



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 70th YEAR

Volume 38, Issue 6

SEMARA W1AEC

June 2002

SEMARA HOSTS CEMARC MEETING

The Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) held its April 20th meeting at the SEMARA clubhouse in Dartmouth, MA.

SEMARA president Ray Arruda, KB1EVX, welcomed all CEMARC members to the club. Next, the club's CEMARC delegate, Scott Szala, W1EV, gave a brief history of the club which was followed by a tour of the radio room and repeater site conducted by Bill Miller, K1IBR.

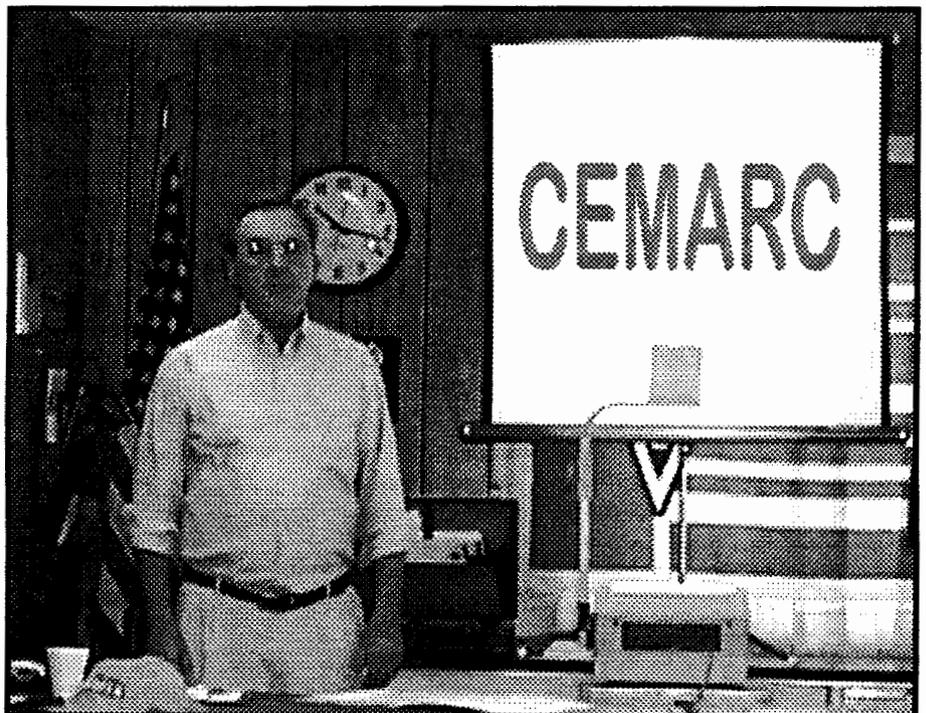
Frank Murphy, N1DHW, presided over the CEMARC meeting. After opening the meeting, he introduced ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Phil Temples, K9HI, who brought greetings from the ARRL. Following recognition of the other dignitaries present, self-introductions of all individuals present took place. Then Frank efficiently ran through the agenda items one by one.

At noontime, the meeting broke for a catered luncheon of Caesar's Salad and assorted grinders.

After the lunch break, Mike Neilson, W1MPN, discussed an ARES/Field Day proposal to integrate Field Day operations with ARES operations. A long discussion of the proposal's merits followed, and "if" and "how" such a melding should be attempted.

The meeting was very productive and several good ideas were presented from Field Day preparations and antenna erection prior to Field Day to building up the membership in CEMARC. Several delegates present pointed out that several clubs are very small or exist primarily "on paper" as they exist only to support a local repeater. It was doubtful that such clubs would ever send a delegate to the CEMARC meetings.

The meeting ended in the early afternoon and many delegates stayed around for a general rag-chewing session and a second shot at the salad and sandwiches!



