



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 6

SEMARA W1AEC

June 2003

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST A SUCCESS

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held in Southeastern Massachusetts. The club's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group participated from the clubhouse on 40 meters, 6 meters, and 2 meters.

Fifteen individuals staffed the club for the test. Contact was established with 12 stations in Southeastern Massachusetts. The test ran from 10 a.m. to noontime. Immediately after the test, club ARES coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, conducted a review of the test to identify our weak points and strong points.

The test went better this time than the last one did. Each time a test is conducted, any weak points uncovered are corrected. For example, the last test revealed we had no 6 meter capability at the clubhouse. 6 meters had be-

come the "forgotten" band. The club immediately purchased a rig with 6 meter capability along with a 6 meter beam antenna. The 6 meter beam will be mounted atop our new 80 foot tower presently under construction. It will be above the Sommers 10 through 40 meter log/yagi beam antenna.

One area of improvement was message handling. Standard National Traffic System (NTS) message-gram forms were used to handle all traffic. For some members, filling out the form was a learning experience - even for those that attended one of Andy Reuter's, WA1FNM, Tech-Talks on traffic handling. Overall, everyone felt the SET went very well.

As usual, plenty of steamers, donuts, and coffee were available for the participants in the exercise.

PASSING EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ON THE HF STATION AT W1AEC

(Clockwise from the front.)

Tony Duarte, N1XRS
 Rachael Barrett, RED CROSS
 Mike Reale, KB1CHQ
 Rob Macedo, KD1CY



ZERO BEAT

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 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**
 54 Donald Street,
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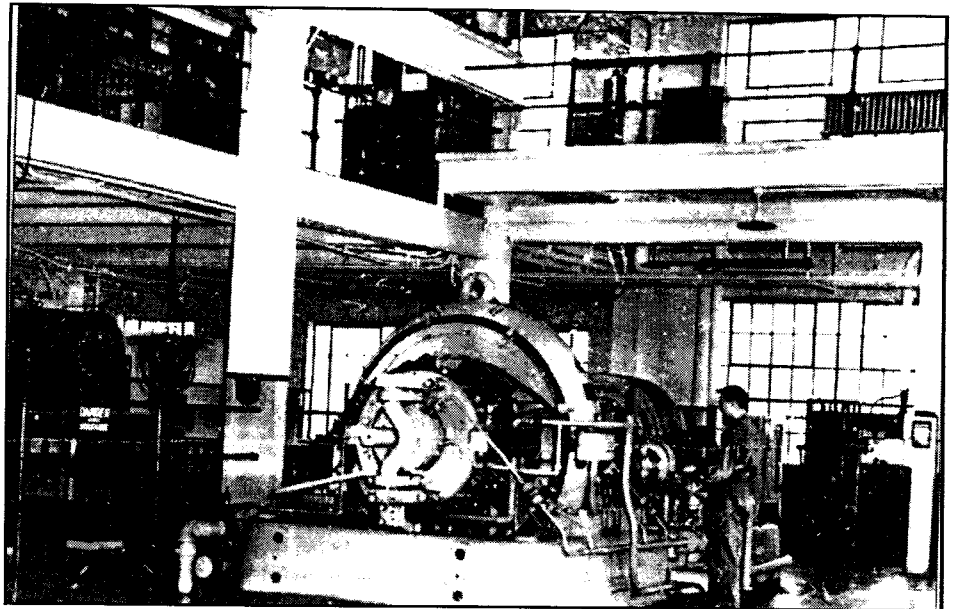
ADVERTISING

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?

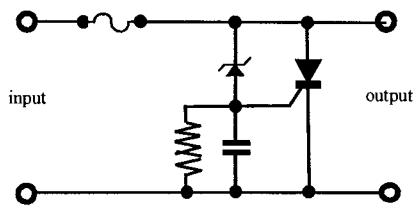


Here is a picture taken inside the transmitting room at Marion, MA over 50 years ago. At that time the station was operated by Airmen from Detachment 4, 1917 AACS Squadron, out of Westover AFB near Springfield, MA. The airman shown in the picture is Frank Borowitz, who now resides in Buffalo, NY.

