



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 7

SEMARA-W1AEC

July 2010

Field Day @ SEMARA



FIELD DAY 20-M AND 10-M FAN
DIPOLES—SINGLE FEED POINT



June 26-27, 2010

Field Day @ SEMARA was an *ad hoc* affair this year. SEMARA operated two transmitters using the club battery pack, class 2A.



6-M DIPOLE, WITH BALUN, HUNG
FROM THE SHORT TOWER



FIELD DAY SUNDAY—OUTDOOR
OPERATING POSITION

Rob (KD1CY), Ben (N1WBV) and Rick (W1RJ) did some operating on Saturday between 3:30 and 5:00 PM ET. They did make several contacts on an empty stomach, since no one stepped forward to do any cooking.

Sunday was supposed to be augmented with grub, but again the food preparation never materialized. Nonetheless, the team of starving operators did manage to make some contacts on 20-m, 10-m and 6-m.

To get away from the hot sun,



FIELD DAY SUNDAY—INDOOR
OPERATING POSITION

the operating positions were moved indoors Sunday afternoon.

How did we do? Guess we'll have to wait for an official report.

ZERO BEAT

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EDITOR: Bob Kelley—K1KVV

E-mail: [editor\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:editor[at]semara[dot]org)SEMARA: <http://www.semara.org>E-mail: [wlaec\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:wlaec[at]semara[dot]org)

2010 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Louis Mester—W1CH

Vice President

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

Secretary Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

Treasurer

Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Brad Paiva—W1BEP

John Walsh—WA1LSH

Trustees: (year term is up)

Charlie Days—WA1JFD (2010) chair

Tim Smith—N1TI (2011)

Henry Blanchett—W1GYL (2012)

John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013)

Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds

Dave Dean—K1JGV

Marty Jordan—KA1YFV

Scholarship

Sonny Eddleston—K1USW – chair

Chuck Moszczanski—KB1FRL

Alan Dulong—WB1FQP

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Technical/Repeater/Website

Dave Goldstein—W1DJG: Tech

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Repeater

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Website

Ben Jackson—N1WBV: facebook

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Scott Szala—W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN/RACES

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

QSL Manager

Joe Nery—WA1ESO

Radio Events

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

Tech Talk

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV <editor[at]semara[dot]org>



We will never have to worry about our fire safety. SEMARA secretary Marcel (W1MLD) is a Fire Chief. Doesn't he look grand?

Notice, our fire extinguisher is properly mounted (low enough to the floor to be accessible when crawling on the floor of a smoke filled room). The large arrow aids in finding the extinguisher if the direct view is obscured by people or furniture.

Have you noticed that *ZERO BEAT* has been bristling with 'filler' material lately? One solution to this problem is to have you, the reader, contribute something of interest. Another solution is to have more events worthy of recording in the pages of *ZERO BEAT*, or both. Let's see if we can do something that other members might want to hear about. What did we used to do that we haven't done lately?



MARCEL (W1MLD)



Looking back at the issues from a few years ago, I noticed *Tech Talks*, and other activities (remember the *Fox Hunts*?) that used to provide nice articles.

What have you done lately that can go into *ZERO BEAT*?

POINT TO PONDER

“Being human explains everything, but excuses nothing.”

~Richard A. Perry

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T6B06 How is a semiconductor diode's cathode lead usually identified?

- A. With the word "cathode"
- B. With a stripe
- C. With the letter "C"
- D. All of these choices are correct

* 2014 Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool (good thru 2014-06-30) Answer on page 8.

Club Notes



July marks the official beginning of summer. The kids are out of school and the weather is getting warm – even hot some folks will tell you.

So, what can we do this month? How about cooling off in a public place –with a picnic table as an operating position and a BBQ on the side. This is a great way to get the curious to ask, “What’s ya doin’?” Who knows you might actually recruit a new ham. VE sessions are going all summer!

VE Session Results

The following hams successfully passed exams at the June 5, 2010 VE Session.