FRANK MURPHY, N1DHW, CONDUCTING MEETING

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EDITOR

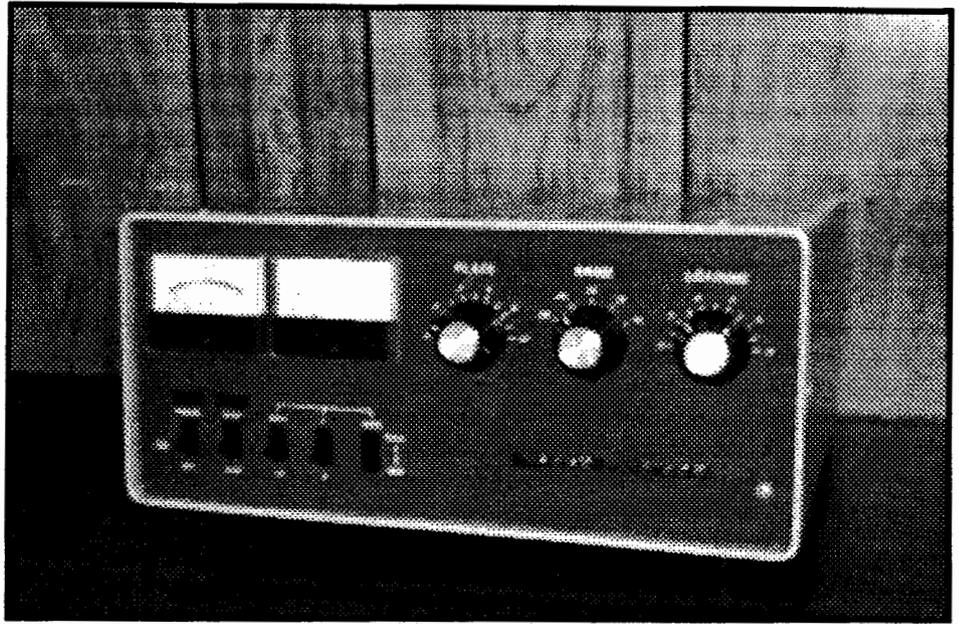
William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR
Phone: (508) 996-2969
E-Mail: EDITOR@SEMARA.ORG

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.

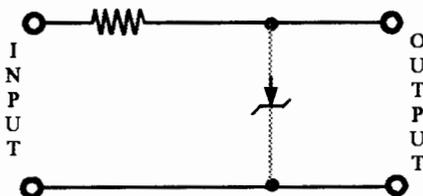
Non-commercial ads up to forty words in length will be accepted. Rate is \$3.00 for one or \$12.00 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

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



RANDY FABER, W1RTF, DONATES YAESU LINEAR AMP TO CLUB

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Positive shunt regulator
- 2.) Positive series regulator
- 3.) PWM voltage regulator
- 4.) Negative shunt regulator
- 5.) Negative series regulator

ANSWER - See page 7

Randy Faber, W1RTF, donated a YAESU FL-2100 linear amplifier to the club during his recent visit from the state of Maryland. It was installed in the club station after a special cable was fabricated to interface it with the Kenwood TS-180 transceiver. Also required was the installation of a 220 volt power source.

The FL-2100 amplifier covers 10 through 80 meters using two 579B tubes in grounded grid operation. The unit puts out 1,000 watts on CW, 600 watts on AM, and 1,200 watts PEP. It requires a 100 watt RF input which the Kenwood TS-180 easily supplies.

A copy of the tune up instructions is posted in the radio shack. Members are cautioned to follow the tune up instructions carefully so as not to burn out the amplifier tubes.

This amplifier is a great addition to the club's equipment roster and will help cut through the static and QRM when working DX. *Thanks, Randy, for this most generous donation.*

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 May business meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX. Twenty-Six members were present. The Board of Director's report was read and accepted. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Committee reports -

Buildings and Grounds - No report.

Technical - The new receiver is now on-line. Antenna work scheduled for later this spring.

Activities - Field Day sign-up sheet posted.

Scholarship - Applications available on-line.

Internet - Running fine.