The transmitter is an Alexanderson alternator developed by Werner Alexanderson, a Swedish engineer. It was essentially a motor-generator set. A large AC motor drives a mechanical generator that develops RF in the very low frequency (VLF) range. General Electric made 20 Alexanderson generators, including the two used at Marion, MA. RCA had overall responsibility of maintaining the transmitters, with AACS airmen operating the station.

The last Alexanderson alternator installed at the station in 1949 ran at 200 kilowatts with an output frequency of 25.82 kilohertz. It originally was used at a station on Long Island, NY, and is now preserved in the Smithsonian Institute Museum in Washington, DC.

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Zener/SCR Oscillator
- 2.) Over-voltage Crowbar
- 3.) Zener Shunt Regulator
- 4.) Symmetrical Limiter
- 5.) SCR Amplifier

ANSWER - See page 7

2003 SEMARA OFFICERS

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MEETING MINUTES

The May business meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Forty members and three guests were present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds - Andy Reuter, WA1FNM, asked all members to make sure the rest room is clean after each use.

Technical - Assembly of the Sommers XP807 Log-Yagi beam antenna is complete. The tower sections have been painted in preparation of installation (stacking) on the base. Installation of the cement tower foundation is set for the second week in May. The actual tower erection will be around June 1st. after the cement foundation is cured.

Activities - No report.

Scholarship - No report.

Internet - No report.

Fleamarket - Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA, volunteered to be chairman.

ARES Coordinator - Rob Macedo, KD1CY, said the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) drill on April 27th went well. Very few issues developed during the test. SET operations at the clubhouse was monitored by Rachael Barrett of the American Red Cross chapter in New Bedford. Also noted: a weather plane will be visiting the New Bedford airport for public viewing. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

Communications - Carl Bredberg read a letter of thanks from the Providence Radio Club for the hardline cable we donated to them.

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

President's Comments - President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, thanked all the members that have been working on the tower and antennas. He wished Sam Wagstaff, N1PGN, a speedy recovery from his recent illness, and stated that Tim Smith, N1TI, wife Betty will undergo brain surgery on May 29th. The field trip to the Antique Radio Wireless Museum in New York was cancelled due to a lack of interest. Finally, Ray asked all members to place used stamps in the collection jug for the veter-

ans hospitals and soda can pull tabs in the collection jug for the Shriner's hospitals.

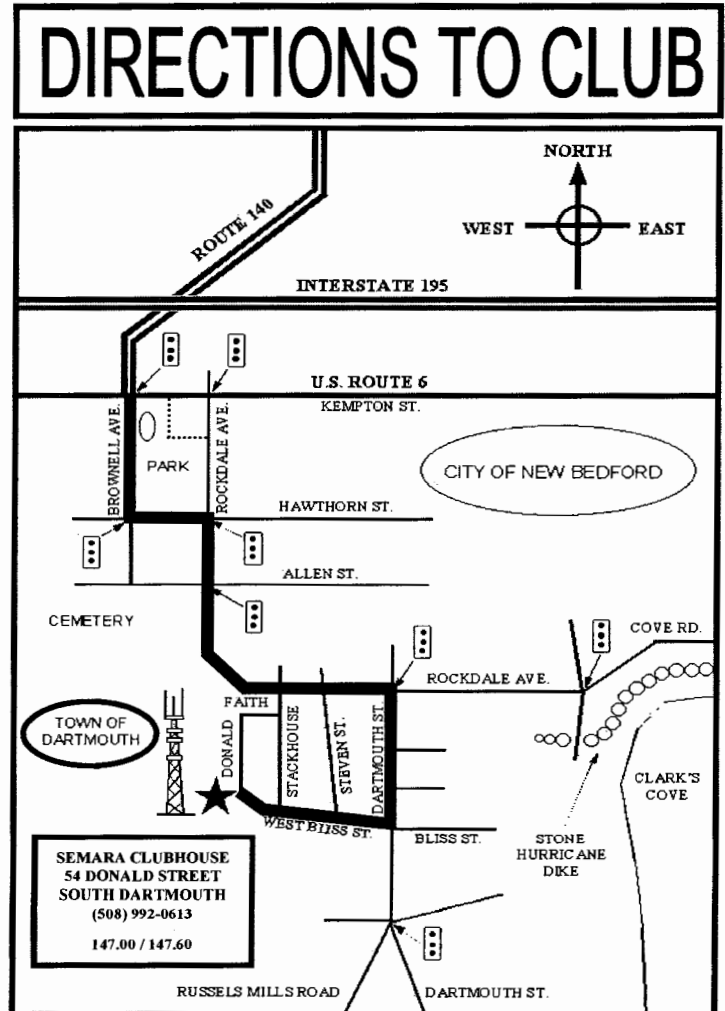
Old Business - None.

