



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 68th YEAR

Volume 36, Issue 9

SEMARA W1AEC

September 2000

CLUB FLEAMARKET SEPTEMBER 10TH

Members and friends are reminded that the club's annual Fleamarket is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2000, from 9 am to 1 pm. Dealer set-up starts at 6:30 am.

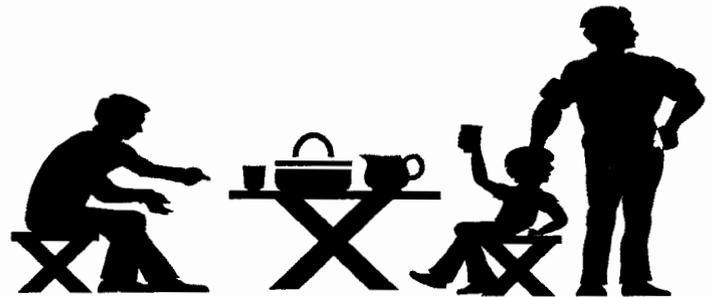
This year promises to be a good one for the Fleamarket for two reasons:

First, there are no fees for dealers wishing to set-up at the event. Hopefully this will encourage more dealers to attend.

Second, the club sales table shall have items from six major donations: one estate (non-ham), three very large member donations, and two non-member donations (one ham, one non-ham.) These six major donations are in addition to the usual member donations. The amount of equipment and parts going on sale is awe inspiring!

As usual, the food tent will be in full operation under the guidance of Ed Blouin, KA1AW, who is known far and wide for his famous homemade green tomato relish. Just thinking about the char-broiled linguica sandwiches makes my mouth water! Love that food tent.

So come one, come all, to the SEMARA annual Fleamarket! It's shaping up to be the best one ever held.



LEW McCOY, W1ICP, DEAD AT 84

Amateur radio legend Lew McCoy, W1ICP, of Mesa, Arizona, died July 31st at age 84.

Lew was a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) staff from 1949 to 1978. He was known the world over for his articles in QST and the pioneering work he did to combat television interference by amateur radio transmitters. Newcomers to amateur radio were particularly fond of Lew for his unique ability to write easy to read and understand articles.

Lew's most famous article was published in the July 1970 issue of QST. Titled "The Ultimate Transmatch," it described an antenna tuner Lew designed. The design was solid and instantly became a favorite choice among amateurs far and wide.

Lew was a past president and director of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), and he died just before being told he was elected again to the QCWA Board of Directors.

In addition to his technical prowess and superb writing ability, Lew was an avid DXer with over 300 countries confirmed.

Lew is survived by his second wife, Clara Gibbs McCoy, two daughters, and several grand and great-grandchildren. There was no funeral in accordance with Lew's final wishes.

A memorial service for Lew is planned for early December, and condolences may be sent to the family in care of his daughter Marsha Ashurst, PO Box 2260, Lakeside, AZ 85929.

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

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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?



The year was 1976, and the annual SEMARA Fleamarket was held once again at the Stackhouse Street Fairgrounds. One of the highlights of the day was a "Tug-O'-War" between the local HAMS and the 11 meter CBers. Seven men were on each team.

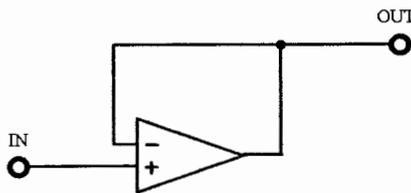
Fernandes Pacheco, WA1ZXH, otherwise known as "Chico", was the referee and he can be seen in the above picture wearing a suit jacket as he keeps a sharp eye on the handkerchief marker in the middle of the rope. The team that pulled the handkerchief over its boundary line chalked in the grass won the event.

Hams furiously tugging away on the left are **Mike Ponte, WA1BZJ**, **Ed Peters, K1KJT**, (unknown ham), and **Milt Peters, WA1WFX**. Others pulling on the ham team were **Dale Woodyard, WA1WGE**, **John Walsh, WA1JDB**, and **Larry Purcell, WA1CRI**.

