



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 70th YEAR

Volume 38, Issue 2

SEMARA W1AEC

February 2002

SHOW & TELL NIGHT HELD

What a blast the January 10th "Show & Tell" night was. The clubhouse was loaded with all sorts of gear from crystal sets to modern QRP transceivers.

Bill Miller, **K1IBR**, showed off a crystal set he built from original parts salvaged over the years. Mounted on the front Bakelite panel was a brass plate tuning capacitor and a "cat's whisker" crystal holder found in a box of parts bought at a fleamarket many years ago.

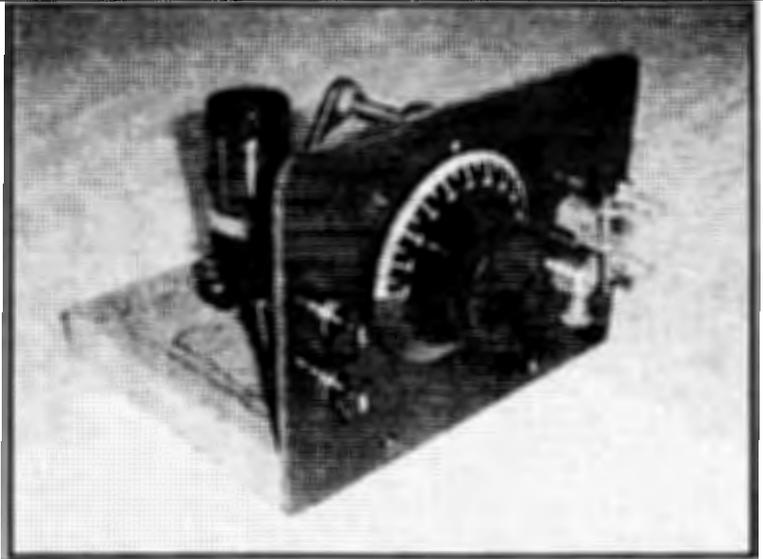
Bill also displayed an old pre-WWII Hallicrafters SX-25 "Super Defiant." The receiver was completely reconditioned and appeared like it was just a few years old. Several members commented on the high quality of the audio coming from the set.

Carl Bredberg, **K1KID**, showed off two QRP rigs he built from kits. Both were Elecraft kits, one a CW rig model K1, and the other a SSB/CW rig, model K2. Carl removed the top covers from both rigs to allow members to see the "innards."

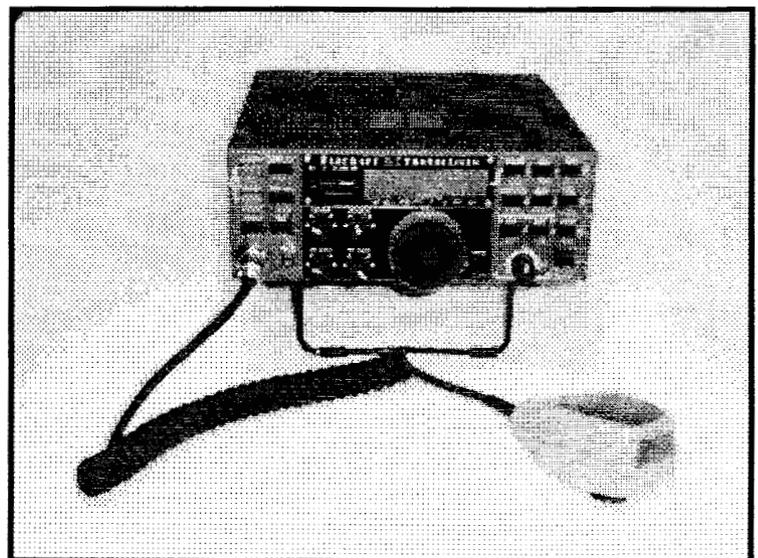
The K1 is a four band CW rig. Output power is adjustable from 100 milliwatts to 8 watts on all bands. The original K1 was a two-bander with your choice of any two bands (40, 30, 20, 17, or 15 meters). Elecraft now sells a 4 band upgrade board that doubles your choices. Carl chose 40, 30, 20, and 15 meters.

The K2 is a SSB/CW rig covering all bands from 80 to 10 meters including the WARC bands. Output power is adjustable from 100 milliwatts to 15 watts. Several options are available and Carl's rig has the automatic antenna tuner, PC interface, real-time clock, and audio filter / noise blanker.

It was another "night out" at the club as members looked over the radios on display and engaged in heavy-duty ragchewing. Of course, coffee and donuts were available too.



K1IBR's CRYSTAL SET



K1KID's K2 QRP RIG

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 54 Donald Street,
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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 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.

