



## SEMARA

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# BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

May 7th 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Club President Richard Netinho, AC1JG.

There were 22 members present at the club and 3 were online via zoom.

Officers Present: President	Richard Netinho, AC1JG
Vice President	Joe Barros, K1EZ
Treasurer	Mike McDonald, KB1NB
Secretary	Walt Schneider, N1ZE

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary report was read and posted on the bulletin board. A motion was made and seconded to accept as read and voted unanimously in favor.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer report was read and accepted:

Cash Income, \$5640.00 from blue sky for property taxes

Paid expenses, Tax of \$2528.00. It was noted that there was an expense of \$262.00 for electric.

Total expenses, \$1657.00

Total Funds available, \$225,387.00, plus 12k blue sky security account.

A motion was made and seconded and the club voted in favor of sending the treasures report to audit.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Marty KA1YFV is continuing as the chairman of the building and grounds with Manny Estela KC1VMI on the committee.

Ramp complete, Vent for repeater shack is being repaired. Grounds were cleaned up and things look good.

## 🔍 Scholarship

Paul Fredette, K1YBE, chair for the scholarship committee

Art DeMello, Committee Member.

Paul reported that nothing to report.

## 🔍 Technical

Technical committed chairman. Rick Cabral, W1RJC,  
Technical Committee Members.

Jed Barton N1JBC  
Joe Barros, K1EZ  
Paul Fredette, K1YBE  
Ben Jackson, N1WBV  
Rick Netinho, AC1JG  
Walt Schneider, N1ZE  
Rick Cabral, W1RJC,

Rick Cabral gave the technical committee status for the repeater repairs and antenna issues.

Summary,

Lightning strike. All fixed  
Wireless link was replaced.  
Replaced ac-dc converter for PC  
Line noise issue on 00 repeater resolved.  
2 meter repeater update... works again.  
The 00 antenna issue still on going.  
The main repeater failed.  
New MARA club loaned us a repeater, a Yaesu.

*The following is directly from Rick Cabral and is included here for the details.*

### 1) LIGHTNING STRIKE/SURGE:

A lightning strike and/or power surge caused some issues prior to the April business meeting. All issues have been fixed...

- Rich, AC1JG replaced one of the two wireless links between the clubhouse and repeater site that was zapped. This restored one security camera that was knocked offline and Wi-Fi at the repeater site. Rich donated materials at no cost to the club.

- Rick, W1RJC replaced a faulty AC-to-DC 8-amp plug-in power supply to the repeater site's Windows 11 server. It was causing the PC not to boot. This also fixed a line noise issue that apparently was being caused by old the power supply. It was affecting the 147.000 repeater listen live stream and it is now very clean sounding. Rick donated materials at no cost to the club.

## 2) 2M REPEATER UPDATE:

We are on our primary repeater back from repair with new finals. Our backup has failed and will be fixed soon. A mild issue with the '00 antenna system exists and needs addressing...

- On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, our backup 2m repeater, the Motorola Quantar, experienced an audio failure at about 12:15 PM while two people were having a QSO. An audible pop was heard on-air, followed by a constant rushing wind sound. Audio was reduced to almost inaudible with heavy distortion. The repeater was disabled that evening, as switching to its internal controller yielded the same result, indicating an internal hardware failure.

- By Friday, April 17, 2026, we obtained a loaner Yaesu repeater from the MARA club in Bridge water and restored '00 repeater service. We greatly appreciate this gesture by Jeff, AJ1L who picked up the machine, as well as MARA President John, N1BSO and Treasurer/Repeater Advisory Board member Phil, N1XTB. MARA assisted SEMARA in a time of need, and Rick, W1RJC has acknowledged this by thanking them for their generosity. Rick advised MARA that we would be more than willing to return the favor in the future, if their club is ever in need and SEMARA can assist.

- With our primary Kenwood and backup Motorola both down, Rick, W1RJC stressed urgency to get the repairs completed on our primary. It had been out of service since January and at United Radio in East Syracuse, NY, an authorized Kenwood repair shop. They expedited the repair and it was shipped back and received at Rick, W1RJC's residence on Tuesday, April 19, 2026. The cost for repair was very reasonable at about \$350. A previous motion covers this expense.

- Rick, W1RJC worked the following Thursday night into Friday morning at the repeater site. Since several levels were changed during repair, Rick adjusted the squelch and various audio levels in and out of the repeater controller for RF, AllStarLink, EchoLink and IRLP users. Additionally, the repeater was set with the club's Bird watt meter to output exactly 10w on low power and 20w on high power. Our primary Kenwood was then restored to service with 10w on the low power setting to drive our Henry amplifier, which is measuring precisely 100 w out into the duplexer. About 5-hours of work concluded around 5:40 AM and our primary was fully restored Friday, April 22, 2026 at about 5:35 AM.

