



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 1

SEMARA W1AEC

January 2003

## CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD DECEMBER 12TH

Forty-five members and guests gathered at the Century House in Acushnet for the annual SEMARA Christmas Party. Cheese, fruit, and crackers were available for the early arrivals.

As usual, a super-deluxe buffet with Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Baked Ham, Baked Chicken Breasts and similar items was enjoyed by all. Chicken with Rice soup was served before the buffet, and Chocolate Mousse after the meal. Hard as it is to believe, there actually were left over baked stuffed shrimp! Everyone commented on the quality of the meal.

John Braz, N1IQU, and his wife, along with Larry Lygren's wife, spiced up the evening with John sporting a Santa Claus hat, and the gals flashing their red noses ala "Rudolph" the red nosed reindeer. I think they stole a page from Joan Blanchett's book, as Joan usually has a costume on in keeping with the season.

Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA, conducted the gift exchange. As members and guests arrived they were given a ticket for each gift they placed on the gift table. Following the meal, Dick called out the numbers in order and the matching ticket holder got the pick of the table. The earlier you arrived, the bigger your selection of gifts. Once again, scratch tickets were a popular gift item. One member refused to scratch the tickets he got for fear the person that bought them would expect a "cut." Thanks, Dick!

Scott Szala, W1EV, did a great job setting up the arrangements for the party with the Century House staff. Thanks, Scott!



JOHN, N1IQU, AND "ELVES"



WAITING FOR THE BUFFET

# ZERO BEAT

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

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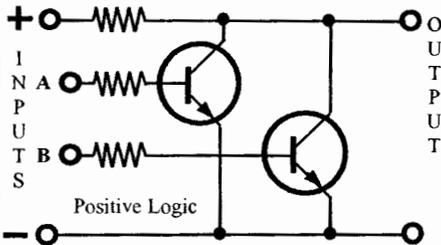
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**Non-commercial ads** up to forty words in length will be accepted. Rate is \$3.00 for one or \$12.00 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 THE DEADLINE FOR  
 SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR  
 PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH  
 OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) AND Gate
- 2.) NAND Gate
- 3.) OR Gate
- 4.) NOR Gate
- 5.) EXCLUSIVE OR Gate

ANSWER - See page 7

# 2003 SEMARA ELECTION RESULTS

At the December business meeting, the members listed below won election to the respective offices. Only two offices were contested with more than one candidate, the Vice President and Board of Directors seats.

**Carl Bredberg, K1KID**, edged out **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**, by one vote for the Vice President's position.

**Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**, and **Bill Vincent, WIPOW**, got a seat on the first ballot in The Board of Directors vote. There was a two-way tie between **Al Dulong, WB1FQP**, and **Marty Jordan, KA1YFV**, for the third seat on the board. A run-off election was held and it ended in a 7 to 7 tie! A second run-off election was then conducted with Marty Jordan getting the nod from the members. (One smart member made sure there would be no tie by casting a blank ballot! It's a good thing another member didn't try the same ploy...)

This election was the first in the member's memory where it took three ballots to fill a position. It's refreshing to see so many members campaigning for elected office. Many years ago it was a virtual railroad job to get the offices filled!

## SEMARA 2003 OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT -** Ray Arruda, KB1EVX
- VICE PRESIDENT -** Carl Bredberg, K1KID
- SECRETARY -** Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
- TREASURER -** Scott Szala, W1EV
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS -**
- Marty Jordan, KA1YFV  
 Andy Reuter, WA1FNM  
 Bill Vincent, WIPOW
- TRUSTEE -** Bill Miller, K1IBR

# 2003 SEMARA OFFICERS

**President**  
 Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX

**Vice President**  
 Carl Bredberg, K1KID

**Secretary**  
 Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

**Treasurer**  
 Scott Szala, W1EV

**Trustees:**

William Vincent, WIPOW - Chairman  
 Edward Blouin, KA1AW    Norman Riley, W1ATI  
 Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM    William Miller, K1IBR

**Board of Directors:**

Martin Jordan, KA1YFV  
 Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM  
 Bill Vincent, WIPOW

# MEETING MINUTES

The December business meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Fourteen members and one guest were present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds - None.

Technical - Still waiting for 2 meter antenna to be installed by NETCOM.

Scholarship - None.

Internet - None

Communications - **Wayne Green, W2NSD**, sent a Thank You note in appreciation of our having him give the club a Tech-Talk.