The CBers used a large bullhorn to motivate their team, and they also used it occasionally to hurl catcalls at the hams in an effort to discourage them. It's a wonder a riot didn't occur!

It was never officially recorded which team won. Hmmmm...

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Inverter
- 2.) Detector
- 3.) Comparator
- 4.) Rectifier
- 5.) Buffer

ANSWER - See page 7

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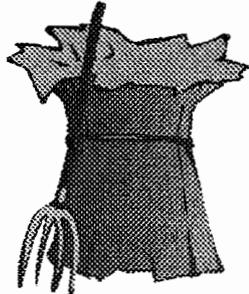
*"Everything that is really great and
 inspiring is created by the individual
 who can labor in freedom."*

Albert Einstein (1950)



CLUB NOTES

September is a sad month for most kids—it's back to school time! However, most adults enjoy September and the first cool, crisp nights that signal fall is almost here. Don't forget to celebrate Labor Day on Monday, the 4th.



A big THANK YOU goes out to **Leonard Lechan, WA1AVS**, who generously donated some valuable radio equipment for the club table at the upcoming fleamarket. Len isn't a member of the club, he donated the equipment in a spirit of goodness. *Thank You, Len!*

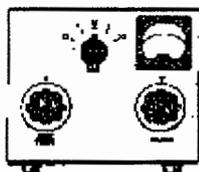


The club also received a large donation of parts and equipment from Mrs. Mary J. Silvia in memory of her late husband John D. Silvia. John never secured a ham ticket, but was very active on the CB bands. He repaired radios as one of many hobbies he enjoyed. **Joe Frois, NIYAL**, was his Godson. *Thank You, Mary Silvia!*



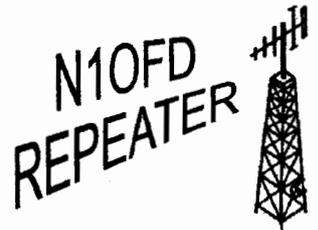
IN MEMORY

Club member **E. K. Rogers, W1EB**, donated several pieces of radio equipment to the club, including a one kilowatt linear amplifier. This is the sixth major donation of equipment to the club this year. *Thanks, Earl, for your generous gift.*



THANK YOU EARL!

Word has just been received that the 440 repeater owned and operated by **Gerry Bergeron, N1OFD**, is off the air. Future plans for the machine are unknown.



A hearty "Welcome" goes out to two new members that joined the association during the August business meeting: **Mike Laronda, WA1OMI**, and **Gerald J. Fortin, N1RXZ**. *Welcome to the club!*



The July Tech-Talk (video) "The Perfect Storm" was enjoyed by all. You could hear a pin drop as members watched the video in awe! As usual, hot buttered popcorn was available. *Thanks, Bob Metivier for the loan of the video!*



The original August Tech-Talk was rescheduled as **Tim Smith, N1BTQ**, was out of town on business. **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, gave a talk on the new 2 meter repeater under construction and scheduled to go on-line in October, if not sooner! Tim's talk is now scheduled for October 19th.



Oops! Your editor goofed again! The address for setting your computer's clock to the national time standard was wrong. It should have been listed as:

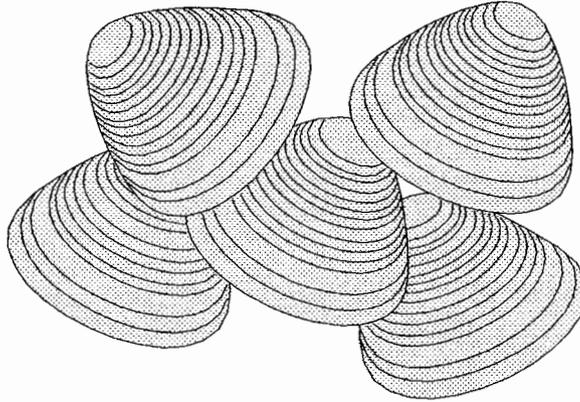
www.bldrdoc.gov/timefreq/service/acts.htm



ANNUAL CLAMBOIL HONORING JOE FORTIN HELD

The annual clamboil honoring Joe Fortin, K4KTZ, was held on August 16, 2000 at Danny's Tavern in New Bedford's north end. A total of nine hams enjoyed the event including Joe's brother Arthur, K1EEQ, and son Jerry, N1RXZ.

