



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 72nd YEAR

Volume 40, Issue 4

SEMARA W1AEC

April 2004

Your Theater - Past, Present & Future

Larry Houbre's (AA1FS) tech talk on Thursday evening, March 18, was appreciated by about 15 members.

The Your Theater group was started by actress Mary Smith over 50 years ago for the purpose of providing New Bedford with quality and affordable theater. The participants are all unpaid volunteers. There is considerable effort involved with staging a play. Besides talented actors, also needed are playwrights, props, stage managers, directors, set designers, and lighting and sound system experts. Larry presented a very impressive slide show showing the history of this group and excerpts from some recent productions.

The theater is currently located in the city on Maxfield St. Seating is available for up to 88 persons, all with an excellent view of the stage. Ticket prices are very affordable and all proceeds are used just to cover operating expenses since all participants are volunteers. The group is hoping to locate a larger venue for future productions.

As an aside, our own Larry Houbre is the current president of "Your Theater." Nice going Larry!

Carl Bredberg, K1KID



Larry , AA1FS

A free Windows Security Update CD is available from Microsoft for Windows 98, 98SE, 2000, ME, and XP. Check this site for details:

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/cd/order.asp>

Bill Miller, K1IBR

Question from **Bill Miller, K1IBR:**
"Is it OK to use AM radio after noon-time?"

AnsWER from **Carl Bredberg, K1KID:**
"You can listen from 535 to 1605Z."

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

EDITOR

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV
 Phone: (508) 758-6311
 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.

HAMMING AROUND

E9D03* What impedance matching system uses a short perpendicular section of transmission line connected to the feed line near the antenna?

- A. The gamma matching system
- B. The delta matching system
- C. The omega matching system
- D. The stub matching system

* From the Amateur Extra Class (Element 4B) Question Pool ANSWER - See page 7

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

We are blessed with club members who enjoy building things. Did you see what **Bill, K1IBR** made? It's a crystal set with variable coupling coils. It's a beauty!

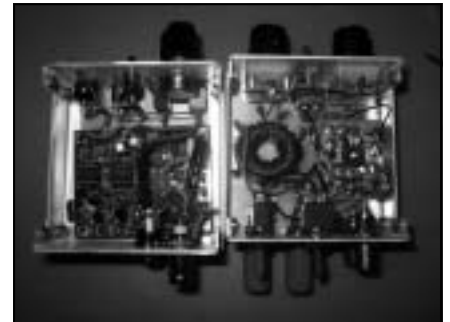


BILL, K1IBR BUILT THIS



DICK, K1AHA BUILT THIS 7" DIAMETER RING THING

Can you guess what this thing does that **Dick, K1AHA** built ? Hint it is vertically polarized. And look at these two beauties that **Ed, WA1ZCB** built in Florida while he was avoiding our colder weather.



ED, WA1ZCB BUILT THIS ROCK-MITE-20 QRP XCVR (LEFT) AND BALANCED LINE ANTENNA TUNER (RIGHT)

Unsung hero of the month: **Matt Vangel, KA1THM** installed an AC power supply to power the mike. This eliminates the need for a 9 volt battery in the mike. Also, the on-off power switch on the mike is out of the circuit - its position makes no difference. Note that both the Astron power supply and the mike power supply must be plugged in to use the set. Run the gain control on the interface box at maximum. The mike gain on the TS-570 has been properly set. No further adjustment of the mike gain controls are necessary.

Iwish I had said this! "*Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming 'WOW—What a Ride!'*" - from an email.

AnsWER: **Dick, K1AHA** says this is a 2-m Directional Discontinuity Ring Radiator. Not bad for someone who usually builds J-poles.

2004 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President

Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL

Secretary

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer

Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees: (year term is up)

Edward Blouin, KA1AW (2004) - Chairman
 Norman Riley, W1ATI (2005) Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)
 William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007) Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Board of Directors:

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX
 David Dean, K1JGV
 Marty Jordon, KA1YFV

MEETING MINUTES

The Business Meeting was called to order March 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. by **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. Thirty four members and two guests were present.

The Secretary's report (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**) was amended. The Treasurer's report (**Scott Szala, W1EV**) was accepted as read.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)—cautions people driving onto the grounds to remain away from the lawn as much as possible. The soil is very soft and can result in damage requiring landscaping.

