants were voted life members of the club during the March 7, 2002, business meeting:

Wayne Sellin, KG4FRL

Phillip Choate, N1GLC

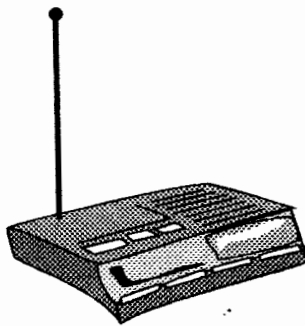
Andrew Perron, KB1DOZ

Paul Ciaburri, WA1ZDQ

Welcome to the club!



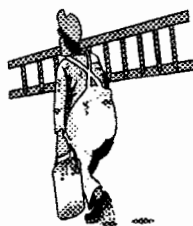
Tim Smith, N1TI, gave another of his interesting Tech Talks on February 21st when he presented a general overview of modern UHF trunking radio systems. Several scanners were demonstrated to the delight of those present. *Well done, Tim!*



Members are reminded to please identify yourself with your call letters **BEFORE** and **AFTER** every autopatch. *Thanks!*

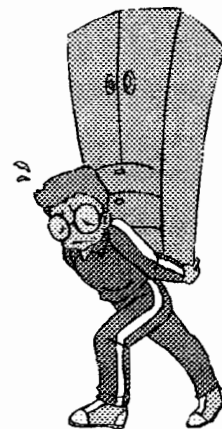


On Monday, March 4th, **Bill Vincent, WIPOW**, and **Ray Ar-ruda, KB1EVX**, caulked the window on the south side of the clubhouse to prevent leaks caused by rain. *Thanks Fellows!*



On Thursday morning, March 14th, several retired members conducted a work party at the clubhouse and cleaned out shed behind the clubhouse. A truckload of old junk was hauled away to the dump.

It is nothing short of amazing how the old junk collects around the clubhouse! Members are asked to please use good judgment when considering "dropping off" goodies at the club.



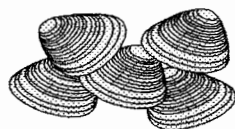
MEMBERS ONLY RAFFLE

A members only raffle of a Vertex VX-150 2 meter handheld will be held following the clambake scheduled for April 13, 2002. Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold right up to the drawing time. This is a great little radio with all the features you could ask for.



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

➔ NO TICKETS SOLD AFTER APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

REPEATER UPGRADE

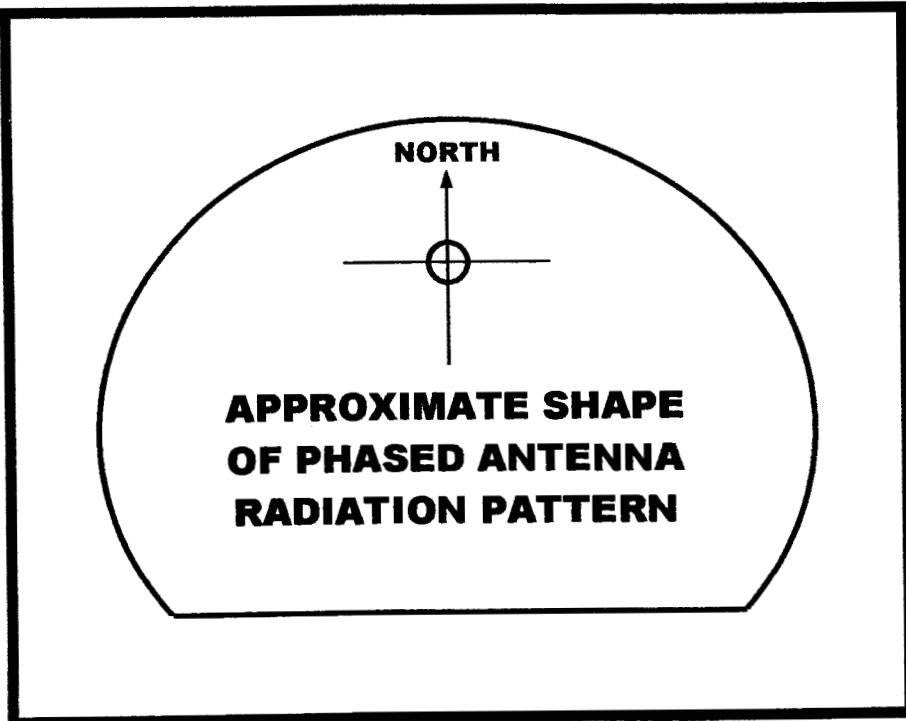
During the March business meeting, the membership approved two major upgrades to the club's 2 meter repeater. They voted to buy a new receiver and to upgrade the existing antenna system to a phased directional array.

