



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 70th YEAR

Volume 38, Issue 5

SEMARA W1AEC

May 2002

SEMARA CLAMBAKE A HIT!

PETE RYDER, KB1GPL, WINS VX-150 RAFFLE

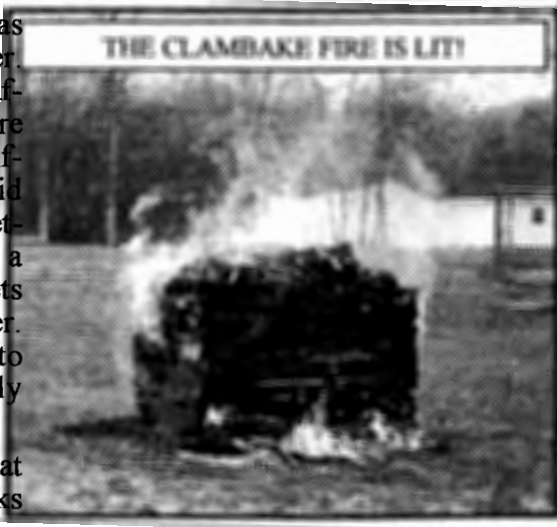
The SEMARA clambake was held at 12 noon, April 13, 2002 at the clubhouse. Many members came early to see the bon fire lit that heated the rocks used in the bake. Many members commented they had never seen a bake from start to finish and were surprised at all the work that went into it. One member commented it must have taken hours to harvest the truckload of rockweed used in the bake.

After consuming bowls of creamy clam chowder, the members were ready for the main course. The bake was served buffet style and many members went back for seconds! The bakemaster surprised us with delicious sweet corn that just arrived at the wholesaler where he buys his food supplies. Another surprise was home-made brown bread baked with the rest of the food.

When members were asked if they wanted another bake next year they all said "Yes!", and some felt we should also do it again this year to boot!

Following the bake, a "members only" raffle was held. The prize was a Vertex VX-150 2 meter transceiver. George Kirkwood's charming daughter Jessica drew a raffle ticket from the drum, and the winner's call letters were announced. No one came forward to claim the prize! After several minutes, Pete Ryder stepped forward and said he thinks he might be the winner. However, the call letters on the ticket drawn weren't his. (Somebody made a boo-boo!) Finally, the numbers printed on the tickets were compared and Pete was declared the official winner. Club President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX, handed the prize to Pete - who immediately asked if the battery was fully charged! Talk about gratitude.

It was a fun day for all and several members sat around ragchewing until well after 3 P.M. It sure looks like the clambake will be an annual event. Hooray!



ZERO BEAT

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

EDITOR

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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.

REMEMBER WHEN?



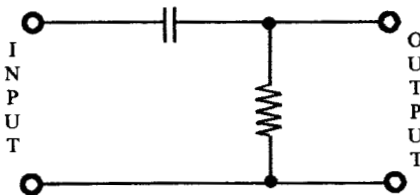
Old timers in the club will recognize this old picture of **Randy Faber, W1RTF**, formally **WA1NSL**, climbing up the 160 foot repeater tower that was taken down several years ago.

Randy was a tireless worker around the club and was a tower climber from the get-go. Although still a member of the club, Randy now lives in Maryland.

This picture shows Randy around the 20 foot level on the tower where the coaxial cables from the radio room and the club repeater **WR1ADR** attached to the tower. Some claim the weight of the antennas alone on the tower was enough to hold the tower in place should any guy wires snap!

Sunday mornings at 8 a.m., Randy joins Bob Brocklehurst, **KB3SM**, (ex - **WA1MYH**) of Philadelphia, and Bill Miller, **K1IBR**, on 40 meters for some ragchewing. (Bill operates from the club station, **W1AEC**.) After checking into **ECARS** (7255 MHz), they move to a vacant frequency, usually between 7180 and 7250 MHz. Randy plans to visit the club this year, possibly in May or June.

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Radar MTI filter
- 2.) FM pre-emphasis filter
- 3.) PLL error filter
- 4.) FM de-emphasis filter
- 5.) FM slope detector

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 April business meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX. Thirty-Four members and one guest 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 – No report.

Technical – New receiver due in by end of April. Telewave suggests we use a passive reflector to enhance repeater coverage to the north. Coax and fittings ordered to repair bad cable between duplexer and cable to antenna.

Activities - Chairman Scott Szala requested input from members on what activities they would like the club to support. Clambake scheduled for this Saturday. Preparations for Field Day will be ramping up this month. A sign-up sheet is posted for "Radio tune-up" and "Steam-up" days at the N. E. Wireless & Steam museum in RI.

Scholarship - Scholarship application form is on the club's website.

Internet - New website is up and running well!

Fleamarket - Notices announcing our Fleamarket were mailed to all ham radio magazines. 1,000 flyers are available in the box next to the front door. Members should take them to area fleamarkets they attend this season to help promote our fleamarket.

Communications - Four notices received via the Internet are posted on the bulletin board. A Boy Scout representative will attend our next BOD meeting with a proposal that the club join their "Venturing" program. The BOD will report their recommendation at the next business meeting.

