



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 8

SEMARA W1AEC

August 2003

## FIELD DAY A FUN DAY!

**F**ield Day 2003 was an enjoyable event at the SEMARA clubhouse. The new antenna system atop the 80 foot tower was online and did a stellar job as members worked station after station with ease.

Prior to the start of the event, a big cookout was held. In addition to hot dogs and hamburgers, freedom fries and onion rings were freshly cut and fried. A beer batter was used on the onion rings which disappeared as fast as they were fried! However, the "star" of the cookout was the chili made by **Bob Ambroult, N1VUG**. It's the BEST!!! Bob also brought kielbasa cooked in a maple syrup sauce and a salad with skewers of boiled eggs, ham, roast beef, etc. Honorable mention in the food department goes to **Arlene Arruda**; her fig squares were pure ambrosia...

Immediately following lunch, the members

focused on Field Day operations. Page after page of contacts were racked up as the operators took command of 20 meters. Members worked one hour shifts at the radio.

To a tee, all the members that worked so hard to make the new 80 foot tower and SOMMERS log-yagi beam a reality were smiling ear to ear as station after station reported S9+ signals or simply commented "nice signal."

**Mike Neilson, W1MPN**, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Emergency Coordinator paid the club a visit during Field Day and took several pictures of our new tower and antenna. It's nice to have such committed ARRL representatives visit the club!

All in all, Field Day was a fun filled event this year. If you missed this one, you missed a good one. See you next year?



**Rob Macedo, KD1CY**,  
and **Scott Szala, W1EV**, operate Scott's 756-PRO as they knock off a bevy of stations using the new antenna system.



# ZERO BEAT

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

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### EDITOR

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR  
Phone: (508) 996-2969  
E-Mail: EDITOR@SEMARA.ORG

\*\*\*\*\*

### ADVERTISING

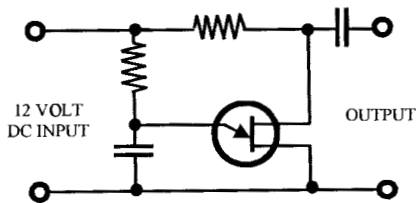
**Commercial ads** the size of a business card will be accepted. Rates are \$5.00 for one insertion, \$20.00 for six insertions, and \$35.00 for twelve insertions.

**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.

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1.) Crowbar Circuit
- 2.) Field Strength Meter
- 3.) Missing Pulse Detector
- 4.) Unijunction Pulser
- 5.) Microphone Amplifier

ANSWER - See page 7

# MY LAST ISSUE

Seven years ago (boy does time fly!) in September 1996 I once again took the reigns as editor of ZERO BEAT for the third time in my 45 years of club membership. This August issue completes seven years as editor on the current watch. Once again, the time has come for change. This issue is the last I will edit.

Through the years each editor brought refreshing new ideas and change to the format of the club's newsletter. It is my fervent hope that the new editor will follow suit and enhance the image of the newsletter. I look forward to the changes the future will bring.

At this juncture, I urge all members to support the new editor by keeping him abreast of all the "happenings" in the club. Editors aren't mind readers, nor do they have a crystal ball next to the keyboard. So E-mail the new editor any news or tidbits of information that you feel warrant inclusion in the next issue. Editors dream of this stuff. Make it happen!

Bill Miller, K1IBR

# MEET THE NEW EDITOR

Bob Kelley, K1KVV, is the new editor of ZERO BEAT. Bob was first licensed in 1959 and also held amateur calls WA6KQA and FØGIF (France.)

Bob lives in Mattapoisett (Crescent Beach) and recently retired from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, where he taught courses in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision, and Microprocessor Systems. He did research in robotics, automation, and visual inspection/guidance.

Bob is Web Manager of his church's district website, as well as Administrator of the district's Board of Directors E-Mail list.

When relaxing, his hobbies include wire antenna research/design and computer games.



## 2003 SEMARA OFFICERS

**President**  
Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX

**Vice President**  
Carl Bredberg, K1KID

**Secretary**  
Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

**Treasurer**  
Scott Szala, W1EV

### Trustees:

William Vincent, W1POW - Chairman  
Edward Blouin, KA1AW    Norman Riley, W1ATI  
Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM    William Miller, K1IBR

### Board of Directors:

Martin Jordan, KA1YFV  
Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM  
Bill Vincent, W1POW

# MEETING MINUTES

The July business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Forty-Four 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 – No Report.

Technical – No Report.

Activities - There is a possibility that the club might hold a lobster boil if the price of lobsters goes a bit lower.

Scholarship - No report.

Fleamarket - Chairman Dick Simpkin, WAICRA, plans to hold a planning meeting.

