



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 69th YEAR

Volume 37, Issue 5

SEMARA W1AEC

May 2001

JOHN LIMA, WB1ATO, DONATES EQUIPMENT TO CLUB

Long-time club member **John Lima, WB1ATO**, recently donated a car-load of radio equipment to the club. The donation was precipitated when John moved into a retirement community that (like many) prohibits amateur radio operations.

Several members noted that some of the equipment would be handy on Field Day. It was also noted that the Ten-Tec 540 transceiver is the same as one already owned by the club.

Following a review by the Trustees, the Board of Directors shall examine the equipment and make a recommendation regarding same at the May business meeting.

Thanks, John, for your generous donation!

WB1ATO DONATION LIST

- Ten-Tec model 540 transceiver
- Ten-Tec model 262G power supply and speaker
- Dentron super antenna tuner
- Dentron S-2 SWR/Power meter
- Ten-Tec KR-5A electronic keyer
- Autek Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM filter
- McElroy speed key
- British Mark III hand key

FOXHUNTERS FORMULATE NEW RULES



Several foxhunters met on Thursday, April 12th, to formulate new rules for the monthly foxhunts. The meeting was precipitated by concerns that the hunters were no longer on a level playing field. The two hunters using Doppler sets invariably won the hunts.

After much thought and discussion, a foxhunt plan was developed that all the hunters at the meeting approved:

- 1) Thursday night hunts shall be held during daylight savings hours only, April to October. Several hunters felt it was not prudent nor safe to hold hunts in the dark.
- 2) During the dark winter months hunts would be held during daylight hours on Saturdays or Sundays. It was also suggested the hunters could still meet monthly on the second Thursday of each month and built direction finding equipment as a club project.

- 3) To level the playing field, hunts would be conducted by teams. Each team shall be equally staffed with manpower and equipment. For example each team may have a Doppler system, a "RF sniffer", and a directional antenna. Each team can plan their own method of "attack" and may even resort to a "secret" coordinating frequency to aid their search effort.

It also was suggested that the team winning the hunt not only be announced in the club newsletter ZERO BEAT, but formal recognition also be made at each business meeting. The hunters also discussed conducting hunts in competition with other clubs in the upcoming months. The first hunt shall be held on May 10th.

ARRL TRIP MAY 14th
See page 4 for details

ZERO BEAT

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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?

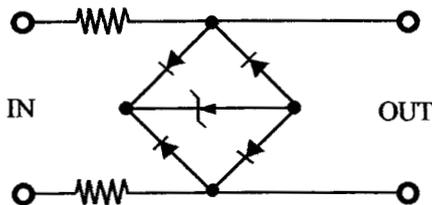


FIELD DAY AT FORT PHOENIX - 1991

Field Day 1991 was held at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven, MA. Shown in the picture above are the Civil Defense communications van with two antennas on the rear, and several tents set up for operations and sleeping. Note the generator outside the screened operations tent and the radio operator inside. It's doubtful anyone got a good nights sleep in the pup tent to the left of the screened tent with the generator running right outside it!

Behind the Field Day setup is the main parking lot at the fort with the low white pole fence surrounding it. The picture was taken from the direction of the fort itself up on the rock outcropping overlooking the entrance to the New Bedford harbor.

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Full Wave Power Rectifier
- 2.) Voltage Doubler
- 3.) Pulse Generator
- 4.) Symmetrical Limiter/Clipper
- 5.) Zener Diode Thermocouple

ANSWER - See page 7

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*"Conscience is the inner voice
that warns us
someone might be looking."*

H. L. Mencken

MEETING MINUTES



The April business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bill Miller, K11BR. Thirty-one 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 -

Technical - Emergency alerts over the repeater were clarified. If the alert is in voice, the problem is in the clubhouse, if a tone the problem is at the repeater site. Each morning and evening a pulsing noise opens the repeater. The CTCSS is being put "on" periodically to get around the noise. Work is underway to find the source of the interference.