Things got off to a good start when Joe helped himself to Ed Blouin's silverware when the clams arrived. Ed gave Joe hell, so Joe passed the silverware back to him. Seems Joe's silverware was hidden under a napkin right in front of him!



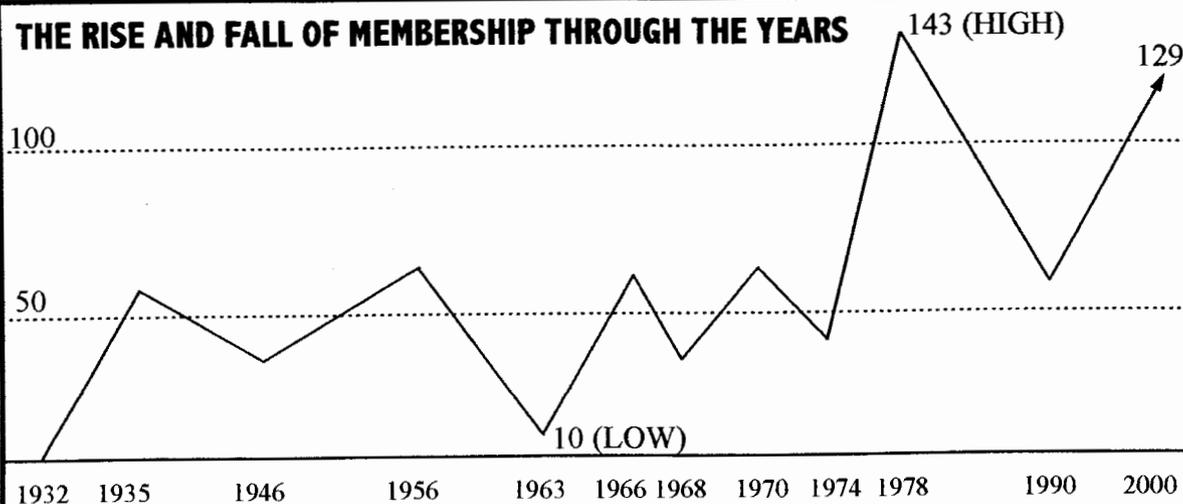
One interesting topic discussed was the new 36 volt electrical system planned for automobiles. It brought back memories of the last change from 6 volts to 12 volts about 50 years ago. Old timers will recall the change and all the 6 volt radios accidentally zapped when connected to 12 volts. Wait until you zap a 12 volt radio with 36 volts!

Such a good time was had by all that the possibility of doing it again before Joe heads back home in Florida was discussed. Stay tuned! We may do it again soon...

HOW MANY CLUB MEMBERS?

Our membership currently stands at 129 members. A review of the membership lists shows a periodic rise and fall in membership through the years. The first peak in membership occurred in 1935 when membership reached 62 just three years after the club was founded. During World War Two membership declined somewhat because of the prohibition on amateur radio transmissions. Following the war, membership steadily rose and peaked again in 1956, a year after the club purchased land and installed a Quonset hut clubhouse. Membership soon declined and bottomed out in the early 1960s when it reached 10 as reported on the ARRL club filing for 1963. The club came mighty close to extinction at that point. In 1974 the club installed a 2 meter repeater and membership soared! In 1977 a new clubhouse was built and membership peaked the following year at 143. Then membership steadily declined as it did in the 1950s when the club first purchased property. In 1990 membership hit a low of 65 and the downward trend reversed. After several years of steady growth, in August 2000 our membership stood at 129 members. Will we set a new all-time high in membership by year's end? Time will tell.

THE RISE AND FALL OF MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS



THE PEAK YEAR AND THREE YEARS BEFORE AND AFTER

1975 - 54
 1976 - 98
 1977 - 139
1978 - 143
 1979 - 140
 1980 - 123
 1981 - 109



MEETING MINUTES

The August business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Chris Smith, K1CJS. Twenty-seven members were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* – The backup repeater is working fine. Work is progressing on the old repeater modifications. *Buildings and Grounds* – No report. *Activities* – No report. *Ham Class* – No report. *Scholarship* – No report. *Constitution* –

No report.