- Rick, W1RJC returned the Yaesu loaner to Jeff, AJ1L last week at NEAR-Fest. Jeff returned it to MARA in Bridge water.

- The Motorola Quantar will be repaired. It is possible it is the control card, which is a circuit board that can be removed and a replacement slid back in. Jeff, AJ1L indicated that between himself, Ho, KC1HO and Ralph, N1YHS, he will be able to obtain parts. His service monitor is out for calibration at the moment, so we will address this when able to.

- Lastly, when the winds are just right at the top of our 180-foot tower, there is a crackle audible on weaker signals on the '00 repeater. It is intermittent and will last seconds at a time and then clear up. It was only observed on high wind/rain/snow events, but it is happening a little more frequently now. It was confirmed that it does this while utilizing all 3 unique repeaters recently in service. It was also verified on several occasions that while the crackling is happening, shutting off the repeater transmitter completely clears up the received signal completely. It is most likely a loose/bad connector on the jumper between the feed line and antenna, a bad jumper itself, something near the antenna that is loose and arcing, or possibly an issue with the Commscope 4-bay dipole itself. While the crackle is being heard, this is the act of desensitizing, where whatever the issue is, the repeater transmitter is briefly feeding back into the receiver intermittently. When a tower climber finally can get up there, we will ensure to have them bring up a brand new jumper to replace it and make sure no metal clamps, etc. that may be loose near the base of the antenna. It is our hope that this would resolve the issue.

### 3) 220 REPEATER UPDATE:

SUMMARY -- Our BridgeCom repeater, which is about 10-years old, has an output power issue. This will be addressed by sending it back to the factory for repair...

- Joe, K1EZ observed in the last couple months that the 224.800 repeater was weaker than it had been at his house. Rick, W1RJC twice put the clubs Bird watt meter in-line over a couple weeks and observed it is not at the 30-watts (100% duty cycle), that we had set it to. It was down to 16-watts on both occasions. Upon going into the service menu and bringing it up, it will revert back to the lower power. The value it is set to when adjusted, spikes it back up where it should be, but it doesn't remain. Rick, W1RJC will take care of shipping it to BridgeCom directly for repair in Missouri.

### 4) 900 REPEATER UPDATE:

ALL IS WORKING WELL!

5) Finally -- A motion will be made under new business to strategically purchase repeaters for 2m, 220 and 900. All repeaters will then have exact 1:1 backups for same levels/pin out for swap-out when in need, keeping links, features and audio levels all in tact. My proposal will save the club over \$2,000, including a donation of our old analog 900 repeater to a club on the cape in need of one, and we will end up with 2 spares for 2m. Lastly, we had two 100w amplifiers, one primary and one a backup for 2m. The primary Crecsend failed, so we only have the Henry amp which is being used primary. At a future meeting once I get quotes, I will recommend that we purchase a new Crecsend amplifier for primary, with the Henry becoming a backup once again.

MOTION: "I make a motion that we expend \$1,600 total for the acquisition of the aforementioned 3 repeaters, for 2m, 220 and 900 so that SEMARA will have 1:1 drop in backup/spares in time of failures."

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### 🔍 **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Ed Caron, KA1RSY, Nothing to report.

Robert Macedo, Sunday May 31, 10 am Weather Service Sky Warn class at the club.

### • **QSL Manager**

Joe Barros, K1EZ

Cards are in to support any QSL requests.

Log book of the world is backlogged due to no internet.

Updated the log books to logbook of the world, qrz requested . Use UTC... date.

### 🔍 **Radio Events**

None

field day coming up.

## ? **WEB**

Mike Ponte, W1BZJ, said Web site is working fine.

Posted meeting meeting and results ve session.

VE session is planned and will be on the website.

Rick is updating the silent keys in the database.

- **Fiance committee,**

Mike resolved the routing number at Webster bank. It was noted that there is still no treasury income.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

No communications.

## **RATIFICATION of NEW MEMBERS**

No New applications

John Paul (JP) DeRoy, W1PAZ. Application for membership. Motion was made and accepted to make JP a full member and seconded. The club members present all in favor.

Application for new member, Stacey Blouse, KC1ZDQ. Motion was made to accept seconded. The club members present all in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Marcel continued talks with Scott Lang concerning tower. Marcel indicated he is going to call Scott Lang to continue further discussions. Expect update next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Paul reported he operated a radio emergency exercise with unstructured emergency reporting system. Canned up exercise reports, and reported it to the Newport club. Club station video, and picture were sent in. Got up to network managers. Publicity for the club. The mock emergency was that in Bridge water it was reported that a cat was trapped under at tree.