Buildings and Grounds - Chairman Andy Reuter mentioned the oil tank was filled.

Ham Class - The class over, two students have already got their tickets, and two more plan to test on April 7th at the club.

Scholarship - No report.

Constitution - Work ongoing. Review meetings set for April 9th and 23rd (Mondays) at 6:30 pm in the clubhouse. Members are invited to attend.

Field Day - Scott Szala asked members interested in helping out on Field Day to contact him.

Fleamarket - Telephone poles to support tent being erected in the coming week.

Communications - One letter from the ARRL about a change in the insurance carrier and three from the engineers working for Sprint. (Sprint is going on the tower.)

Ratifications - Marcia K. Forde, KW1U, and Terrence Forde, N1MLO, accepted into the club membership. *Welcome!*

Old Business - The upcoming trip to the ARRL and the dual-band radio raffle were discussed. Full details will be available at the next meeting.

Dave Dean volunteered to contact the Dartmouth DPW about finishing the work they started in the front of our club. The road and apron onto our driveway needs paving along with the area around the storm drain they installed last year.

Compass Bank donated a used computer to the club. (75 MHz, 2 Gig, 24Meg, Win 98) This was in response to our request mailed to them last year asking if they could spare one during their upgrade.

New Business - The following motions were made and passed. The members:

1. Hired Dave Dean to cut the grass and maintain the club grounds for this year at a cost of \$300.
2. Appropriated \$120 to buy loam for the yard,

only if Scott Szala is unsuccessful getting some for free.

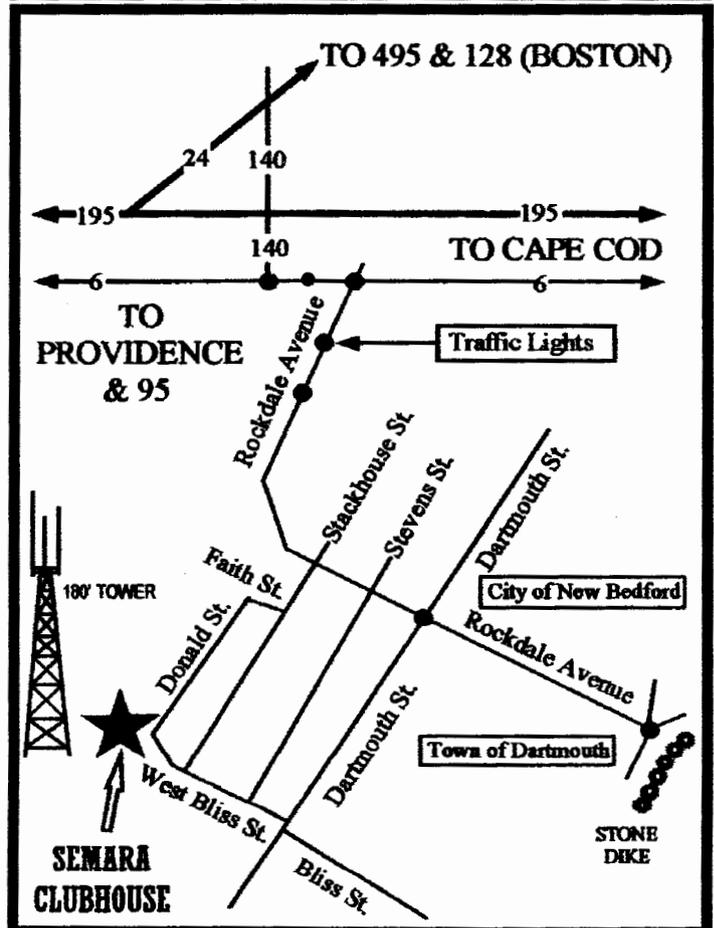
Larry Houbre, AA1FS, is looking for volunteers to help provide communications during the YMCA (Children's Museum) road race held on Saturday, June 2, 2001.