TECH TALK ON TRAINS A HIT

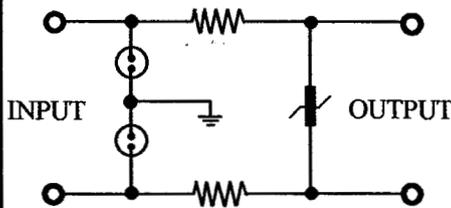


On January 17th, **Dave Dean, K1JGV**, gave a Tech Talk on model railroading. He had four different gauge tracks on display: G, S, HO, and N gauge. The N gauge setup was loaned for the evening by **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**. Dave also had sections of track from other gauge systems such as the three rail Lionel type many old-timers recall. Dave pointed out that as small as N gauge is, there is an even smaller gauge - Z gauge!

Following Dave's review of the different gauge trains, a 30 minute video on a narrow gauge train in Colorado was shown. The main feature of that railroad was a loop the train made when climbing up the steep valley. Also, to get sufficient traction on the rails, a Shay type engine was used since it has every wheel on the engine as well as the tender driven by the three steam pistons that comprise the engine proper.

Evidently hams in general enjoy model trains too, as a larger than normal crowd attended the Tech Talk.

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Relaxation Oscillator
- 2.) TWT Power Regulator
- 3.) Hartley Oscillator
- 4.) Phone Line Protector
- 5.) Noise Generator

ANSWER - See page 7

2002 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX

Vice President
 William Miller Jr., K1IBR

Secretary
 Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

Treasurer
 Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees:

Martin Jordan, KA1YFV - Chairman
 William Vincent, WIPOW Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Norman Riley, WIATI Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM

Board of Directors:

Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Martin Jordan, KA1YFV
 Richard Simpkin, WA1CRA

MEETING MINUTES

The January business meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX. Twenty-Six members were present. Following the salute to the flag, a moment of silence was held in memory of Victor Aguiar, N1TTR, who died on December 31, 2001. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports -

Technical - Stray noise is periodically keying up the repeater. **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, asked members to help trace the source down. This is a chance for members to use their foxhunts skills! In the meantime, members are notified that a 67 hertz tone may be required to open the repeater. Whenever the noise is a problem, the tone access system will be put on-line by the control operators. However, members without tone capabilities can still use the repeater by transmitting 14747 via the keypad to override the tone access system. Once 14747 is sent the repeater reverts to normal carrier squelch until no activity occurs for a period of time. At that time the tone access system is automatically put back on-line.

Buildings and Grounds - **Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**, reported that the Town of Dartmouth will be clearing a 15 foot wide maintenance path along the sewer right-of-way southeast of our property. The town will be accessing the right-of-way off our property. Expect to see town trucks on our property!

Activities - **Scott Szala, W1EV**, reported the Christmas Party was a success. The Family Dinner will be held at noontime Saturday, February 16 at the Century House. This will be a FUN event!

Scholarship - No report.

Internet - No report.

Communications - A letter from **Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**, dated December 16, 2001 was read. Andy declined his election to the Board of Directors.

Ratifications - The following applicants were voted members of the club:

Michael Thompson, KA1YZT

Charles Bardsley, (No call)

John Majkut, W1HIQ

Welcome to the club!

President's Comments - President Arruda appointed **Charles Bardsley** to the Internet Committee, and **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, as chairman of the Family Dinner to be held on February 16th. He also reappointed all chairmen and members on last year's committees.

Old Business - A motion was made and passed confirming **Richard Simpkin, WA1CRA**, as elected to the Board of Directors. (Dick was the runner-up in the

elections held in December.)