Dave Ferdette, and Paul, picked up a 10 foot satellite dish and plan to refurbish it. This is to try some microwave radio work. Visions of a club moon bounce antenna. After a short discussion, it was decided to bring it to the club. The plan is to get here before field day.

Motion was made to accept satellite dish. This motion was seconded and passed.

Rick Cabral, Texted Al about tower.

Motion was made to expend \$1600 for the acquisition of QTY 2, 220 and 900 repeaters. Seconded and voted approved.

Motion was made to provide 200 dollars to Rick Cabral for reimbursement for the repeater procurement. Seconded. Voted approved.

Motion was made to donate old 900 MHz analog Motorola msf5000 and duplex-er to cape cod amateur radio association group. Seconded and Approved.

*Note: The following was provided by Rick Cabral, as additional notes for the New Business.*

“2m: I propose we expend \$400 for the same Kenwood model we have as the primary, to become our backup. Used on eBay, they range from \$400-\$800, so this will be economical. It was used previously for the 145.110 Portuguese repeater in New Bedford. Buying a brand new Kenwood was considered, but rather than spend ~\$2,000 with a different pin out, we save ~\$1,600 and end up with the exact model we have for our primary as 1:1 drop-in backup. As Rich, AC1JG suggested to me, we also keep the Quantar and fix the control card for a 2nd spare. This could also be used to assist other area clubs/repeaters if theirs fail.

220 = I propose we expend \$600 for a brand new Bridgecom still in the box. Normally ~\$1,600, I bought on sale for \$600 directly from Bridgecom about 6-months ago. If approved, this will become our new primary. It is the exact same model we have now. We will put this new one in line soon when we send the current one out for repair, as the power keeps going down to 16w from 30w. That current Bridgecom (about 10 years old) will become the backup.

900 = I propose we expend up to \$600 (a \$100 deposit was already paid by W1RJC) to purchase an identical 900 Quantar that is in service now. It will be coming as a bulk order via Roger, WA1NVC, who is ordering just under a dozen for repeater owners across New England. KC1HO will help wire it for our analog and P25 network. Out of the two Quantars, the best one will become the primary. The current backup MSF5000 to be donated to the Cape & Islands ARC. I purchased a TX/RX 900 duplexer and will exchange the current duplexer for the better TX/RX at no cost to the club. All 3 repeaters will then have TX/RX duplexer. We then can let the current 900 duplexer go to C&I ARC as well as a free donation.

MOTION: "I make a motion that we expend \$1,600 total for the acquisition of the aforementioned 3 repeaters, for 2m, 220 and 900 so that SEMARA will have 1:1 drop in backup/spares in time of failures."

## **FOR THE GOOD of THE CLUB**

June Business Meeting, Burgers on the grill, Barbecue. Marcel offered an unused fully functional propane grill to the club. Just needs to be delivered.

A short discussion on a new kit, called a pebble hf discussion was led by Paul. This is a 5 watt SSB receiver. Paul has one kit and it looks like a fun project.

Walt Schneider discussed wspr, Weak Signal Propagation Reporter and may provide an update in June.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 817 PM was seconded and voted unanimously in favor

**CLUB MEETING SIGN IN SHEET**

Date: 5/11

**SEMARA BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER**

Please Print

**MEMBERS**

	CALL	NAME
1	KLEZ	JOSEPH BARROS
2	ACIJG	Richard metinho
3	WIRJC	RICHARD J CABRAL
4	KLEBD	RICHARD Loiselle
5	WHGXV	LARRY FERREIRA
6	WBIFBP	Scott Jenney
7	NIKP	KEN FERRETT
8	KCIEMI	Manuel Estrela
9	MWCO	ERIC Pezles
10	WIAMN	Adam Nawoichik
11	WIFAV	Chris Washburn
12	KAWBF	MARC Jodoin
13	NIYX	Joseph KRISNOSKY
14	KIYBE	PAUL FREDOTE
15	ABIFB	Craig Derewiany
16	WIBZJ	MIKE PONTE
17	ACIQC	JOHN VISSLER
18	NIZE	WALT SCHNEIDER
19	WIMLD	MARCEL DUMONT
20	KAIRSY	ED CARON
21	KAJYV	Marta Joubert
22	KEICN	Scott Smith
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**GUESTS**

	CALL	NAME
1	KCIZDG	Stacey Blouse
2		
3		
4		
5		

**ZOOM**

	CALL	NAME
6	NIMUK	MATT WHITE
7	NIJBC	JED BARTON
8		
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