Technical (Tony Duarte, K1XRS)—reports repeater issues and recommends that the club replace the old repeater. The repeater antenna should be replaced sometime next week.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—reports that Clambake tickets will go on sale at 6 p.m. prior to the next business meeting and will be sold according to club rules on ticket sales.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Nothing to report.
Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Nothing to report.

Fleamarket (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—work is being done on making flyers for distribution.

Building (Scott, W1EV)—right now the committee is researching plans and looking for volunteers for building with or without carpentry skills.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)—No report.

Communications (Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL)—read the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting.

Ratifications—Three new applications for membership were voted life members (see page 4 for details).

President's Comments (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—wishes to thank the estate of **Ron Correia, N1DXD**, for donations made to the club.

Old Business—None.

New Business—

*Motion passed:** to place the Collins receiver on eBay.

*Motion passed:** to use the donated ICOM T7H dual-band handheld for the Fleamarket door prize.

*Motion passed:** to allow **Larry, AA1FS** to use the building for ham radio classes for kids.

*Motion passed:** to purchase a voice synthesizer board (estimated cost \$60).

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Rick, W1RJG will be net control for 4 more weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

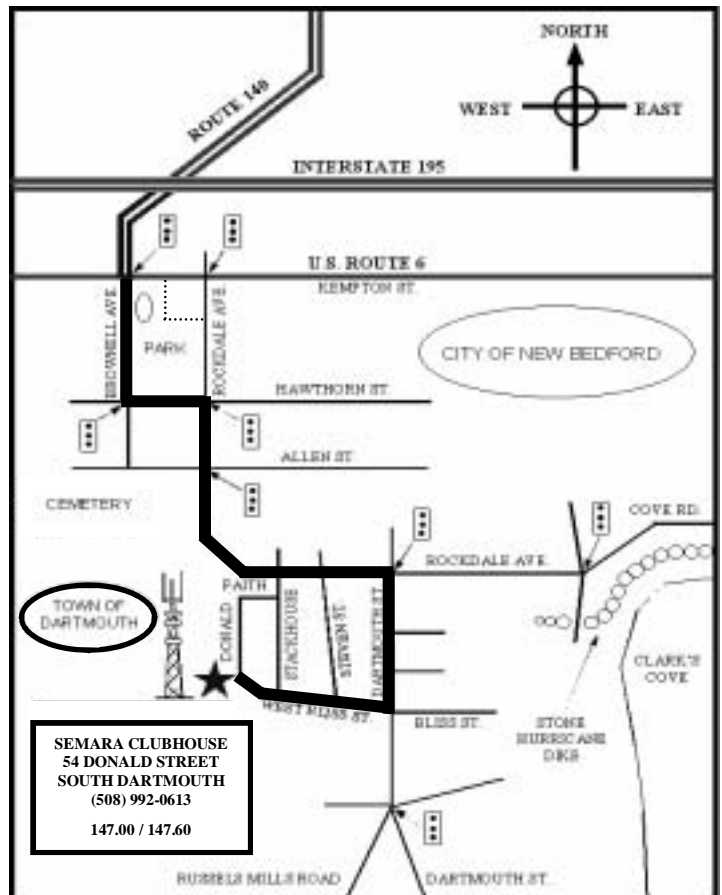


CORRECTIONS to last month's minutes:

President's Comments (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—announced that **Albert Crook, N1ALN** is a silent key.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—**Rob, KD1CY** expressed recognition by all members to **Tony, N1XRS** for his efforts in maintaining the Fairhaven repeater and his ability to maintain the club repeater.

DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





CLUB NOTES

April brings us *Daylight Saving Time* and the feeling of renewal! You and I know full well that there are lots things going through a ham's mind.

This is the time to actually do those things you have been meaning to do all winter, like work on antennas, fix those slightly broken pieces of gear, and so forth.

Why, you may ask? Because we are just getting into the "good" weather and the Spring radio activities. Besides, we have to get ready for the *New England QSO Party* (page 6).



Three applicants were voted life members of the club during the March 4, 2004 business meeting:

- N1WVQ, Jay Nelson Rogers,
- No call, Christopher Santos,
- No call, Catherine J Garcia



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CLAMBAKE

The clambake will be Saturday, April 24 at noon time.

Ticket sales start at the April 1 business meeting, 6 p.m. sharp!