Currently the repeater uses a Micor receiver of 1976 vintage with a Kendecom receiver of 1984 vintage as the spare. Both have seen better years. The new receiver will be a Maggiore Electronics Laboratory model R4V as used in the Hi-Pro repeater line. The receiver's 12 dB SINAD rating is .20 microvolts.

The antenna upgrade will add another PD220-2 Stationmaster at the top of the tower 1/2 wavelength behind and due south of the existing one. A custom phasing harness will diminish the power radiated southerly into the ocean by about 5 dB, while increasing the power about 4 dB in a northerly direction. The east and west quadrants will realize about a 3 dB gain when compared to the existing antenna.

It is anticipated the receiver will be on-line in by mid April, with the antenna upgrade completed by June of this year. Whereas the receiver can go on-line shortly after being received (an interface connector must be installed), the antenna upgrade must be coordinated with NETCOM's work on the tower.

It is hoped that these changes will give the members the coverage they want from the club's repeater.



2002 FLEAMARKETS

- April 6 - Waterford (Auction)
- April 14 - Southington, CT
- April 21 - MIT
- May 3,4 - Hostraders (NH)
- May 11 - Forrestdale RI
- May 19 - MIT
- May 25 - Vernon, CT
- June 8 - Falmouth, MA
- June 16 - MIT
- July 21 - MIT
- August 18 - MIT
- August 24,25 - Boxboro
- Sept 8 - **SEMARA!**
- Sept 15 - MIT
- Sept 21 - Forrestdale RI
- Sept 22 - Newtown, CT
- Oct 4,5 - Hostraders (NH)

FULL DETAILS AT:
mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/se-flras

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)

Get your Technician Class Amateur Radio License *In one weekend!*

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**Friday, April 19 through
Sunday, April 21, 2002**

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Sun 9 am-2 pm**

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Course Fee \$33.00 Text: \$12.95*

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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

April 6, 2002

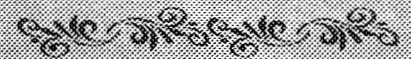
10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

VE SESSIONS IN APRIL

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

POINT TO PONDER




*"That government
is best which
governs least."*

Henry David Thoreau

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1.) Voltage Tripler Rectifier

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SEMARA.ORG

SEND E-MAIL TO:

INFO@SEMARA.ORG

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 2002	MAY 2002
4 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm	2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
6 - VE Session, 10:30 am	4 - VE Session, 10:30 am
11 - FOXHUNT, 7 pm	9 - FOXHUNT, 7:00 pm
13—CLAMBAKE!!!	
18 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "All about PSK31" by Carl Bredberg, K1KID	16 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Radio-Scanners, Computers and the Internet" by Tim Smith, N1TI
20 - CEMARC meeting at clubhouse, 9:30 am.	

Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

TECHNICAL TIPS

Most amateur radio home-brewers do not have a machine shop at their disposal. In lieu of such a shop small hand tools will often suffice. A good pair of tin snips is a must. Also handy is a set of aviation snips - one for straight cuts, and a left and right hand cutter. For big jobs a saber saw equipped with a hacksaw blade is a life saver. Be sure to cover the metal completely with masking tape to prevent marring the surface. (Leave the cut line uncovered! Sticky tape gums up a blade fast.) A Dremel type tool works wonders for small delicate cuts such as holes for DB connectors, etc. Drill holes in the corners of the opening and use a heavy-duty cutting wheel to finish the work.

Bending metal is always a challenge. Most hams don't have a bending brake. One alternative is to use a vise with two heavy-duty angle irons inserted to enable long bends greater than the vise opening. It helps to make a small nick with a hacksaw on each end of the bend line. Use a block of wood (2 x 4) and a mallet to help bend the metal. Another alternative is a tool used by sheet metal workers for duct work. The tool looks like a set of pliers except it has two large flat jaws to hold the metal while you bend it against a table top or the like.

Making large holes is best done with a set of chassis punches. However, in a pinch you can use a hole saw or a "flying" hole cutter. The "flying" hole cutter mounts in a drill and has two cutters mounted on opposite ends of an arm that you adjust for the hole size desired. Caution - they take time to properly set up (and test on a scrap of metal) and also have the nasty habit of coming out of the hole and marring the chassis or panel you are working on!

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location	Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144				440			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WGIU	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

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

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January 2011