Fleamarket - No report. (Too early.)

Communications - Massachusetts QSO Party this weekend, May 4 & 5. Also, several balloons to be launched at the Hosstraders Fleamarket. Details posted on the bulletin board.

Ratifications - Seven new members voted into club. See "CLUB NOTES" for list of new members voted into the association. (Page 4)

President's Comments - It was decided not to join a "Venturing" project with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) at this time as five members must commit to the program. It was also decided not to provide ham radio classes to the Southcoast Learning Center as no members can donate time to this cause right now. Ray thanked all that helped make the Clambake a success. South side of clubhouse to be rebuilt and shingled this coming month.

Old Business - None.

New Business - The following motions passed:

- 1) \$500 to shingle south side of club with white cedar extra shingles.
- 2) \$300 for hardline connectors and other repeater items.
- 3) \$150 for new H/P 940C printer for general club and VE use.
- 4) \$40 to be repaid to member Bob Simcik, WX1MAN, for previous dues overpayment.
- 5) \$300 for Field Day / Family Cookout food and other unforeseen items.

For the good of the club - Nothing mentioned.

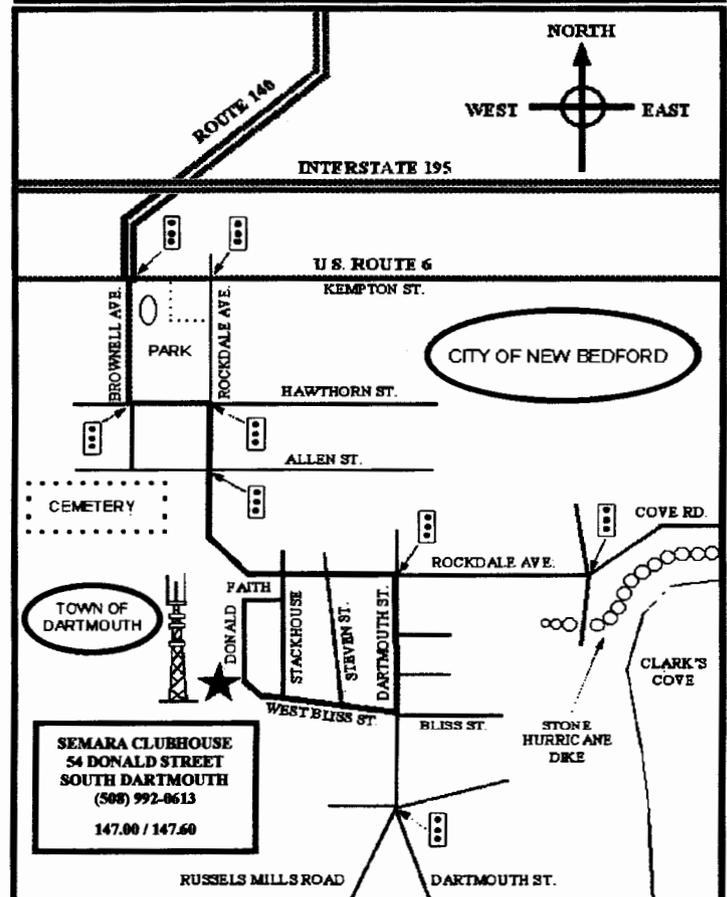
The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Ray Arruda called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:58 P.M. on April 25, 2002. The following items were discussed:

- 1) Rick Oliveira, Senior District Executive of the Boy Scouts of America gave a presentation on "Venturing." This is a program whereby the Boy Scouts and groups like ours work together to broaden the horizons of youth between the ages of 14 and 20. If we commit to such a joint venture, at least five members will be required to run the program.
- 2) It was recommended to reimburse Bob Simcik \$40 for dues he paid in advance prior to all memberships being converted to life memberships.
- 3) It was noted the Building Committee still needs a chairman.
- 4) During May it is recommended we rebuild the south wall of the club, paint the outside doors, and seal the porches.
- 5) The board recommends an 80 foot radio tower to be erected this year.
- 6) Kristina Conolley of the Southcoast Learning Center would like our club to provide a radio course. The board recommends we decline this request due to a lack of instructors willing to commit the time required.
- 7) The board recommends awarding certificates to the winners of each foxhunt. Any member that accumulated five certificates would additionally get an award from the club, such as a wall plaque or a small gift.
- 8) The board recommends awarding an ARRL "T" shirt or pin to any member that operates a minimum of one hour during Field Day.
- 9) The board recommends the club provide free hot dogs and hamburgers on Field Day. Members and family can come by for Field Day and the food. Sort of a family cookout!

DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





CLUB NOTES

June bridges spring with the hot days of summer. Summer starts on June 21st. Roll out the air conditioners! Flag Day is June 14th, and Father's Day is June 16th.



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

Steven Hall, KB1GVT

Stan Laine, WA1ECF

Bill Northup, N1QPR

Shelley Northup, N1VJE

Harold Ramsden, W1HTU

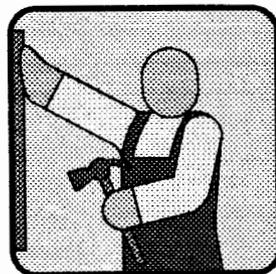
Gary Schwartz, N1ZCE

Christopher Terkla, N1XS

Welcome to the club!



Work on the south side of the clubhouse was slow in May due to rain. The window casing was fabricated. In late May the window was installed. Work will be done every Wednesday and Saturday. It's hoped the job can be completed during June! *Thanks to all that helped out so far!*



A member, who shall remain anonymous, had his car conk out by the State Police barracks in North Dartmouth. What to do? Why, he coasted into the police parking lot, where he was quickly informed to get it moved out by sundown. The problem with his car? He ran out of gas! (He claims the gage is broken...)



FIELD DAY & FAMILY COOKOUT

JUNE 22 & 23, 2002

FIELD DAY - This year Field Day will be held at the clubhouse running only ONE transmitter. Members can sign up for one hour shifts operating the rig (shifts start at 12 noon Saturday). All members operating for one hour's duration shall have their choice of a Field Day "T" shirt or a Field Day pin. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

FAMILY COOKOUT - In conjunction with Field Day, a Family Cookout will be held Saturday. Free hot dogs, hamburgers, and other goodies will be available from 12 noon until 8 pm. The grill will be manned from 12 noon to 1 pm and 4 to 5 pm. At other times it's "self-service". Bring the family!

THE CLUB

Hearing about a dinosaur alive in the rain forests of South America, a professor launches a scientific expedition. After several weeks he stumbles upon a little man wearing a baseball cap (with his call letters on it) standing near a 300-foot-long dead dinosaur. The scientist can't believe his eyes.

"Did you kill this dinosaur?" he asks.

"Yep," replies the rain-forest native.

"But it's so big and you're so small! How did you kill it?"

"With my club," the fellow answered.

"How big is your club?"

"Well, we have over 200 members now..."

(Thanks go out to George Kirkwood, KB1HJL.)

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE - Field Day & Family Cookout

JULY - Tune-Up Day (Field Trip)

AUGUST - Chicken Barbecue

SEPTEMBER - FLEAMARKET!

OCTOBER - Steam-up Day (Field Trip)

NOVEMBER - Turkey Raffle (?)