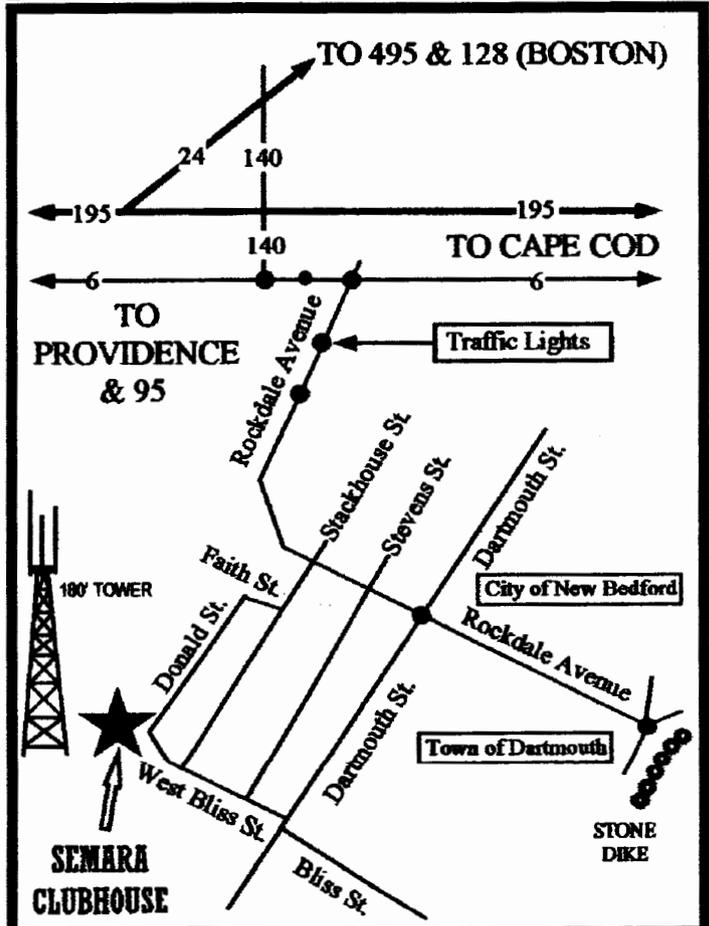
New Business - The following motions were made and passed:

- 1) Motion to have 1,000 Fleamarket flyers printed for distribution at area fleamarkets and auctions.
- 2) Motion to purchase a new computer and desk for the club. Price not to exceed \$1,000. The old computer shall be used to monitor the card-key system.
- 3) Motion to have the club pay for entertainment and any other additional expenses incurred by the Family Appreciation Dinner.
- 4) Motion approving all "Carry-over" motions.
- 5) Motion to auction all left-over Fleamarket items following the February business meeting.

For the good of the club - **Scott Szala, W1EV**, led the members in giving outgoing President **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, a round of applause for the great work done in the last year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

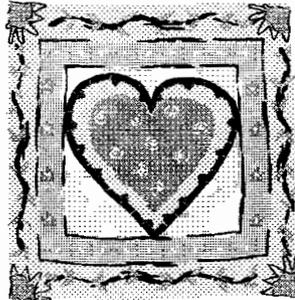
DIRECTIONS TO CLUB



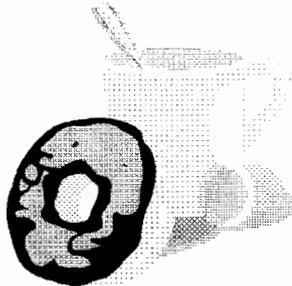


CLUB NOTES

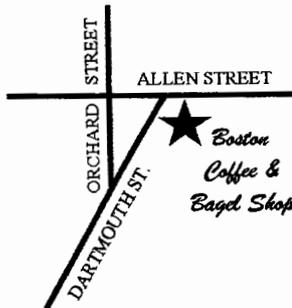
Well, we are in the middle of winter! It's hard to believe after the extended fall we experienced last year. Valentine's Day is on the 14th, then President's Day follows on the 18th. Remember when it was called Washington's Birthday? Times change...



Winter has greatly increased attendance at the Sunday morning club get-togethers! In fact, an extra dozen of donuts was needed to keep up with the hungry hoard. On one recent Sunday all the donuts and malasadas were gone by 9:30 am. Ah, but the smiling faces...



Speaking of get-togethers, members are reminded that several retired members meet weekdays at 1 pm for coffee at the Boston Coffee & Bagel shop on the corner of Dartmouth and Allen streets in New Bedford. Join us for a cup of coffee and some ragchewing.



Three applicants were voted into membership during the January business meeting:

- Charles Bardsley**
- John Majkut, W1HIQ**
- Michael Thompson, KA1YZT**

Welcome to the club!



Victor Aguiar, N1TTR, SK

It is with deep sadness we announce the untimely passing of club member Victor Aguiar, N1TTR, on December 31, 2001. Victor was only 49 years old. He attended several of the Constitutional Committee meetings held during 2001 and helped craft the club's new Constitution by offering many insightful suggestions and comments. Victor was a "fun" guy to be around and will be dearly missed by all that knew him. *Rest in peace, Victor.*



It is with great sorrow we report the passing of Elvira Morris, wife of Ralph Morris, W1QUE. Elvira died on January 9, 2002.

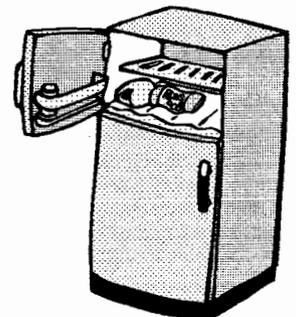
Rest in peace, Elvira.