- Pedro Aguiar—KB1UHB**, General
- Edward F Gadue—N1XTT**, General
- Robert A Richardson—KB1UJO**, Technician
- Tomas M Tavares—KB1UJN**, Technician
- Michael Thombs—KB1UJP**, Technician

*Congratulations!
Enjoy your new privileges.*

50-50 Winner

According to the Secretary, the winner of the June 50-50 drawing was

Brad (W1BEP)

He took home \$16.50. — *Congratulations!*

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

August 7, 2010

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS

[LRHguy\[at\]earthlink\[dot\]net](mailto:LRHguy[at]earthlink[dot]net)

508-991-6055



Club Numbers

GPS Coordinates:

Lat. N 41° 36.795' Long. W 070° 56.550'

Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: **FN41 mo**

For FISTS Sprints: FISTS #10555

LOCAL NETS

Everyone is welcome to check in!

147.000+ (PL 67.0 Hz) (FM) — “*Camel*” Net **Roundtable** is operating irregularly at 7 p.m. on the SEMARA Repeater, usually on Mondays and Wednesdays.

50.200 MHz (USB) — Net is held *Wednesdays* at 8:30 p.m. **Dick, K1AHA (S. Dartmouth)** is net control.

28.490 MHz (USB) — Net is held *Tuesdays* at 8:30 p.m. **Dick, K1AHA (S. Dartmouth)** is net control.

3862 kHz (LSB) — SEMARA Morning Net is held *weekdays* from 7:30-8 a.m. ET.

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

See <http://www.nerepeaters.com/se.htm>

144 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/2m.htm>)

222 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/222.htm>)

440 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/440.htm>)

902 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/902.htm>)

Sudoku

Here’s an easy Sudoku puzzle to ponder while waiting on net control. (Page 8 has the solution.)

7			4	3			5	1
	1	5	9	6			8	3
	9		5	2				7
		9			3		4	
1	8	4				3	7	2
	5		2			8		
9				5	6		2	
8	2			4	9	6	3	
5	4			1	2			8

Official Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2010



The President and Vice-President were not present so the meeting was called to order by Secretary Marcel (W1MLD) with the salute to the flag. The roll was called with 20 members and 1 guest present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as published in the ZERO BEAT and as posted on the bulletin board. The members voted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer Mike (KB1NB) reported that the total for this month is \$31,408.00. This is after the settlement and all bills paid including the oil spill. A motion was made and seconded to refer the report to audit. The members voted unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE'S

Building and Grounds

Dave (K1JGV) reported that the paint project is about 95% complete except for the scraping and painting of the rake board on the north side. The front door needs to be replaced because it is rotting at the bottom. A small leak in the vent pipe will be taken care of shortly. Dave is requesting \$1250.00 for the plumbing. Motion made to make \$1250.00 available for plumbing, motion seconded and voted unanimously. Some discussion was held on the front door. Decision will be made next month.

Scholarship Committee

No Report.

Technical Committee

No one from Tech Committee was present. Some discussion was held on the computer password situation. Everyone agreed that we should have access to the computer. Also questions were discussed about the 900 repeater and log periodic antenna. There was no one available from the Tech Committee to answer the questions. We now have a G5RV antenna and a 6 meter antenna for temporary use.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) reported that there are many events for the next several months and are listed on the ARRL website. The 19th of June is Kids Day; so bring kids to the club and introduce them to amateur radio. Field day is coming and we need someone to cook for the participants. We also need a QSL manager to handle the electronic QSLs we received.

Repeater

Rick (W1RJC) reported that the old repeater was sold and money turned over to the treasurer.

The 900 repeater is close to being done. Tony (NN1D) will give Rick (W1RJC) the software for the controller.

Website

Rick (W1RJC) has the new website up and running and new links have been added. The login is for the members to be able to interact / communicate on the website. The cameras will also be added to the website.

Old Business

A question was brought up about the equipment stored in the storage trailer. There was a motion to remove the equipment and place it in a safe place. The motion was seconded and members voted unanimously.