DECEMBER - Christmas Party

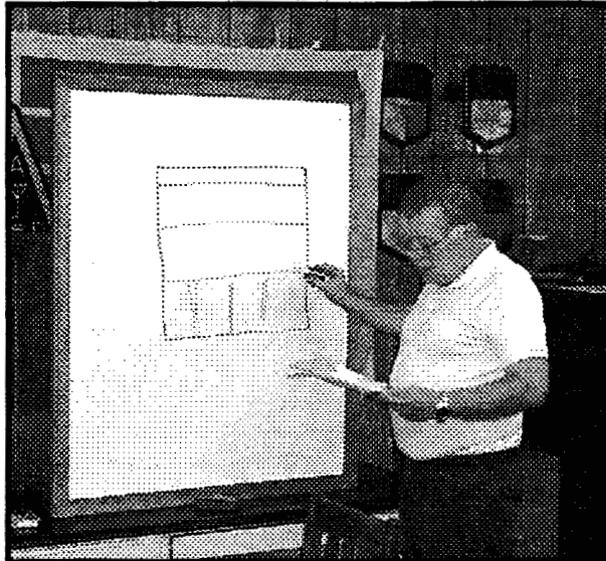
K1KID GIVES TALK ON PSK31

Carl Bredberg, K1KID, presented a Tech-Talk on April 18, 2002, titled "All about PSK31." It was a most interesting talk and certainly captured the interest of the members present. Carl used the club's computer to demonstrate the features of PSK31 communications over more conventional methods.

Especially interesting was the "waterfall" display of all stations within the bandpass of the receiver. To display the text of any station you simply place a cursor on the display and the decoded text appears above the "waterfall" in a window. Moving the cursor to another displayed station opens a smaller window that shows the last 20 seconds of text from that station.

Other features of PSK31 systems include "canned messages" and automatic logging of stations worked. Some programs also support "linking" with a call letter database to immediately give you the full details of the station you are working.

All attendees received a handout outlining PSK31 communications and a list of Internet links to sites with additional information and programs used to implement PSK31 systems.



2002 FLEAMARKETS

- June 8 - Falmouth, MA
- June 9 - Bethpage, NY
- June 15 - Union, ME
- June 16 - MIT
- July 21 - MIT
- July 27 - Nashua, NH
- August 18 - MIT
- August 24,25 - Boxboro
- Sept 8 - SEMARA!
- Sept 15 - MIT
- Sept 21 - Forrestdale RI
- Sept 22 - Newtown, CT
- Oct 4,5 - Hamstraders (NH)
- Oct 6 - Wallingford, CT
- Oct 12 - Nashua, NH
- Oct 20 - MIT

FULL DETAILS AT:
mit.edu/~w1gsd/Public/af-beat

PSK31 RESOURCES

GENERAL PSK31 INFORMATION

- <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/1999/0201/3/>
- <http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z/psk31.htm>
- <http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html>

SOFTWARE

- <http://www.pavane.net/digipan/digipan.htm>
- <http://users.mesatop.com/~ghansen/>
- <http://www.qsl.net/kc4elo/>
- <http://www.nvbb.net/~jaffe.jim/downloads.htm>

RADIO/PC INTERFACES

- <http://www.tigertronics.com/>
- <http://www.westmountainradio.com/RIGblaster.htm>
- <http://www.packetradio.com/psk31.htm>

PSK31 RADIO KIT

- <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/>



SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

— Sunday —
 8 am 28.700

— Daily —
 7 pm 146.550

— Monday to Friday —
 7:30 am 14.262

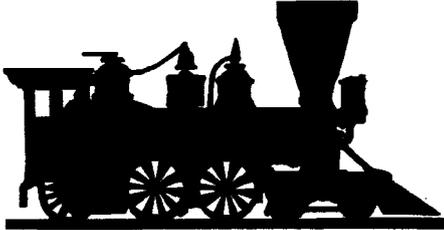
— SEMCARES NET —
 1st Sunday each month at 7:30 pm
 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)

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

MAY TECH-TALK ON RAILROADS

The May 16, 2002, Tech Talk was a video on "GREAT SCENIC RAILROAD JOURNEYS" in the northeastern United States. The video was provided by **Pete Ryder, KB1GPL**. This video was shown due a last minute cancellation of the Tech Talk on scanners and computers that **Tim Smith, N1TI**, was scheduled to present. Tim was unavailable due to business commitments.

The video covered scenic train rides from Maine to West Virginia. Several members mentioned they had taken rides on various scenic railroads shown in the video. The video was well received as many members are train buffs.