Communications - Ham Radio Trader send a one-year gift subscription to be used as a door prize at our fleamarket.

Ratifications - **Michael Larronda, WA1OMI**, and **Gerald J. Fortin, N1RXZ**, were voted members of the association.

Old Business - None.

New Business - The following motion was made and passed:

Motion to set the following minimum bids on three items up for auction as recommended by the Board of Di-

rectors: Radio tubes - \$200, Philco radio - \$50, and Vacuum capacitors - \$40 each.

Good of the Club - Chris Smith announced that on Thursday, August 24th a meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the clubhouse to formulate plans for this years fleamarket. All interested members are invited to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. A members only auction was held following the meeting. Following the auction, several members headed out to Bickford's Restaurant for a "second meeting" of good old fashioned ragchewing.

MEMBERS ONLY AUCTION NETS \$638 FOR CLUB!

Immediately following the August business meeting, a "members only" auction was held to bolster the club treasury. It was a short fast auction since only items that members were truly interested in bidding on were put on the block. (Prior to the auction members had 5 minutes to place any items they wished to bid on placed on the large auction table.)

Although most of the auction was quiet and routine, things did heat up a few times as the inevitable "bidding war" cropped up between members bound and determined to get a particular piece of equipment! On one such occasion, an old ARC-5 type transmitter shot up rapidly in price as two members got caught in the heat of the moment. That unit finally was gaveled down for

\$50. On another occasion bidding was clipping along with \$5 increases when one bidder jumped the bid up \$15 and his challenger folded. Sort of a signal that "I'm not fooling around!"

So what did the members buy? Here is a sampling of the sales: Over 2,000 old tubes for \$200! An antique Philco radio for only \$50. A DX-77 10 through 40 meter vertical antenna for \$75. A 2 meter fiberglass vertical antenna for \$18. An antique RCA Radiola 60 radio for \$90. And what had to be the buy of the evening, an antique General Radio wavemeter in a wooden box with coils for \$20. More than a bargain, a steal at that price!

Members that successfully bid on items were very happy as they left for home with their new toys.

SCOTT SZALA & BILL MILLER WIN FOXHUNT

In a departure from normal practice, the fox went directly into hiding on the August 10th hunt. The fox, Tim Smith, NIBTQ, requested a waiver of the foxhunt rules to allow such an action as he was returning from business out of town and was running a bit late. The request was granted by the club's president Chris Smith, K1CJS, in one of his increasingly rare lucid moments.

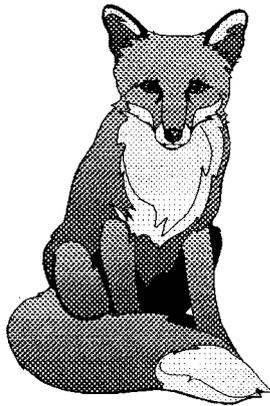
As soon as Tim was in hiding, he contacted the hunters via the 147.00 repeater, and the hunt was on. One of the first questions asked of Tim was what type and color car he was in - turns out he was not in his usual vehicle! See, it pays to ask.

The hunt officially began at 7:15 pm after all hunters verified they were operational on the foxhunt frequency. The eager hunters fanned out from the clubhouse like bees from a hive.

Twenty-one minutes later the team of Scott Szala, W1EV, and Bill Miller, K1IBR, zeroed in on the fox

who was discovered hiding in the parking lot behind the Days Inn on Hathaway Road.

Twelve minutes later Chris Smith, K1CJS, appeared on the scene and bagged the fox and second place. Right on his heels two minutes later was Ed Blouin, KA1AW, and Kita, K9DOG. (Some suspect Ed was following Chris, but that appears unlikely as Chris usually appears to be lost most of the time!) ;-)



Tim never announced that he had been found. The last foxhunters still searching for him got suspicious and inquired if he had been found yet. Tim replied, "I've seen a few of the hunters," as all the hunters on the scene burst into fits of laughter.