For the good of the club - Bob Brocklehurst, KB3SM, suggested (via E-Mail) the club consider a Special Event station on one of the islands in Buzzards Bay. Such events are very popular.

Several Form 605s will be placed in a special wall rack at the club for members requiring one to renew their license.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm and following a "Mystery Box" auction won by Charlie Moszczenski, KB1FRL, and a power supply nailed down by Marty Jordan, KA1YFV, several members headed off to Me & Ed's Restaurant in New Bedford for a "Second Meeting" with plenty of plain old ragchewing.

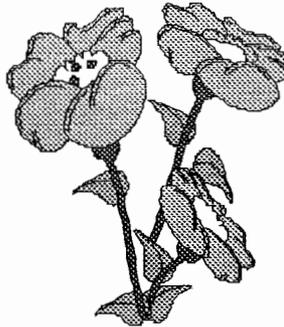
DIRECTIONS TO CLUB



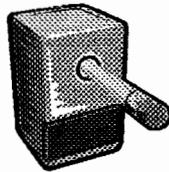


CLUB NOTES

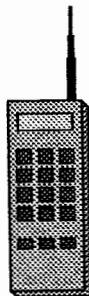
The May flowers should be in full bloom soon. "April showers bring May flowers..." Mother's Day is on Sunday the 13th, and Armed Forces Day fall on Saturday, the 19th. Rounding out the holidays this month is Memorial Day on Monday, the 28th.



John Lima, WB1ATO, donated a new Boston electric pencil sharpener to the club. Now the members can scribble in style! *Thanks, John, for the thoughtful gift.*



Members are reminded that the repeater's receiver tone squelch (CTCSS) can be turned off temporarily by sending 14747. This allows members without CTCSS tone capabilities to use the repeater. After a short period of inactivity the tone squelch is reactivated.



A work party shall be held at the club on Sunday morning, 8 to 11 am, April 29th. Bring a rake or shovel and help get the yard ready for spring. A load of loam will be spread at the work party.



Enjoy speaking? Then get your name on the Eastern Massachusetts club speakers list. Contact Elliot, W1MJ, for details at:

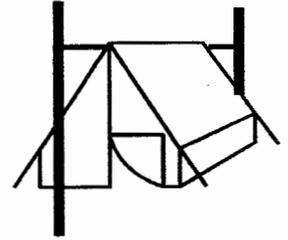
w1mj@arrl.net



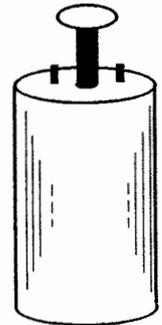
CORRECTION

In last month's obituary for James Powell, his original call was listed as W1GGR. In actuality, it was K1GGR. We apologize for the error.

In preparation for the Flea-market this fall, two telephone poles with a cable between them shall be installed in the field behind the club. The rig will be used to support the 40 X 60 tent we erected last year on a temporary lash-up.



A band-pass cavity has been inserted in the receiver line at the repeater. This was done to attenuate strong out-of-band signals that might be causing intermodulation and desense. The repeater had a rough month during April as interference was rampant!



Pete Ryder got his ticket and is now **KB1GPL**! Pete attended the No-Code Technician classes recently completed at the clubhouse. *Congratulations Pete!*

KB1GPL

Bill Vincent, W1POW, recently upgraded to Amateur EXTRA. This proves you're never too old to learn... *Congratulations Bill!*



ARRL TRIP SET FOR MAY 14th

DEPARTING CLUB AT 9 AM SHARP

Members interested in visiting ARRL Headquarters on Monday, May 14, 2001, must sign the trip sheet at the clubhouse. The number of members that sign up by the May 3rd business meeting shall determine the mode of travel. Options include bus, van, or carpool. Members should plan on a \$10 contribution for transportation no matter what means is finally used.