Tim's Tech-Talk will be re-scheduled. Check the calendar in ZERO BEAT for details.

STEVEN HALL, KB1GVT, 200TH MEMBER

Steven Hall, KB1GVT, became the 200th currently active member of the club when his application for membership was approved during the May 2nd business meeting. Although Steve is from this area, he currently lives in North Monmouth, Maine and was visiting friends and family in the area when he joined the club. In fact, club president **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, and Steve were childhood buddies. *Welcome to the club Steve!*

FOXHUNT WON BY K1KID & WA1CRA

The May 9, 2002 foxhunt was won by the determined team of **Carl Bredberg, K1KID**, and **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**. They found the fox, **Charley Days, WA1JFD**, hiding behind some bushes in Marine Park on the south side of Pope's Island. Charley had mounted a mag-mount whip horizontally on the side of his car away from the road to give the hunters strange signal readings!



It took the hunters about an hour to find the fox. Second place went to **Randy Faber, W1RTF**, and **Bill Miller, K1IBR**. Third place went to **Henry Blanchett, W1GYL**, and **Scott Szala, W1EV**. All the hunters found the fox within a five minute span after hearing the fox's clue, "I'm as near to Fairhaven as I can legally get by the foxhunt rules..."

Following the hunt, the hunters all went to Friendly's restaurant in South Dartmouth to review the hunt and compliment Carl and Dick on their winning first place. The downside was the service at the restaurant. To put it another way - we won't be going back!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

June 1, 2002

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

VE SESSIONS IN JUNE

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

POINT TO PONDER

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others."

William Allen White

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SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>JUNE 2002</p> <p>1 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>5 - S. E. Ma. Shrine Club visit to club, 10 a.m.</p> <p>6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>13 - FOXHUNT, 7 pm</p> <p>20 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Military Special Ops Communications" by Lazar Lazarov III, KB1GSK</p> <p>22 & 23 - FIELD DAY/ COOKOUT @ Clubhouse</p> | <p>JULY 2002</p> <p>4 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm</p> <p>6 - VE Session, 10:30 am</p> <p>11 - FOXHUNT, 7:00 pm</p> <p>18 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, (Tentative Talk) "The World Society for the Protection of Animals" by John Walsh</p> |
|--|---|

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

TECHNICAL TIPS

Here is a potpourri of technical tips:

- 1) Use plastic soda straws to insulate wire or to "stiffen" covered wire where it passes through a grommet.
- 2) Wooden tongue depressors and "Popsicle" sticks are great for mixing epoxy cement. Hobby stores sell them by the bagful.
- 3) Stockpile 1 ampere, 1 kilovolt diodes and use them whenever a 1 amp power diode is required.
- 4) When buying plastic ties for outdoor use, be sure to get the ultraviolet (UV) hardened type.
- 5) Plastic caps that go on steel chair legs make great caps for coaxial sockets and plugs.
- 6) "Motor-boating" in radio equipment is a classic sign of a bad filter capacitor.
- 7) Replace a small window pane with Plexiglas and you can mount feed-thrus for coaxial cable.
- 8) Keep one hand behind your back when working on high-voltage equipment!

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 |
| 146.805 | 136.5 | K1RFI | Fall River | 443.500+ | 141.3 | K1PBO | Barnstable |
| 146.685 - | | W1LM | Plymouth | 443.600 + | | NS1N | Norwell |
| 146.955 - | 88.5 | K1PBO | Dennis | 443.800 + | 88.5 | N1RFH | Dartmouth |
| 147.000 + | 67.0 | W1AEC | Dartmouth | 444.200 + | 118.8 | N1YHS | Bourne |
| 147.135 + | 67.0 | ND1N | Taunton | 443.850 + | 131.8 | W1ARM | Chatham |
| 147.180 + | 67.0 | W1MV | Bridgewater | 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 | | | | |

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

SEMARA

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January 2011*