There was more discussion on the 80 foot tower and repairing the beam. Should we replace the antenna or repair it? Get the Tech Committee to write up a report on the project. A motion was made and seconded to receive a documented report from the Tech Committee and decide next month what we should do about replacing or repairing the present log periodic antenna and rotor. The motion was voted unanimously.

New Business

A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Joe K (N1OIC) for \$21.39 for pizza bought for the painting party. Voted unanimously.

RACES drill will be on Monday at 7:30 PM. It will be on our repeater.

Sonny (K1USW) discussed the idea of having a course for Technicians. High school students are interested as well as others. Tony (NN1D) is an instructor and could do the class. A motion was made to make the club available for the classes and Tony (NN1D) would teach the class. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn seconded and voted unanimously at 8:08 PM



Respectfully submitted
Marcel (W1MLD)

SEMARA News

Patrick J. Walsh

Patrick J. Walsh, 33, of Westport died Monday, June 21, 2010 at home after a long illness. Born in Fall River, he was the son of John B. (WALSH) and Gladys F.

Walsh of Westport. He was a lifelong resident of Westport.

Patrick was a Red Sox fan and an avid poker player. He is survived by his parents, grandparents and brother and sister.

May he be at peace,



RI SKYWARN Training Sessions July 2010

Saturday July 24th, 2010 1-4 PM:

Kent Hospital

(Doctors Auditorium - East Side of the Complex)
455 Tollgate Road Warwick, RI

Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator

Registration: None required.

Thursday July 29th, 2010 630-930 PM:

Burrillville Police Station (Municipal Court)

1477 Victory Highway
Burrillville, RI

Taught by: NWS Forecasters

Registration: Please RSVP to:

[ema \[at\] burrillville \[dot\] org](mailto:ema@burrillville.org)

New Technician Exam Question Pool

Effective July 1, 2010, questions for the Technician license (Element 2) exam will be taken from the new question pool:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>.

This question pool will be available until 2014.

The current question pool for the General license (Element 3) exam will be available until 2011.

The current question pool for the Extra license (Element 4) exam will be available until 2011.

[Element 1 was the Morse Code exam, no longer required for any license class.]

Clover and Green Grass

You would think we have a farm with the height of the 'hay' field. The picture shows something that looks like clover that's pretty high.



CLOVER (?)

Dave (K1JGV) tells me that this time of year is especially a challenge since everything seems to just grow and grow. Our green carpet needs trimming at least once a week to keep the grounds looking good.

It seems that Buildings and Grounds could use a little help with keeping up with Mother Nature. Would you like to help keep the lawn in front manicured? Do you like to water the flower beds? Any one is welcome to make a positive contribution.

Cheerleaders are encouraged, too.



MOWING IN PROGRESS (?)

More SEMARA News

900 MHz Repeater Updates

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, SEMARA's new 927.8375 repeater was placed on the air. The repeater is a Motorola MSF-5000 with its antenna on top of the 180 foot tower along with the 147.000 repeater. The plan was to add IRLP to the repeater to link it to a growing eastern Massachusetts repeater network known as *New England Amateur Radio 900 (NEAR-900)*.

On Saturday, June 12 2010, Rick (W1RJ) met at 2:00 PM with Jeff (N1ZZN) and Ho (KC1HO) at SEMARA. The crew started at the clubhouse with Jeff programming a few Motorola 900 MHz mobile radios (including one that to be mounted on the wall). Rick reconfigured the underground CAT-5 cable that runs between the clubhouse and repeater site to carry two Ethernet connections. This is necessary so that the 2 meter and 900 MHz repeaters' IRLP can have different Comcast IP addresses.

About an hour later, the crew headed out back to the repeater site. To link the repeater to NEAR-900, an external repeater controller is required. A repeater controller is the brain of a repeater which tells it when to transmit and routes the audio, courtesy tones and IDs accordingly. The repeater's receive and transmit audio along with logic control for the receiver *carrier operated squelch (COS)*, receiver PL decode and transmitter push to talk (PTT) needed to be wired to the controller.



