



# Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association

54 Donald St.  
Dartmouth, MA 02748  
Tel: 508-997-7070

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## SEMARA February 2008 Business Meeting

The February 7, 2008 business meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the president **Louis, W1CH**. The salute to the flag was followed by a roll call. A quorum of 18 members and two guests were present

A moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie, KD1DA was observed.

**Secretary's Report** was accepted as amended in the February 2008 Zerobeat newsletter. The amended version contained corrected financial figures.

**Treasurer's Report (Mike, KB1NB)**: Income for the month was \$466.55. Our 1099 was also received reflecting interest earnings of \$1233.51. All CD's have been cashed and all funds on hand are liquid.

Expenses included \$1524.55 for taxes. January rent and Netcom's share of the tax bill still outstanding as of tonight's meeting.

Mike also mentioned that a 1997 motion allocated 1% of the income for the SEMARA scholarship fund. An estimated \$2,390 is available for disbursement by the scholarship committee.

A refer to audit motion passed unanimously.



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## Standing Committee Reports

**Technical Committee (Dave, W1DJG):** Investigating the possibility of adding a PTZ web camera that can be controlled by the members. Dave to investigate further. Dave hooked up the club's Kenwood HF station to the computer for PSK and digital mode monitoring. He is looking for an 8-pin microphone connector to enable the transmit. (N1TI to supply)

W1EAV reminds everyone to ID when accessing the Echolink and IRLP nodes.

**Building and Grounds (Mike, N1ITQ):** Mike reported that he has had some recent health problems resulting in his inability to get to the club as much as he would like. He introduced a motion to seek funds for cleaning supplies which were discussed and worked out resulting in the motion being withdrawn. A list of materials needed will be supplied to Tim, N1TI for purchase and reimbursement. Mike will also discuss with Jim Gilbert the cleaning schedule for the club.

## Special Committee Reports

**Ares/Skywarn: Rob, KD1CY** thanked the members for participation in recent weather events and related nets. He mentioned the unfortunate passing of Charlie, KD1DA and the void he leaves in the club and New Bedford EOC. Rob will be asking New Bedford if interested SEMARA members can provide any assistance in the EOC operation. Rob reminded the meeting of upcoming events such as the Boston Marathon and an Advanced Emergency Communications Workshop in the Walpole area.

**Building/Renovation (Dave, K1JGV):** A lengthy discussion regarding handicapped access ensued covering the options to grade and pour a concrete ramp, wooden ramp or a mechanical elevator. Dave is continuing his research for recommendations to the membership at a future meeting.

**Website (Tim, N1TI):** Website is up to date.

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**Events (Bob, K1KVV):** Bob mentioned that no future radios events have been planned at this time. He reminded the meeting that Field Day is around the corner and if there is interest to let him know soon. Mike, N1ITQ mentioned that he could bring in some Scouts to operate Field Day. Several members nodded in agreement to which K1KVV replied that we really don't have to wait for the special Kid's Day event to get kids involved in the club.

**Communications (Bob, K1KVV):** Bob submitted three new membership applications for ratification: Robert, N1SVR; Ben, N1WVB; and Matt, KB1OSV. A motion to accept these new members passed unanimously.

**President's Comments: Lou, W1CH** invited two gentlemen from Rhode Island to discuss membership affiliation with the ARRL (Bob, W1YRC and Ed, K5RJE)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Chris, W1EAV proposed the possibility of SEMARA hosting a GMRS repeater system. N1TI mentioned that this motion was entertained by the membership a few years ago and was defeated. Armand, N1BUG reminded the membership that the membership previously voted to restrict hosting to amateur radio related activities. No motions to proceed were offered.

Mike, KB1NB moved to approve funding of pastries and coffees for 2008 events and meetings. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mike, KB1NB moved to hire a Licensed Site Professional to provide an independent assessment of the oil spill cleanup work as recommended by our attorney. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mike, KB1NB moved to maintain funding as necessary to retain Patrick Cook as our attorney. Attorney Cook has been extremely frugal in the \$3000 retained that was issued in November 2007. He has been instrumental moving the Netcom relationship in the right direction and is also working on the oil spill issues.

Report by Lou, W1CH on the recent BOD meeting recommendations:

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- Tim, N1TI reported that the membership roster has been removed from the web site temporarily to revise.
  - Organize grounds cleanup.
  - Club property inventory by B&G to determine sale, auction or disposal.
  - Determination of removal of oil tank and furnace.
  - One member suggested keeping the tank and making a BBQ grill out of it.
  - Club door lock needs replacement as previously approved, B&G committee to take action.
  - Internet bandwidth increased to the next level of service. Referred to W1DJG whose motion to increase service to the next level for an additional \$35/month. Motion was approved unanimously.
  - Recommendations to create special membership committee to review membership list and examine membership status and policies. Volunteers Charlie (WA1JFD), Mike (N1ITQ) and Tim (N1TI) accepted positions on the newly formed committee.
  - Recommendations to increase percentage of ARRL members to maintain our affiliation with the ARRL. Referred to newly formed membership committee.

## **For the Good of the Club:**

K1JGV formed a “shingling party” to address the requirement on the north side of the club. We have four bundles on hand and as soon as the weather breaks in April a date will be announced. Anyone that would like to help with the shingling, please sign up on the white board or contact Dave, K1JGV.

Tim, N1TI reported that the interference problems we have been experiencing have been escalated to the FCC and ARRL Amateur Auxiliary. Compelling technical evidence, recordings and witnesses have been gathered and submitted. Patience is encouraged until the FCC is able to take proper action.

Our two guests from the ARRL RI Section discussed the tremendous benefits for being an ARRL member. It was a very motivational talk that emphasized the point that the ARRL is much more than just a subscription to QST. Spectrum defense, BPL interference mitigation and technology advancement are but a few of the ARRL’s contribution to our hobby. The gentlemen were kind enough to

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donate two ARRL Operating Manuals to the club for a free raffle. N1TI won one which he then donated to the SEMARA library. Don, WA1BXY won the second copy.

A motion to adjourn which passed unanimously at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tim Smith, N1TI**  
**Secretary**