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

Bob Courtemanche, N1WAT

Edward Mello, KB1HJG

John Perry, KB1HYT

David Ramos, KB1HJD

Fred Ravens, K1QLG

George Roberts, N1GLD

Welcome to the club!

President's Comments - President Ray Arruda thanked Laz Lazarov for the donation of a gas grill

and brass spittoon to the club. He also thanked all members that helped cleanup the Quonset hut. Finally, he thanked Larry Houbre for the super job he did constructing the new website.

Old Business - None.

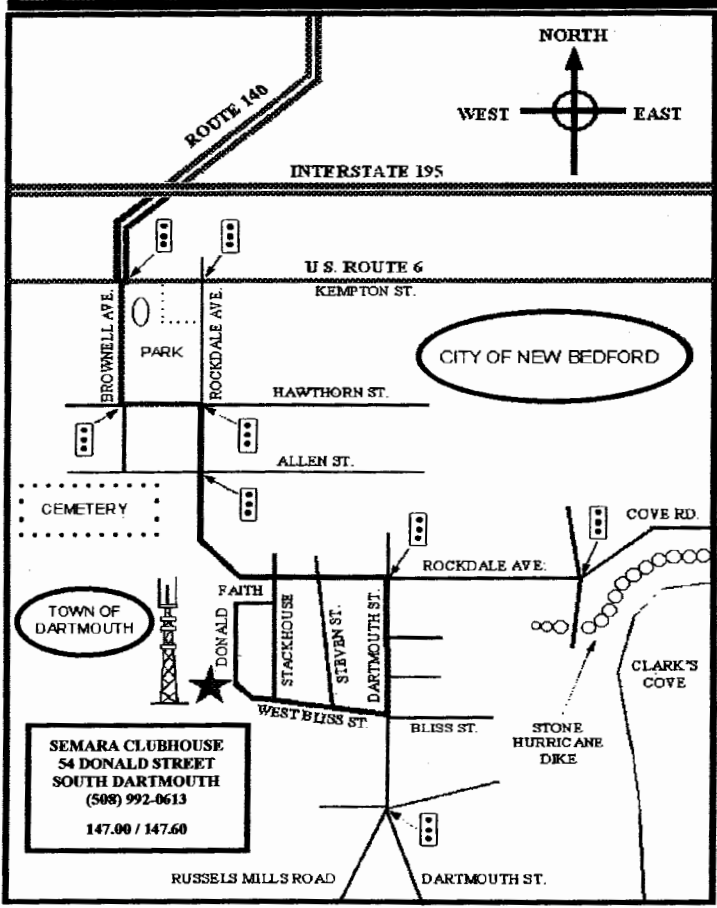
New Business - A motion to buy a dummy load for use at the repeater site was passed.

For the good of the club - It was suggested that members use the club radio more often. It would be nice to see more entries in the log book!

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.



DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





CLUB NOTES

May is always a great month. The grass greens up, flowers kick-off their annual show, and Flea-market season begins. Yeah! Holidays this month are Mother's Day on the 12th, Armed Forces Day on the 18th, and Memorial Day on the 27th.

Five applicants were voted life members of the club during the April 4th business meeting:

Bob Courtemanche, N1WAT

Edward Mello, KB1HJG

John Perry, KB1HYT

David Ramos, KB1HJD

Fred Ravens, K1QLG

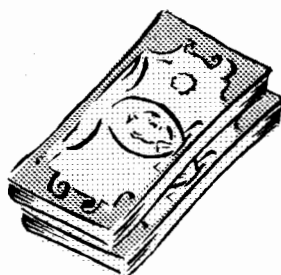
Welcome to the club!

A member (who shall remain anonymous) actually tried to place a cell phone call using a TV remote control unit! In his haste to leave home one morning he accidentally grabbed and pocketed the TV remote. Later that day... One can only imagine his poor wife at home trying to change TV channels with the cell phone!

On Sunday, April 7th, **John Carreiro, WIZYV**, BOLTED out of the club in a panic when he realized his watch was wrong and a drawing for \$700+ was underway at the gun club he attends.



**INCREDIBLE
BUT TRUE!**



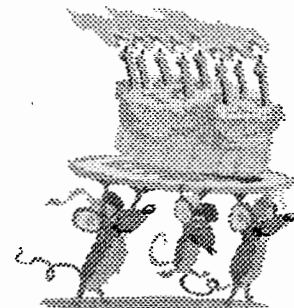
CORRECTION

The sharp eye of **Randy Faber, W1RTF**, noticed that the equipment descriptions in last month's "Remember When" picture are wrong. What was listed as a Star transceiver is actually a receiver, and the Collins receiver listed is actually a Collins 75A4 transmitter. Talk about getting things backwards! *Thanks, Randy, for the corrections.*

The "Retiree's Brigade" was at it again. This time they cleaned up the mess in Quonset hut storage area. Truckloads of junk was carted away to the dump. Check it out! The hut is like a dance room now with wide open spaces. *Thanks, fellows!*



Bill Miller, K1IBR, was given a surprise birthday party by his family and SEMARA members on Sunday, April 7, 2002, at the SEMARA clubhouse. He was totally surprised! Not a single club member tipped him off to the event. *Happy 60th Bill!*



Glenn Sturgeon has a new call, **K1GHS**. His old call was **KA1FAV**. It's even money that **GHS** are his initials...