No prior sales.

You have to be there.

Limit to two tickets per member.

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 2004



- 1—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 3—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 8—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 15—Tech Talk, 7:00 p.m. TBD
- 22—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 29—ZERO BEAT folding party, 4:30 p.m.

Ragchew at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 a.m.
Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

APRIL 3, 2004

10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055

April VE SESSIONS

- 8 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 10 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-548-1121
- 15 Norwood, MA, 7:30 p.m.
Richard Cantin, AA1TI
508-339-1089
- 19 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 24 Middletown, RI, 9:00 a.m.
Jack Garforth, N1JK
401-683-2250

Geocaching

Carl Bredberg, K1KID

There is a new sport becoming popular that the whole family can participate in and enjoy the outdoors as well. Kids especially enjoy doing this. It is called *geocaching* (say "geo-cashing"). See the story which appeared on Page C1 of *The Standard-Times* on February 8, 2004 at <http://www.s-t.com/daily/02-04/02-08-04/c01li963.htm>.

Here is how it works. Go to the *geocaching* web site <http://www.geocaching.com> and plug in your zip code. The site will show you the approximate location of all the *caches* within the distance you specify, and there are hundreds in Massachusetts alone. Pick a *cache* that is of interest to you, enter the coordinates into your GPS device and go on a treasure hunt. The newer GPS's will get you to within about 10 feet of the cache.

The *cache* will generally be an ammo box or Tupperware type weather proof container. Probably hidden in brush, under leaves or behind rocks etc. The *caches* generally contain several trinkets and/or small toys and a log book. The idea is for you to take a trinket from the cache and leave a trinket of your own. Most also contain a log book for you to comment about the cache and its location, the date you found it and then sign with a *geocache* nick name that you make up for your self.

You may also make comments on that cache's page listed on the *geocaching* website.

There also some fun variations to *geocaching*. For instance you can purchase a trinket called a "travel bug" which has its own unique serial number. You place that in one of the *caches* you visit and record it's departure on the web site. The next person to visit the *cache* will pick it up and put it in the next *cache* visited, and report it's new location on the internet, and so on. Some of these travel bugs have gone around the world.

Geocaching is a great excuse to get a fun new toy that the family will enjoy as well and give a lifetime of fond memories for your children or grandkids. No matter where you go on vacation, you will find *geocaches* for a pleasant diversion. They seem to be everywhere. I have discovered some neat public properties right in my home town that I didn't even know were there until I started *geocaching* last year.

Try it, you'll like it!

MEMBERS' ECHOLINK NODES

WB1HGA	147.440 simplex	67.0	2061
KB1HGJ	145.520 simplex	123.0	4722
N1XRS	146.595 simplex	141.3	8998
W1DBX-L			63494
KD1CY	145.490-		142790
W1RJC	443.800+	88.5	4259

Send updates to: editor@semara.org

SEMARA Notes

LANDSCAPING WORK PARTY

Dave Dean, K1JGV - grounds

The area from the street to the manhole near the driveway will be closed off once again to fix the grass, etc.

Also, the driveway will be repaired with the stonedust we have stockpiled and a large portion of the driveway will be overlaid with some 3/4 inch stone we have on hand.

The remaining stone dust will be placed in the new storage area we have made near the repeater tower.

Except for handicapped, the membership should park as far as possible to the rear area of the club to facilitate ground repairs in the front area.

The more hands we have - the better.

So in order to accomplish this the work party is set for **Sunday, 28 March**.

Bring a shovel and a rake, and a wheelbarrow if possible. We will put the job behind us as quickly as possible.

THE CHARLES RIVER WATER-SHED ASSOCIATION

They are running their annual event on Sunday, April 25. Persons interested in providing communications for health and welfare, please contact: **Ed Burg, N1VJSJ** — mooseeb@comcast.net.

The event runs from 7:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m. Operators are not required to remain there for the

Emergency Communications Workshop

Robert Macedo, KD1CY

There will be an Emergency Communications Workshop on Saturday April 3, 2004 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the South Shore Educational Collaborative, 90 Industrial Park Road, Hingham, Mass.



This session is being put on by the ARES Section Staff through the efforts of Metro Boston ARES District Emergency Coordinator, **KB1EKN-Mark Duff**. This Emergency Communications Workshop will provide the background and information to serve Amateur Radio Operators when they need to respond to a communications emergency.

