



SEMARA

54 Donald Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748-1902
(508) 997-7070



semara.org

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by SEMARA President, Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD. Sixteen (16) members and two (2) guests were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary position is vacant. Richard J. Cabral, W1RJG substituted to take tonight's minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the February business meeting minutes as posted on the SEMARA website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEMARA Treasurer, Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB was absent.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Chairperson, Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV reported that everything was okay at the club during two checks. The door was fixed, and it was much appreciated. Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD thanked everyone who came to the club last Sunday to perform building maintenance. The floors were professionally cleaned on Monday and everything is well with the building.

- **SCHOLARSHIP**

Nothing to report.



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- **TECHNICAL**

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD reported that Blue Sky Tower met with him recently. There is a sag in the hardline for the Tremblay Bus Company repeater, in addition to the recent unauthorized move of our 220 MHz repeater antenna. Sprint doesn't want to do anything about it, denying that they had anything to do with it. Blue Sky Tower's attorneys are working on this. It is in the contract that any work to be done on antennas belonging to SEMARA are to be done by NETCOM. We are presently waiting on the 220 MHz repeater antenna to be relocated where it belongs.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Edward A. Caron, KA1RSY stated there are now several virtual SKYWARN training sessions scheduled. If interested in attending a class, go to weather.gov/boston and look for SKYWARN, or you may find it on the NWS Norton-Boston Facebook page. Some classes will be taught by Robert D. Macedo, KD1CY, while others are presented by NWS staff. After a two-hour class and a ten-question quiz, you will receive a SKYWARN certification card in the mail. SKYWARN training is both for new spotters and refreshers.

Ed also reminded everyone that our region's RACES net is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM on the 147.000 repeater. The Cape Cod RACES group is continuing to use Winlink, a global radio email system, to allow all-day check-ins rather than conducting an on-air drill.

- **RADIO EVENTS**

Nothing to report.

- **REPEATER**

Nothing to report outside of the 220 MHz repeater antenna issue covered under the Technical Committee report.

- **WEB**

The membership commented on the recent web site redesign with favorable reviews.



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RATIFICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

Two new applications for SEMARA membership were received. The first was from Brian J. Souza, KC1ORQ of New Bedford, MA. Brian's application states he has 30-years of EMS experience. The second was from Michael S. Bilow, N1BEE of Providence, RI. Mike's application states he is an annual ARRL member and affiliated with ARES. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the applications and to act on it at the May business meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept John J. Regan, KC1PRQ of Sagamore Beach, MA as a member of the association. The membership had voted last month to accept his application for membership. The required initiation fee was not included, but we have since received his payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD advised us on the current state of the hazardous materials situation. Cleanup efforts in Dartmouth have been on hold over the winter, but they are going to be starting cleanup on Kraseman Street soon. After completion, they will be working their way toward our vicinity. They will first be doing cleanup work next door at Little People's College. They have not done soil testing on our property yet.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD spoke toward improvements to the club's driveway. Because of the forementioned HAZMAT situation, we cannot do much right now. He did speak with Blue Sky Tower about grading the driveway and they advised of upcoming work at the tower site. They would prefer if we waited until that work is completed first.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD will still be looking into Mass Save, an Eversource partner, that may be able to qualify us for rebates on LED energy-saving lighting. He will report on this once he gathers more information.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott R. Smith, KE1CN noted that we have holes in all our window screens around the club. Occasionally if someone wants fresh air aside from running the AC, bugs would be a concern. Marcel advised he will look around and get some quotes.



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Edward A. Caron, KA1RSY stated he had checked our Facebook page and noticed the last update was in 2020. He has done a lot of work with the Acushnet EMA page and has managed to gain 2,000 followers. He would like permission to manage the club's Facebook page. Web Committee Chairperson, Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC appointed Ed as member of SEMARA's Web Committee and will arrange to get him administration rights to our Facebook page.