After a few hours work and a trip to Rick's house to pick up some parts, a DB-9 port was added to the repeater. Our brand new repeater controller, the *Arcom RC-210*, is now connected via a shielded patch cable to this port. After adjusting the squelch and audio levels in the controller, the installation was a success! The crew then headed to Texas Roadhouse in Dartmouth for some well deserved food.



The final piece of work in linking the 900 MHz repeater into NEAR-900 occurred later in the week by Rick. A patch cable needed to be modified to allow the new IRLP computer to be connected to the repeater controller. The computer was tested to make sure that it can acquire a separate IP address

from the cable modem (a router will be added later). Audio levels for the node needed to be adjusted via the repeater controller as well.

900 MHz Repeater Now Linked!

The wait is finally over! I am happy to report that as of Saturday, June 26, 2010, at approximately 4:30 AM (after spending hours at the site), SEMARA's 927.8375 repeater is now linked full-time to the *New England Amateur Radio 900 MHz (NEAR-900) network*. Larry (W1DBX) stayed up all night to witness the moment when the link was activated and made the first transmission over the network.



I again must thank everyone that helped me make this happen, including Ho (KC1HO) and Jeff (N1ZZN). They came down on two prior occasions to help wire up the repeater controller and make changes to the PL tone and Hear Clear settings. [I still owe them a nice big meal at Wright's Farm!] In the upcoming weeks we will be finishing up some minor work, including permanently mounting the repeater controller inside of the repeater rack and adjusting the repeater deviation.

Some of the other 900 MHz repeaters that you can expect to be linked in full-time with us include Boston, Hingham, Marlborough, Marshfield, Salem and Wrentham. You can always check to see who is currently connected to the network in real time by visiting the *IRLP Status Page* for the New England Reflector. Channel 5 (9125) is the NEAR-900 channel and all stations listed under this channel are linked together.

Changes to the 900 MHz Repeater

SEMARA's 927.8375 repeater has changed from DCS (DPL) to CTCSS (PL) access. The new tone is 67.0 Hz. Motorola Hear Clear technology has also been disabled. These changes were made to facilitate the upcoming linking and to fix a problem in which the repeater would falsely key-up on random noise on the input.

Please note that these same changes have also been applied to the "Dartmouth North" SCMARG

(Continued on page 7)

More SEMARA News

(Continued from page 6)

repeater on 927.6500. A big “thank you” goes to Ho (KC1HO) and Jeff (N1ZZN) for once again donating their time to assist.

A radio programming party may be scheduled in the near future so that local users can have their Motorola mobile and handhelds reprogrammed.

de Rick (W1RJG)

SEMARA Repeater Committee Chairman



ARRL June VHF QSO Party June 12 - 14 – Rover

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party ran from 1800 UTC Saturday and ended 0300 UTC Monday (June 12-14, 2010). The object is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees by 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only.

SEMARA member Rich (W2RG) operated this event. He encouraged other members to join him and wrote,

“I have equipment for 50, 144, 432, 903, 1296, 3456, 5760, and 10368 MHz (i.e., 10 GHz) that I will take in my van and operate at two or three beautiful sites around SE Massachusetts.

I have permission to operate next to the *Race Point Ranger Station* near Provincetown (a *gorgeous* site, FN42). I also expect to work from the *Marconi Beach* parking lot (FN51) near Wellfleet and from the *Fairhaven Town Beach* parking lot (FN41) on West Island. These sites should each offer great opportunities for VHF & up rover contacts up and down the east coast.

I'd like to invite one other Ham to join me for either Saturday or Sunday. You could ride with me in the van or take your own vehicle as you please.

You can respond by return email or phone me at 508-999-0834 to ask questions or make arrangements.”

[ZERO BEAT would appreciate a report from any and all who participated in the VHF QSO Party—especially Rich (W2RG). A partial report follows.]

VHF QSO Party

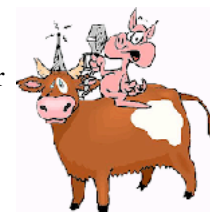
Following dinner on Saturday, June 12 2010, Jeff (N1ZZN) and Rick (W1RJG) headed back to SEMARA. The Kenwood TS-570 HF/6m radio was fired up to check out this weekend's VHF QSO Party.