Ratifications - Two new members were voted into the club. See "CLUB NOTES" for the list of new members voted into the association. (Page 4)

President's Comments - President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, thanked everyone that helped make the club a success in the last year. He also thanked **Sam Wagstaff, N1PGN**, for his donation of radio parts to the club. Ray noted that club member **Philip Choate, N1GLC**, is in the Falmouth Hospital. He thanked the crew that cleaned up the Quonset hut and radio room. Ray noted that club member **Joe Rodriques, N1BZZ**, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. He also noted that directions for turning the club computer "on" and "off" are posted on the front of the computer. Ray noted we saved over \$100 by getting a new insurance underwriter for the club. He also noted that 73 magazine published a small article from our club newsletter ZERO BEAT about the inventor of television. Finally, Ray thanked all the officers and members for supporting him during the last year. He also thanked those members that work "behind the scenes" to make the club a success.

Old Business - None

New Business - Three motions were approved:

- 1.) Buy more bumper stickers for the club.
- 2.) Auction off surplus club equipment after the meeting tonight.
- 3.) Pay \$255 for driveway repair material.

Election Of Officers - The following members were elected to officer for the year 2003:

PRESIDENT

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX

VICE PRESIDENT

Carl Bredberg, K1KID

SECRETARY

Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

TREASURER

Scott Szala, W1EV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marty Jordan, KA1YFV

Andy Reuter, WA1FNM

Bill Vincent, W1POW

TRUSTEE

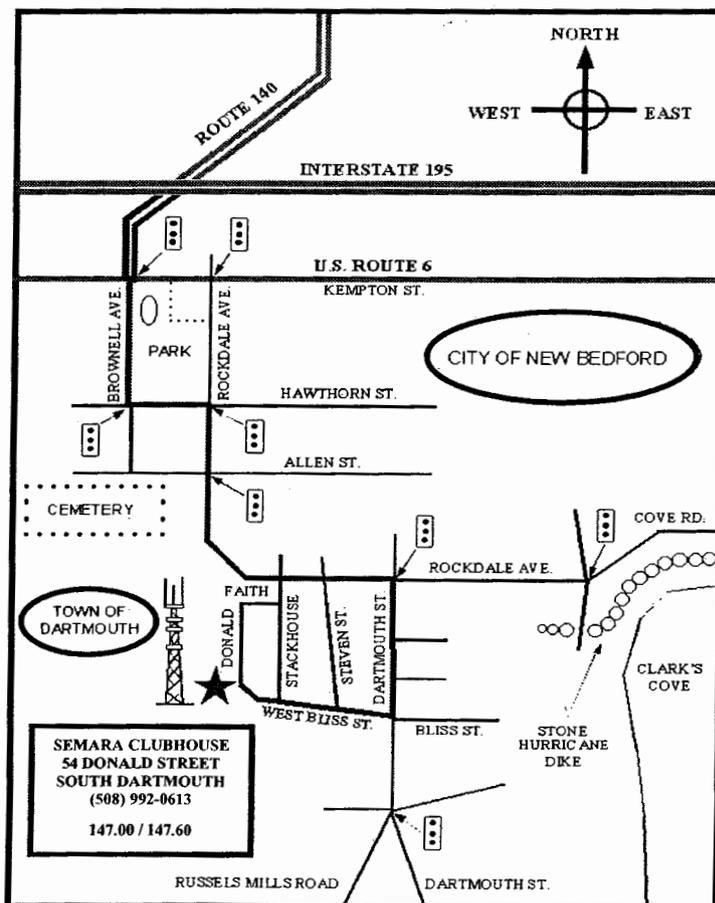
Bill Miller, K1IBR

*For the good of the club* - Nothing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Following the meeting a small auction was held and the club made \$21.00 profit.

## DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





# CLUB NOTES

**A** New Year is upon us! After recovering from New Year's day on the first, plan to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day on the twentieth. Here's wishing your New Year's day wish comes true!



**T**wo applicants were voted life members of the club during the December 5th business meeting:

- Wayne Braley, N1LZY**
  - Robert Manchester, KB1JBC**
- Welcome to the club!



**Jim Aguiar** is now ex-W1OBJ. Jim has a new call - **AF1Q**. Some may find it tough getting used to his new call as he was W1OBJ for well over 40 years! *Congratulations on your new call, Jim.*

**W1OBJ  
IS NOW  
AF1Q**

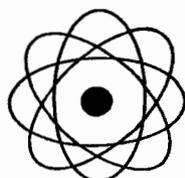
**Joe Rodriques, N1BZZ**, is home recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Joe is on a therapy routine and is progressing fine. We wish Joe a speedy recovery and hope to have an "eyeball" QSO with him at the club soon.