New Business - A motion was passed allotting funds up to \$500 for the purchase of socket sets, wrenches, and similar tools for the club.

For the good of the club - Carl Bredberg, K1KID, thanked everyone for checking into the swap net on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on the 147.00 repeater.

Bill Miller, K1IBR, noted that the May issue of ZERO BEAT had several publication problems. He contacted Alphagraphics about the problems and they recommended sending the newsletter to them as a PDF file using their PDF Express system. A trial run of the system was made using the same May issue files and it printed out flawlessly. Therefore, future issues of the newsletter will be published from PDF files transmitted over the Internet to the printer, instead of from Publisher files on a Zip disk.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.





CLUB NOTES

June is busting out all over! Bet you thought it would never come. June has a double header weekend - Flag Day on Saturday the 14th, and Father's Day on Sunday the 15th. Oh, don't forget Summer begins on Saturday, the 21st.

Five applicants were voted life members of the club during the May 1st business meeting:

- Ethan E. Kirkwood, (no call)
- Liston G. Kirkwood, KB1JUV
- David A. Neal, W2DAN
- Priscilla Richardson, N1VQY
- Matt Weaver, (no call)

Welcome to the club!

Bob Simcik has a new call. His previous call was WX1MAN, and now he is WX1DOG. You might say the weatherman is now the weather-dog! *Good luck with your new call, Bob.*

Charles Bardsley got his Technician license last month at the FARA "License in a Weekend" class. His call is KB1JUY.

Congratulations, Charles!

Scott Szala, W1EV, donated a batch of equipment for the September Fleamarket. Among the items is an antique National HRO-7R rack mounted receiver, power supply and four sets of coils. (1.7 - 30 MHz)

Thanks, Scott, for the nice donation.



NEW HAM



National HRO-7R

FRANK MACEDO, KA1VSA, SK

Francisco (Frank) M. Macedo, KA1VSA, of New Bedford passed on April 19, 2003. Frank was 51 years old at the time of his death. Frank joined the club a year ago.

Rest in Peace, Frank.



George Souza, N1MWB, donated an Astatic D-104 mike and standard UGB stand to the club for the Fleamarket sales. He also donated an Astatic 10-DA mike element that fits atop the UGB mike stand.

Thanks, George.



FIELD DAY 2003

Field Day will be held all Saturday and Sunday until noontime, June 28/29 at the clubhouse. As usual, several stations will be operational, and it is anticipated the new log-yagi beam will be available for use.



Don't forget, hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled all day. Heck, there might even be a big pot of chili to delve into. Come on down!!!