It was also noted by Rick that we used to have a plugin which automatically made a post to both our Facebook and Twitter accounts whenever we posted a new story on our web site. It appears this plugin stopped working at some point in the last few years. Phillip E. Temples, K9HI stated he uses a plugin for the Eastern Massachusetts ARRL site that works very well. He will email the Web Committee the information for said plugin.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD provided an update on the proposed rehabilitation of our stairways and handicapped ramp. He has not had any luck from painters who publicly advertise their services. Some had said they would come down and meet with him, only to be a no show. Marcel received an advertisement from Student Painters, which is primarily made up of college students. They have examples of their work and solid references. They are insured for liability up to \$1,000 and offer a one-year guarantee on their work. We received a quote to power wash, and then two weeks later, scrape, sand, and paint with two coats of Sherwin Williams. This would cover all surfaces, including spindles and landings. The quote is for a total of \$3,325, with a 20% deposit due upfront, amounting to \$665. If we book soon, they may be able to get us a date in July. A motion made and seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD presented "Hamplus" to the membership for consideration. Hamplus is a piece of equipment that allows us to bring all our antennas to one junction and easily select which radio(s) you would like to connect to each antenna. With Hamplus, you also must get a control switch for each radio which costs about \$250 each, in addition to the main control unit which can be as much as \$1,500. When the radios are not in use, they are automatically disconnected, and the antennas are all sent to ground. Currently, members use radio equipment and sometimes do not properly disconnect antennas from equipment before leaving. Getting an antenna selector such as the Hamplus offering, would provide convenience to radio operators and most importantly, protect club equipment. The only distributor in the US is DX Engineering, and they will be sending informational brochures to the club.



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GUEST PRESENTATION

Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, ARRL New England Division Director, gave a presentation on the ARRL Club Grant Program. It is funded by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC). The program will award a total of \$500,000 in club grants. They are looking to fund projects that create significant impact beyond the applying club. Funds will be dispensed by the end of 2022.

Projects include; get on the air projects, ham training and skills development through mentoring, STEM and STEAM learning through Amateur Radio, spectrum protection and use, station resources for use by the ham community, emergency communications and public service projects that emphasize training, and club revitalization projects.

Types and sizes of grants include three levels. The first level is up to \$2,000, the second level is up to \$8,000 and the third level is up to \$25,000. They are looking at the applications in two main dimensions; transformational potential and execution capability. The plan is to begin accepting applicants for the grants in May through the "Kaleidoscope" tool with various templates.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, ARRL New England Division Director alongside Phillip E. Temples, K9HI, ARRL New England Division Vice Director, dedicated a plaque recognizing the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association's 75-year ARRL affiliation. The plaque honors our association on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors, including Fred and Phil. SEMARA was first affiliated with the ARRL on October 2, 1947. The plaque was accompanied by a framed letter congratulating the association on its 75th anniversary of ARRL affiliation. Both the plaque and recognition will be proudly presented on the wall of the clubhouse. A round of applause followed.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations were opened for the vacant position of Secretary. Richard J. Cabral, W1RJG respectfully withdrew his nomination, as work commitments will not allow him to be present each month. Following no further nominations for the position, a motion was made, seconded and carried to postpone nominations and voting until the next business meeting.




FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Scott R. Smith, KE1CN made note that the rubber floor mat at the side entrance to the clubhouse is falling apart. A motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase a new floor mat.



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ADJURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC
Acting SEMARA Secretary



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BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER

Thursday, April 7, 2022

- Sixteen (16) Members Present:

CALL SIGN	NAME	POSITION
W1MLD	Marcel L. Dumont	President
AG1Y	Jean P. Chiron	Vice President
KA1YFV	Martin F. Jordan	Board of Directors
K1AHA	Richard J. Halliwell	
K1ERZ	Anthony J. Moniz	
KA1RSY	Edward A. Caron	
KC1QAC	Friar John Mary Risse	
KD1YZ	David A DeCosta	
KE1CN	Scott R. Smith	
N1IXC	Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr.	
N1TF	Frederic S. Bacon, III	
N1WCO	Eric J. Pierce	
W1DJD	David J. DeMoss	
W1EAV	Christopher W. Washburn	
W1RJC	Richard J. Cabral	
WA1GXV	Lawrence J. Ferreira	

- Two (2) Guests Present

K9HI	Phillip E. Temples	ARRL New England Division Vice Director
AB1OC	Fred Kemmerer	ARRL New England Division Director