**Bob Ambroult, N1VUG**, whipped up a pot of chili for the December 8th Sunday morning coffee hour. It was GREAT! Bob said he used ground linguica instead of the usual ground beef that he normally makes the chili with. Several members made chili dogs with it since the hot dog steamer was going full blast that morning. *Thanks Bob, for the surprise treat.*



**O**ne electron said to another, "Boy, do I get a charge out of you!" The second one replied, "You're really quite electrifying yourself!" A third electron chimed in, "My head is spinning..."



## IRLP COMING TO CLUB SITE

**R**ick Cabral, W1RJC, is setting up an IRLP node on his 440 repeater at the club. The cable Internet connection is already wired into the clubhouse and a router will connect the club's computer and the IRLP system onto the Internet. The IRLP system should be up and running in a month or so. Stay tuned!

**A** truckload of driveway fill was dumped behind the barbecue pit in back of the clubhouse. In the coming weeks it will be used to fill in "potholes" and crown the driveway to cause rain to drain off it. Members should feel free to fill in any pothole they find about the club with the fill.



**T**he club now has cable TV! It actually is cheaper to get a data line into the club with cable TV service than to only have a datalink for the computer and IRLP system! Originally we had only a datalink, yet by ordering cable TV too our bill *decreased* by \$7 a month! UNBELIEVABLE!

IT'S HOWDY DOODY TIME,  
IT'S HOWDY DOODY TIME...



**A**re you a real early riser? If so, join **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, and **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**, for breakfast. They chow down every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 5 AM at the "Golden Greek" restaurant on the corner of Coggs Hall Street and Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford. One member has "threatened" to join them with a surprise visit, but to date the threat has been an idle one.



# IRLP COMES TO THE NEW BEDFORD AREA!

Club member **Larry Lygren, W1DBX**, has installed a simplex mode IRLP node at his home in the north end of New Bedford, near Baylies Square. Larry put the system together using a Yaesu FT-2600M 2 meter transceiver running 60 watts into a Diamond X500NA antenna. He also thanks the Saint Joseph / Saint Theresa School of New Bedford for donating the computer used to operate the link. Larry has graciously opened the system to all hams. It is an "open" system free for all hams to use.

IRLP stands for Internet Radio Linking Project, and work on the system was started in November 1997. The original system was designed to link amateur radio stations across Canada, with the first link connecting Vancouver, BC on the west coast to Saint John, NB on the east coast. The original system was plagued with problems and was shut down in March 1998 for a redesign.

As part of the redesign, the Windows operating system was replaced with Linux because of its superb networking characteristics and robust fail-safe design. This new system has proven itself and IRLP has expanded from a cross-Canada system into a world-wide system!

First time users of IRLP should download and read the "IRLP Introduction" and "IRLP FAQ" pages on the IRLP site listed below under resources. A full list of all nodes on the system is also available on the site. Also available is a list of nodes currently on-line and either idle or in use, as well as network summaries and other neat information.

IRLP is a world-wide system that allows you to talk to fellow hams in many foreign countries. For example, you can actually talk to a mobile station in New Zealand using your handheld! Another feature is the use of *reflectors* that allow several nodes to be tied together. This permits several nodes to talk to each other over the same link. For example, hams in several states could engage in a multi-way QSO with hams in Japan and Germany - a world-wide roundtable, if you please. Try out IRLP - you will love it!

**INTERNET IRLP RESOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.IRLP.NET](http://www.irlp.net)**

## W1DBX IRLP NODE 4617 OPERATING DETAILS

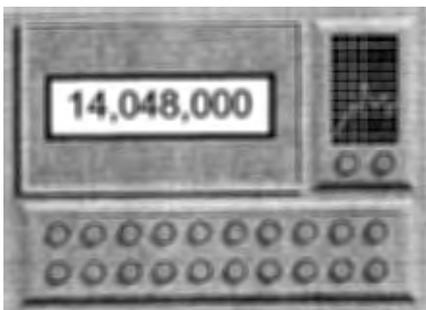
- 1.) The node (#4617) operates on **147.550** simplex, and is open for all hams to use.
- 2.) The PL frequency used is **88.5** hertz.
- 3.) To activate the IRLP system:
  - a.) Identify yourself by call.
  - b.) Announce that you are engaging the IRLP system.
  - c.) Enter the four digit node number of the system you want to connect to.
  - d.) A voice announcement will confirm your connection.
- 4.) There is **NO COURTESY TONE**, so always wait a few seconds before transmitting to allow the IRLP system to transfer from receive to transmit.
- 5.) To turn the IRLP system OFF:
  - a.) Identify yourself by call.
  - b.) Announce that you are disengaging the IRLP system.
  - c.) Enter "73" on your keypad.
  - d.) A voice announcement will confirm the termination of the connection.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** When using the IRLP system, always pause about 2 seconds *AFTER* keying your transmitter *BEFORE* talking or sending tones. This gives the IRLP system time to "setup." Tones or talk sent too soon or too fast will not be recognized.