There was a fairly decent 6 meter E-skip opening which allowed Jeff to log at least five contacts in the SEMARA logbook. Most of the stations were from 4 land including Florida and Kentucky.

Public Service Events Volunteers Requested

The *Ham Radio Communications on Wheels (HAMCOW)* is a locally run mobile communications center which is deployed for road races, amateur radio contests, field day, public safety and public service events.



The HAMCOW crew is actively looking for volunteers to assist with communications on several upcoming local events. If you would like more information or are interested in helping out, you may contact them directly - [hamcow \[at\] qsl \[dot\] net](mailto:hamcow[at]qsl[dot]net).

Upcoming Events

- 7/24 - New Bedford: Whaling City Triathlon
- 8/28 - Lakeville: Cranberry Tri-Fest
- 9/26 - Dartmouth: Buzzards Bay Triathlon

SEMARA Computer Access

The Technical Committee has decided that we will use call signs and a password (password cannot be your call sign) to gain access to the SEMARA computers. If you would like access, please send an email with your username and password to [computer \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:computer[at]semara[dot]org).

This is for computer and internet use only. You are responsible for any content that passes through the SEMARA network. There is zero tolerance for anyone abusing the SEMARA PC Code of Conduct, posted next to the computer. This does not allow you to install programs. If you need a program installed, contact the Technical Committee.

Some Contests

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Canada Day Contest

Jul 1, 0000Z - Jul 1, 2359Z *Phone-CW*
www.rac.ca/service/contesting

070 Club Firecracker PSK31 Sprint

Jul 3, 8 PM - Jul 4, 2 AM *Digital*
www.podxs070.com

MI QRP July 4th Sprint

Jul 4, 2300Z - Jul 5, 0300Z *CW*
www.miqrp.org

FISTS Summer Sprint

Jul 9, 2000 EDT - Jul 9, 2400 EDT *CW*
www.fists.org

Straight Key Weekend Sprint

Jul 11, 0000Z - Jul 11, 2359Z *CW*
www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes

CQ WW VHF Contest

Jul 17, 1800Z - Jul 18, 2100Z *All-Modes*
www.cqww-vhf.com

IOTA Contest

Jul 24, 1200Z - Jul 25, 1200Z *Phone-CW*
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/riota.shtml

Flight of the Bumblebees

Jul 25, 1700Z - Jul 25, 2100Z *CW*
adventure-radio.org/wiki

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

How is a semiconductor diode's cathode lead usually identified? B. With a stripe. Since these are so small, the most reliable way to mark the cathode lead is to put a stripe around the diode body.

Answer: Sudoku ⁶¹

8	9	7	2	1	3	9	4	5
5	3	9	6	4	7	1	2	8
4	2	1	9	5	8	7	3	6
9	1	8	4	7	2	3	5	6
2	7	3	5	6	9	4	8	1
6	4	5	3	8	1	9	7	2
7	6	4	1	2	5	8	9	3
3	8	2	7	9	6	5	1	4
1	5	9	8	3	4	2	6	7

Fairhaven Weather Net

Fairhaven Repeater Weather Net will now be running on the SEMARA repeater 147.000+ (67.0 Hz) on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM.

Come join in.



Coming FLEAS & FESTS

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

- Jul 18 Cambridge, MA — FLEA at MIT
 Nick www.swapfest.us 617-253-3776
- Jul 25 N. Haven, CT — Yankee Peddler Hamfest
 John yankeehamfest.com 203-440-4468

VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.
<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

- SEMARA – 10:30AM** Aug 7th
 Larry Houbre-AA1FS
[LRHguy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)
 508-991-6055
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00AM** July 10th
 W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)
 508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00PM** July 8th
 Louis Mester-W1CH
[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH@arrl.net)
 401-263-6045

ALL-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING

7 PM First Thursday of the month

SUNDAY RAGCHEW

7-11 AM SUN

MOST-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM FRIDAYS
 Meet at the clubhouse at 11:15 AM