Bill Miller, K1IBR, presented a brief overview of our club for the Yankee Chapter #112 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). The occasion was the chapter's December Christmas Luncheon held at Dewey's Restaurant in Lakeville.



Thanks to the generosity of Stan & Paul's appliance store, the club now has a full size refrigerator. Stan & Paul's donated the used refrigerator which the club plans to use to hold Fleamarket perishables, soda, and the like. *Thank You, Stan & Paul's*



★ MEMBERS ONLY AUCTION ★

FEBRUARY 7, 2002 (Following business meeting)

A MEMBER'S ONLY AUCTION OF ALL EQUIPMENT AND PARTS LEFT OVER FROM THE FALL FLEAMARKET WAS APPROVED DURING THE JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING.

FAMILY APPRECIATION DINNER FEBRUARY 16, 2002



A "Family Appreciation Dinner" will be held at the Century House in Acushnet on Saturday, February 16, 2002. Appetizers will be served at 12 noon. A Deluxe Buffet (Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Ham, etc.) will be served at 1 pm and followed by family-style entertainment - the "Susie Star Show." The event is planned as a fun experience for the whole family.

Tickets are \$20 each, and must be purchased no later than the February 7th business meeting.

**LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS:
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**

Get your Technician Class Amateur Radio License In one weekend !

The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association
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**Friday, April 19 through
Sunday, April 21, 2002**

Location

**Barnstable County Fairgrounds
Classroom**

Route 151, Falmouth Ma.

Schedule

**Fri. 7-9 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm,
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(ARRL VEC exams 2 pm Sunday)

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Includes lunch Sat & Sun, exam fee *and*
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To register and for more info

Call Bob, N1WAT @ 508-477-0771

or e-mail, bodot@gis.net

Or register on the web at WWW.FALARA.ORG

Note

No prior experience required-no age limit-all are welcome. Class size limited so register early to assure placement. Registration closed 7 days prior to start of session.

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

February 2, 2002

10:30 am

SEMARA Clubhouse

VE SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

- 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



*"The best argument
against democracy is a
five-minute conversation
with the average voter."*

Sir Winston Churchill

TECHNICAL TIPS

When fabricating small projects in aluminum miniboxes and plastic cases with metal covers, mount the controls and input/output jacks first. You can then secure the PC board or perboard the circuitry is on to the controls and jacks using stiff wires. Number 18 gauge tinned copper wire is ideal for such mounting.

If possible, mount the circuit board on its side, vertical to the front panel, so defective components can be removed if required. Side mounting also gives you access to both sides of the circuit board for troubleshooting and/or modifications should they ever be required in the future.

As an added bonus, your project will even look better as no additional screws will show on the front panel!

Large battery holders can be mounted on the rear of the case. 9 Volt batteries can be secured to the case with double-sided foam tape with a standard battery clip attached and the leads connected to the front panel on/off switch.

If room permits, mount the battery on the back of the front panel. This is the best way to go as everything is on the panel and the whole unit can simply be removed from the case for testing and troubleshooting.

SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

— **Sunday** —
8 am 28.700

— **Daily** —
7 pm 146.550

— **Monday to Friday** —
7:30 am 14.262

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

"NAME THAT CIRCUIT" ANSWER

4) Phone Line Protector

2002

FLEAMARKETS

- February 16 - Marlboro, MA
- March 10 - Amherst, MA
- March 16 - Pomfret, CT
- April 14 - Southington, CT
- April 21 - MIT
- May 3,4 - Hostraders (NH)
- May 19 - MIT
- May 21 - Vernon, CT
- June 8 - Falmouth, MA
- June 16 - MIT
- July 21 - MIT
- August 18 - MIT
- August 24,25 - Boxboro
- Sept 8 - SEMARA!

FULL DETAILS AT:

mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/no-fleas



VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES

GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/SEMARA

SEND E-MAIL TO: INFO@SEMARA.ORG

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2002

- 2 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 14 - Foxhunter's planning meeting 7 pm
- 16 - FAMILY APPRECIATION DINNER
12 noon @ Century House
- 21 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm,
"Trunking Radio technology"
by Scott Halligan, KC1UA / Tim
Smith, N1TI

MARCH 2002

- 2 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 14 - FOXHUNT, 7:00 pm
- 21 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm,
"Amateur Radio's Role in the NWS
Taunton SKYWARN Program"
by Rob Macedo, KD1CY

Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

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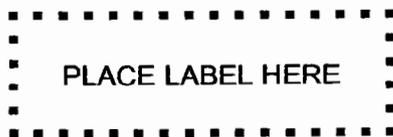
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FIRST CLASS

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