It will feature an Introduction and Conclusion to Emergency Communications, and five 1-hour training sessions on topics including: Overview of Eastern Massachusetts ARES-RACES-SKYWARN Programs, Basic Overview of ICS Net Operations, NTS Traffic Message Handling, Go Kits, Interactive Exercises on Field Operations.

This training will also feature a 1-hour lunch that will be provided at no coerced cost to any Amateur who attends the session.

The presentations will be given by other Amateur Operators well versed in the topics listed above. The training will be a worthwhile endeavor not just for emergency communicators but for anyone who is an Amateur Radio Operator, and wants to learn more about the hobby.

Preregistration is requested but is not required in case anyone would like to attend at the last minute. Please try to preregister by Monday March 29, 2004 to assure the meeting hall is setup properly and we have enough refreshments for breaks between lectures and for the lunch break. We will, however, accept any last minute preregistrations after that day or any walk-ins as long as space permits.

Directions to South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC):

From the north follow Rt. 3 south to Exit 15. Sign says South Hingham-South Weymouth. At the stop sign at the end of ramp, turn left on Derby St. toward South Weymouth. Go 1/8 mile; sign on left says South Shore Park. Take left on Industrial Park Rd. SSEC is down about 1/2 mile on left. Parking is to the left of the building.

From the south follow Rt. 3 north to exit 15, South Hingham-South Weymouth. Stay to the right at end of ramp on to Derby St. following the sign to South Weymouth. Go over Rt. 3 and drive 1/8 mile; sign on left says South Shore Park. Take left on Industrial Park Rd. SSEC is down about 1/2 mile on left. Parking is to

the left of the building.

For any additional information and to preregister for the workshop, please contact:

KB1EKN-Mark Duff, emgmt@comcast.net or **W1MPN-Mike Nielsen**, w1mpn@ema.arrl.org.

This training should be a worthwhile endeavor for anyone interested in learning more about emergency communications and amateur radio in general.

EMA ARES MONTHLY NET

Sunday April 18, 2004 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

This event repeats on the third Sunday of every month, until Saturday July 31, 2004.

Notes:

Eastern Mass. ARES Monthly Net held on the MMRA linked repeater system. Please visit <http://www.mmra.org> for information on repeater locations, and frequency/PL's.

NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY - MAY 1-2, 2004


Join us in the 3rd running of the **NEQP** this year. Last year we had more than 250 entries from all across New England, most states and a number of foreign countries. This is a nice low pressure operating event where New England stations are the center of attention!

The full rules and other information is located at <http://www.neqp.org/>. Certificates are awarded to anyone making more than 25 QSOs. See <http://www.neqp.org/plaques.html>. We hope to cover all 67 New England counties using mobiles. *Reserve your county* at <http://www.neqp.org/ryc.html> and see that all counties are covered.

73 de Tom Frenaye/K1KI and Bob Hess/W1RH

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A POINT TO PONDER

"Moral indignation is jealousy
with a halo."

- H. G. Wells
(1866-1946)



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Mon--Fri 7:30 a.m. 3.872

— **SEMCARES NET** —
 1st Sunday each month at 7:30 p.m.
 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)
FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET
Mon--Fri 8:00 p.m. 145.490-

SWAP NET — Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.000+

2004 FLEAMARKETS

18 April—Cambridge MA—FLEA at
 MIT—Nick 617 253 3776
30 April-1 May—Hopkinton NH—
 HossTraders—Joe K1RQG 207 469 3492

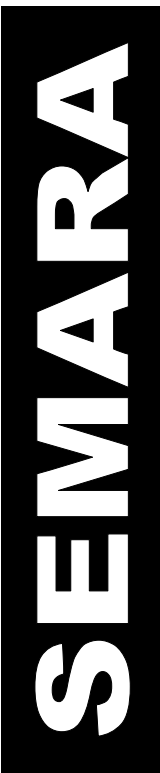
WEBSITE: <http://www.semara.org>
 E-MAIL: clubinfo@semara.org

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KD1CY*	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000 +	SEMARA 67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard
* Nodes: IRLP=4617, EchoLink=142790			

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
* Nodes: IRLP =4259, EchoLink=4259			

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



FIRST

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