K1GHS

NOTICE

Starting with next month's issue, ZERO BEAT will be mailed out the *Sunday before the business meeting*. (Currently it is mailed two Sundays before the business meeting.) This change will permit the write-up on the previous month's Tech Talk to be published in a timely manner. Currently the write-ups are two months behind because of printer's deadlines. Additionally, it will serve as reminder to members that a business meeting is being held that week.

KB3SM's TEAM WINS FOXHUNT!

Bob Brocklehurst, KB3SM, and his team of crack foxhunters won the foxhunt held on Thursday, April 11, 2002. Team member Charlie Days secured the actual find after walking to the top deck of the downtown parking garage in New Bedford. The low overhead of the garage foiled any attempts to drive up to the top deck. The fox for this hunt was last month's winners Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, and Henry Blanchett, W1GYL.

Bob's team secured victory just before the two-hour time limit for the hunt passed. They were the only team to find the fox! The teams that didn't "cut the mustard" were: Carl Bredberg, K1KID, and Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA. Al Dulong, WB1FQP, and Bob Simcik, WX1MAN. Bill Miller, K1IBR, and George Kirkwood, KB1HJL.

Following the hunt, everyone met at the Kentucky Fried Chicken on County Street for a bite to eat and also to vent their frustration at not finding the fox. Several members questioned the legality of the fox hiding in a parking garage where you have to pay to gain entrance. (However, parking was "free" the night of the hunt because of an event held in the area. This was not common knowledge, and inquiries over the air about parking being "free" that night went unanswered...) A strict interpretation of the foxhunt rules appears to allow hiding in the garage - even if you have to pay. This hunt was a topic of discussion in the days following the hunt. There was one bottom line however - KB3SM's team **WON THE HUNT!**



KB3SM's FOXHUNT TEAM CHECKING EQUIPMENT

Art Lincoln (No call), Charles Days (WA1JFD), and Bob Brocklehurst (KB3SM), check out the foxhunt equipment before the hunt. Not shown is Bob's fiancée Joan who was the "official" team driver.

2002 FLEAMARKETS

- May 3,4 - Houstraders (NH)
- May 11 - Forrestdale RI
- May 19 - MIT
- May 25 - Vernon, CT
- June 8 - Falmouth, MA
- June 15 - Union, ME
- 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 - Houstraders (NH)
- Oct 6 - Wallingford, CT

FULL DETAILS AT:
mit.edu/w1gd/Public/se-flea

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 each month at 7:30 pm
 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)

FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET
 8 p.m. Monday - Friday 145.49



ROB MACEDO, KD1CY, PRESENTS TECH-TALK ON SKYWARN

On March 21, 2002, Rob Macedo, KD1CY, gave a very interesting Tech-Talk about the NWS Skywarn program. During the course of his presentation he reviewed several significant New England weather events that occurred in the last decade.

Particularly interesting was his revelation that two feet of hailstones fell in Holyoke, MA in 1992! The picture below shows a girl and her dog. That dog isn't a dachshund, it's a Rottweiler or Doberman! Note the date on the hand-made sign. By the way, the Holyoke hailstorm set a national record.

Following Rob's presentation, Mike Nielson, W1MPN, gave a brief overview of ARES operations. Mike is the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

May 4, 2002

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

VE SESSIONS IN MAY

- 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


POINT TO PONDER

"The welfare of the people in particular has always been the alibi of tyrants, and it provides the further advantage of giving the servants of tyranny a good conscience."

Albert Camus (1913 - 1960)

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SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

<p>MAY 2002</p> <p>2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>4 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>9 - FOXHUNT, 7:00 pm</p> <p>16 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Radio-Scanners, Computers and the Internet" by Tim Smith, N1TI</p>	<p>JUNE 2002</p> <p>1 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>13 - FOXHUNT, 7 pm</p> <p>20 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, Video Night - Video to be announced at a later date.</p> <p>22 & 23 - FIELD DAY @ Clubhouse</p>
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Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

TECHNICAL TIPS

Here is a selection of comments relative to soldering: NEVER use a soldering gun. Always use at least a 45 watt iron when soldering PL-259 connectors. Cold solder joints are less of a possibility if you use eutectic solder (63/37). Always pre-tin wires before attaching them to terminal strips or connectors. Use braided wire saturated with dry flux (Solder-Wick) to remove unwanted solder from joints - this is handy when either replacing blown components or salvaging them from old equipment. Happy Soldering!

SOLDERING KIT

25 watt soldering iron with pencil tip
 45 watt soldering iron with spade tip
 Soldering iron holder(s)
 Quality solder (Ersin, Kester, etc.)
 Solder-Wick to remove solder

Flux remover (liquid or spray)
 Q-Tips (for use with flux remover)
 Wet sponge and holder (to wipe tip)
 Clamps to hold parts being soldered
 Soldering tool or stainless steel pick

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 -		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
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich	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

SEMARA

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 54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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