## Most Come Very Close in Resurrected W1AW Frequency Measurement Test

The first ARRL Frequency Measuring Test in two decades officially wrapped up with 122 submissions to W1AW by the December 6 deadline. Most reports were sent in by US amateurs, although a couple came in from Canada and Great Britain. Final results for the test, held November 7, still are being compiled.

"We're going to send out letters with the results prior to Christmas to everyone who participated," said W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. "At least 98 percent of the reports came within 20 to 30 Hz, and quite a number of stations were within 1 Hz." One station was off just 0.3 Hz from perfection.



A number of event participants employed a computer and sound card software for spectral analysis and seemed to put a lot of work into their reports, Carcia said. The FMT began with a general Morse code "QST" from W1AW on four frequencies, followed by 20 seconds of carrier, a series of CW dits, and a station ID. The test concluded with a series of Vs and another station ID on the approximate frequencies of 3580, 7047, 14,048 and 21,068 kHz.

The transmitters used were W1AW's Harris RF-3200 exciters with Harris RF-3220 solid-state amplifiers. Antennas included an 80-meter cage dipole at 60 feet; phased 40-meter Yagis at 65 and 130 feet; phased 20-meter Yagis at 35 and 70 feet; and phased 15-meter Yagis at 45 and 90 feet. All antennas are part of the regular W1AW antenna farm.

"The primary reason we ran the FMT was to give the opportunity for hams to have the experience of learning how to make frequency measurements and gain some general knowledge," Carcia said.

Carcia said many participants reported that they enjoyed the challenge and were looking forward to future frequency measurement tests. "We'll probably have another test in 2003 and possibly a tone measurement test," Carcia added.

More information and background on the 2002 FMT is available on the ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests - Supplement page on the ARRL Web site. An article, "The ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests," by Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, appeared in the October issue of *QST*.

*(Article courtesy the ARRL web site, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org))*

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

January 4, 2003  
10:30 am  
SEMARA Clubhouse

## JANUARY VE SESSIONS

- 09 Providence, RI  
Judy Nelson  
401-231-9156
- 11 Falmouth, MA  
Joanne Reid  
508-548-1121
- 13 Brookline, MA  
Mike Ardai  
781-321-7939
- 18 Marlborough, MA  
Bill Wade  
617-699-3670

## POINT TO PONDER

*"The greatest dangers to Liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding."*

*Justice Louis Brandeis (1928)*

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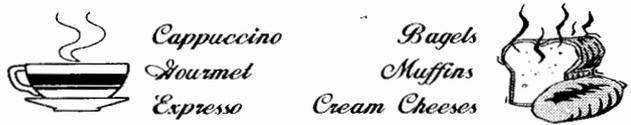


BERNIE PEABODY N1IMO  
DICK WILBORG W1ZC

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**SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR**

<p><b>JANUARY 2003</b></p> <p>2 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm. 4 - VE Session, 10:30 am. 9 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm. 16 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Getting Amateur Radio Support for Red Cross in Disasters" 23 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm. 30 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 2003</b></p> <p>1 - VE Session, 10:30 am. 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm. 13 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm. 20 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "MW DXing" by Ray Arruda, KB1EVX 27 - Ragchewing, 6:30 pm.</p>
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Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

# SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

—Sunday—  
8 am 28.700

—Daily—  
7 pm 146.550

—Monday to Friday—  
7:30 am 3.872 MHz

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

FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET  
8 p.m. Monday - Friday 145.49

# 2003 FLEAMARKETS

March 15 - Pomfret, CT  
April 6 - Southington, CT  
April 20 - MIT  
May 18 - MIT  
June 15 - MIT

## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location	Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>144</b>				<b>440</b>			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	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
146.805	136.5	K1RFI	Fall River	443.500+	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC	Dartmouth
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
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# SEMARA

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