It was hoped the trip could be held on a Saturday or Sunday, but the ARRL no longer conducts tours on weekends.

PORCELAIN ARRL EMBLEM IS AN ANTIQUE

Your A. R. R. L. EMBLEM



The League Emblem comes in four different forms. Its use by Members is endorsed and encouraged by the League. Every Member should be proud to display the insignia of his organization in every possible way.

THE PERSONAL EMBLEM. A handsome creation in extra-heavy rolled gold and black enamel, $\frac{1}{2}$ " high, supplied in lapel button or pin-back style. The personal emblem has come to be known as the sign of a good amateur. It identifies you — in the radio store, at the radio club, on the street, traveling — you can spot an amateur by it. Wear your emblem, OM, and take your proper place in the radio fraternity. Either style emblem, \$1.00, postpaid.

THE AUTOMOBILE EMBLEM. $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ", heavily enameled in yellow and black on sheet metal, holes top and bottom, 50c each, postpaid.

THE EMBLEM CUT. A mounted printing electrotpe, the same size as the personal emblem, for use by Members on amateur printed matter, letterheads, cards, etc. \$1.00 each, postpaid.

THE "JUMBO" EMBLEM. How about the shack wall or that 100-footer? Think of the attention this big yellow-and-black enamel metal emblem will get! $19 \times 8\frac{1}{4}$ ", same style as Automobile Emblem. \$1.25 each, postpaid.

The American Radio
Relay League
Hartford, Conn.

The black and yellow porcelain ARRL emblem mounted in the front of the club's meeting hall is an antique!

An inquiry to ARRL Headquarters about its age was answered by Michael Tracy, KC1SX, of the ARRL Lab. Mike pointed out that the ARRL logo came about as a result of a design contest announced in the January 1920 issue of QST. In July of 1920 the winner of the contest was announced and the official logo as we know it to this day was adopted.

Mike also mentioned that one of the porcelain logos hangs on the wall at W1AW, having been bought from an antique shop in the past. Reportedly, when the buyer was purchasing the ARRL logo the shop owner asked, "What railroad is that from?" In December 1924, a QST stray article mentioned an ARRL member who often was asked what Railroad Club he belonged to whenever he wore the ARRL lapel pin!

A search of the club's QST collection found the first ad offering the porcelain logo for sale in the November 1929. A comparison of our logo with those offered for sale reveals we have the "Jumbo" size ARRL emblem. The ad reproduced to the left is from the September 1930 issue of QST.

Pictures of our clubhouse during the 50s and 60s show the porcelain logo mounted on the front door. Somehow I can't picture it lasting long if it was mounted on the door today. Times have



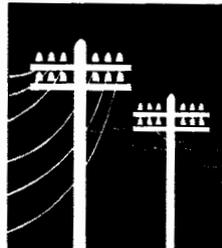
REPEATER NOTES

Members are reminded that it takes **two seconds** for the repeater to start transmitting when **first keyed up** after a long off-line period. Several members are getting the first part of their initial transmissions chopped off as a result. When bringing the repeater up after a long dormant period, key up and silently count to five before making your call. However, once the repeater is up and running all transmissions are repeated without any delay.



The loss of power or heat in the clubhouse will cause an alarm to be sent just before the repeater goes off-line. Any announcement that starts with "Emergency condition..." is an alarm for a problem **in the clubhouse**. Members hearing such alarms should notify any club officer so appropriate corrective action can be taken.

On the other hand, loss of power and similar problems at the repeater site **will not send a voice announcement over the air**. Any problem at the repeater site will result in a short tone burst (beep) being sent every time the repeater receiver unscquelchs. Again, members hearing such a tone burst should notify any club officer so appropriate corrective action can be taken.



Repeater controllers can open the door to the club by remote control. This permits members that forgot their cardkey at home (or members that don't have a cardkey) to gain access to the clubhouse. Should you find yourself requiring this feature, simply call for a control operator via the repeater.