Twenty-one minutes later, and fifty-six minutes into the hunt, the "dream team" of Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, and Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, found the fox. (Other hunters call them the "dream team" because they always dream of winning...)

Following the hunt, everyone headed to Bickford's restaurant for a bite to eat and some good old ragchewing.

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

September 10, 2000

10:00 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER

09 Falmouth, MA

Ben Fleck

508-540-2583

11 Brookline, MA

Bob Wondolowski

508-865-5822

14 Providence, RI

Judy Nelson

401-231-9156

16 Marlborough, MA

William Wade

781-891-9079

20 Cambridge, MA

Nick Alterndbernd

617-253-3776

FIELD DAY 2001

Scott Szala, W1EV, has volunteered to be Field Day chairman for the year 2001. Plans call for the event to be held at the clubhouse as a "fun" event to acquaint new hams and the public with amateur radio. A cookout will be held in conjunction with the affair. Is this early notice or what!

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Sweet Apple Cider - Squash
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TECHNICAL TIPS

Soldering is a skill. Follow these steps and become an expert!

FIRST - CLEAN the surfaces to be joined with solder. Wire leads can be cleaned with a piece of tinned braid folded over so it can be slid up and down the lead to clean it. Terminals and PC boards can be cleaned with a small wire brush.

SECOND - PRE-TIN the surfaces. Simply heat the surface and apply a little solder. The solder will FLOW across a properly cleaned surface.

THIRD - Mechanically SECURE the parts to be joined. Solder mainly protects the joint and should not be relied upon to hold a wire.

Finally, solder the joint by first applying heat and then solder. Use just enough solder to get it to flow. Most people use too much solder and too small an iron. Most cold solder joints are made with soldering guns.

2000 FLEAMARKETS

Sept 10
SEMARA!

- Sept 16 - Forestdale, RI
- Sept 17 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Oct 6, 7 - Rochester, NH
- Oct 8 - Wallingford, CT
- Oct 15 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Nov 4 - Londonderry, NH
- Nov 5 - Framingham, MA
- Nov 18 - Newton, MA

NET DIRECTORY

— Sunday —

8 am	28.375	SEMARA NET
9:30 am	50.225	Yankee SSB

— 4th Sunday —

9 pm	449.575	EM-ARRL
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— Daily —

5:30 pm	3.915	EM/RI NTS ssb
7&10 pm	3.658	EM/RI NTS cw
6:45 pm	147.315+	NTS/Trivia
7 pm	146.550	SEMARA NET
8 pm	145.230-	EM-NTS

— Monday to Friday —

7:30 am	14.262	SEMARA NET
8 pm	145.490-	Weather

— Thursday —

8 pm	147.180+	Trivia
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— Saturday —

1800G	14.300	Coast Guard
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— SEMCARES NET —

1st Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm
145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)



VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITE

WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM

SEND E-MAIL TO: W1AEC@ARRL.NET

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

(S) Buffer

SEMARA OFFICERS

2000

President	Chris J. Smith, K1CJS
Vice-President	Robert Metivier, N1XZJ
Secretary	Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
Treasurer	John Carreiro, W1ZYV

Board of Directors:

Martin Jordan, K1YFV
William Miller Jr., K1IBR
Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees:

Norman Riley, W1ATI - Chairman
Frank Fonseca, W1IASD
Martin Jordan, K1YFV
William Vincent, W1POW
Edward Blouin, K1AW

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2000

- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 10 - **SEMARA FLEAMARKET**
9 am - 1 pm at the Clubhouse
VE Session @ 10:00 am
- 14 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 21 - Tech-Talk, "Dayton Hamfest Video - Drake Forum and other events" loaned by "Ed Rovas, W1VXY"

OCTOBER 2000

- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 12 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 19 - Tech-Talk, "APRS Digipeaters" by "Tim Smith, N1BTQ"
- 26 - Board of Director's meeting, 7 pm

Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 9:00 am. Drop by and ragchew!

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 -		KAIWBF	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
146.685 -		WILM	Plymouth	443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Dennis	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
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham	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				

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