ROB MACEDO RECEIVES AWARD

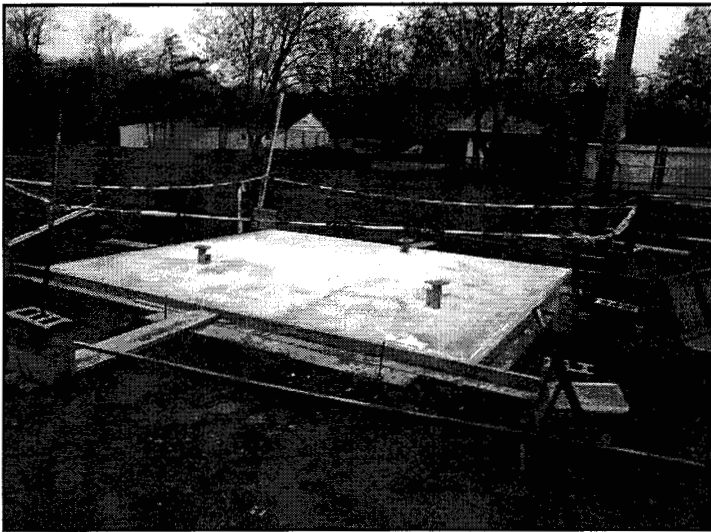


Rob Macedo, KD1CY, won a NOAA "Environmental Hero Award" for his years of dedicated work as the Skywarn coordinator at the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA. Under Rob's direction, the Skywarn program grew from only 800 weather spotters in 1994 to well over 3, 500 spotters today.

Rob was presented the surprise award by Glenn Field, National Weather Service Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, at a Hurricane Workshop held in New Bedford, MA.

Congratulations, Rob!

TOWER UPDATE VIA PICTURES



WTC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, EMa ARESMAT Team Leader, presented a very interesting Tech-Talk on emergency communications following the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster.

Steve was active in getting an ARES Mutual Aid Team (ARESMA) team together using ham volunteers from MA and NH. The team provided emergency communications for the Red Cross in New York City. Amateur radio operators were stationed in every Red Cross shelter used during the emergency.

Steve described the problems encountered and the solutions used to address them. For one, it was quickly found that handheld radios were worthless! Steve covered everything from sleeping arrangements to security badges. It was a most interesting presentation that captivated the audience totally. *Thanks, Steve!*



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

June 7, 2003

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

JUNE VE SESSIONS

09 Brookline, MA

Mike Ardai

781-321-7939

12 Providence, RI

Judy Nelson

401-231-9156

14 Falmouth, MA

Ben Fleck

508-540-2583

21 Marlborough, MA

Bill Wade

617-699-3670

FALL RIVER SLOW SCAN TV NET

A Slow Scan TV net is held every Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. on the Fall River Repeater, 145.15, PL 123.0 This new net is hosted by Don, N1PMB. You need to tie your radio into your computer to view the pictures. This requires making or buying a cable to interface the radio and computer, and installing a free program available over the Internet to convert the signals into pictures. The software required is located at:

www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/mmsstv/index.htm

Sites with cables and homebrew cable setups are:

www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html

www.packetradio.com/psk31.htm


POINT TO PONDER

*"The true danger is when
liberty is nibbled away,
for expedients,
and by parts."*

*Edmund Burke
(1729 - 1797)*

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SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 2003	JULY 2003
5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm.	3 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm.
7 - VE Session, 10:30 am.	5 - VE Session, 10:30 am.
12 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm.	10 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm.
19 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Aviation Technology" by Dave DeCosta, KD1YZ	17 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Show and Tell Night" Show off your favorite radio device/gadget.
21 - CEMARC meeting at clubhouse, 10am	24 - Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm.
26 - ZERO BEAT folding party, 6:30 pm.	31 - ZERO BEAT folding party, 6:30 p.m.
28/29 - Field Day & Cookout	

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

SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

Sunday - 8 am 28.700

Daily - 7 pm 146.550

Monday to Friday
7:30 am 3.872 MHz

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

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

SEMARA SWAP NET Every Monday at 7:30 pm on 147.00/.60

2003 FLEAMARKETS

June 1 - Newington, CT

June 7 - Falmouth, MA

June 15 - MIT

July 26 - Swansea, MA

August 7 - MIT

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KDICY	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
440			
441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC	Dartmouth
444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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SEMARA

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