Members desiring clarification of any aspect of the repeater's operation are encouraged to E-Mail questions to Bill Miller at: billmiller@netzero.net

Although E-Mail is preferred, Bill can also be reached by phone: 508-996-2969 (3 pm best time to call.)

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

May 5, 2001

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN MAY

10 Providence, RI

Judy Nelson
401-231-9156

12 Falmouth, MA

Ben Fleck
508-540-2583

14 Brookline, MA

Bob Wondolowski
508-865-5822

19 Marlborough, MA

William Wade
781-891-9079

23 Cambridge, MA

Nick Alterndbernd
617-253-3776

FRWN MEETING & SUPERCONDUCTIVITY DEMONSTRATION



The Fairhaven Repeater Weather Net (FRWN) will hold its annual spring meeting on Saturday, April 28, 2001, at 12:30 pm in the Southworth library, 732 Dartmouth Street, South Dartmouth, MA. The main presentation conducted by the Northeast River Forecast Center staff focuses on aerial remote sensing of New England snowcover water content. That will be followed by a demonstration of superconductivity. All are welcome to attend this exciting event.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- 1) Replace the standard nuts on your 12 volt high current power supply with 1/4-20 wing nuts. After you use them a few times, you will wonder why they don't ship them with wing nuts!
- 2) When installing lugs on heavy-duty power cables you can make the lug "beefier" by soldering a brass washer of the correct diameter onto the lug. In a pinch, cut the crimp section off another lug and solder the remainder onto a normal lug.
- 3) Even when using lugs with attached plastic on the crimp section, it pays to also install a section of heat shrink tubing to prevent undue stress on the cable to lug interface. Double it up on large lugs!

2001 FLEAMARKETS

- May 4-5 - HONSTRADERS
- May 19 - Foxville, RI
- May 28 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- May 28 - Vernon, CT
- June 9 - FARA, Barnstable, MA
- June 17 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- July 7 - Goshen, CT
- July 13 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aug 19 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Sept 9 - SEMARA FLEA!
- Sept 15 - Foxville, RI
- Sept 16 - MIT Cambridge, MA
- Oct 5-6 - HONSTRADERS
- Oct 7 - Wallingford, CT

NET DIRECTORY

- Sunday —
- 8 am 28.700 SEMARA NET
- 9:30 am 50.225 Yankee SSB
- 4th Sunday —
- 9 pm 449.575 EM-ARRL
- 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
- Saturday —
- 1800G 14.300 Coast Guard
- SEMCARES NET —
- 1st Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm
- 145.490- (Fairhaven Repeater)



VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES

WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM
 GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/SEMARA
 SEND E-MAIL TO: W1AEC@ARRL.NET

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER
 4) Symmetrical Limiter/Clipper

SEMARA OFFICERS 2001

- President** William Miller Jr., KIIBR
- Vice-President** Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX
- Secretary** Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- Treasurer** Scott Szala, W1EV
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 - Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 - Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 - Robert Metivier, N1XZJ
- Trustees:**
 - Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD - Chairman
 - Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 - William Vincent, W1POW
 - Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 - Norman Riley, W1ATI

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

MAY 2001

- 3 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 5 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 10 - Foxhunt, 7:00 pm
- 14 - ARRL Field Trip, leave at 9 am
- 17 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "The Red Cross and Amateur Radio" by Richard F. Buckley, N1KMM, and Larry O. Warner.

JUNE 2001

- 2 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 14 - Foxhunt, 7:00 pm
- 21 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "KMOX Radio, 75 Years As The Voice Of St. Louis," video loaned by Ray Arruda, KB1EVX
- 23 & 24 - Field Day @ Clubhouse, followed by a giant cookout!

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	WAIDGW	Fall River	441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -		KD1CY	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 -		W1LM	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
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater	443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
220				444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
224.340 -		K1KEK	Dennis	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
224.840 -	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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