ARES Coordinator - Rob Macedo, KD1CY, announced an ARES workshop on August 9th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. There will be a chicken barbeque at noon for only those in attendance at the training session..

Communications - Carl Bredberg, K1KID, mentioned that all items received are posted on the club bulletin board.

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

President's Comments - President **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, thanked all the members that helped complete the 80 foot radio tower. Ray reported that Tim Smith's, N1TI, wife is recovering well following her recent surgery. Sam Wagstaff, N1PGN, is in the Oakes Nursing Home. Ray thanked all that participated in Field Day and made a special note of the great chili that Bob Ambroult, N1VUG, brought to the event. A member in the hall also made note of the tasty raisin squares made by Ray's wife.

Old Business - None.

New Business -

1) A motion to purchase a new Radio Shack ten meter radio from Carl Bredberg, K1KID, for use as an additional Fleamarket door prize was passed.

2) A motion to permit smoking in the Quonset hut storage area was passed.

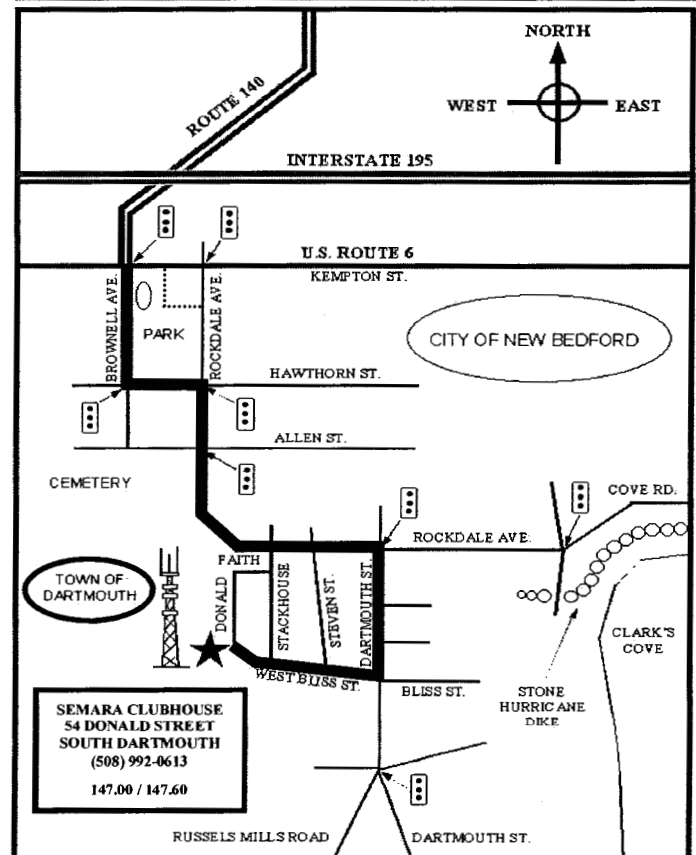
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

## WA1FYF TURNS 80!!!



Bill Field, WA1FYF, (left) accepting a birthday cake from President Ray Arruda, KB1EVX, on Sunday morning, July 13, 2003.

## DIRECTIONS TO CLUB



# CLUB NOTES

August is the month to hit the beaches or the pool. Hot and humid weather is usually on tap. August is also the month with no major holidays. Head for the beaches! Get your tan...



Two applicants were voted life members of the club during the July 3rd business meeting:

**Charles B. Pear III, K1GMT**

**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**

*Welcome to the club!*



**CALL CHANGES**

### MEMBER CALL CHANGES:

Art E. Irwin was W1TGA and is now W1AEL.

Chris Washburn was KB1JYE and is now W1EAV.



A big "THANK YOU" goes out to Marty Jordan, KA1YFV, for his donation of two huge insulators for use on the 80 meter dipole at the club.

Members are notified that the SEMARA 2 meter nightly net at 7 p.m. now meets on the club repeater. Operation on the simplex frequency was difficult for some stations because of poor locations or lack of a good antenna. Now everyone can be heard well!

**SEMARA NET**

Bill Vincent, W1POW, suffered a heart attack in late July. On the last weekend of July he underwent triple bypass surgery in Boston. We wish him a successful operation and a speedy recovery.



Andy Reuter, WA1FNM, is home recovering from a hernia operation in late July. We wish him a speedy recovery.

## FRANK S. GADOMSKI, KA1ZDT, SK

Long time member Frank Gadomski, KA1ZDT, of New Bedford, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 1st at Saint Luke's Hospital. Frank was 92 years old. (Frank's son Len, WA1CNO, is also a club member.)

*Rest in Peace, Frank.*



## MANUEL J. CABRAL, NI1VK, SK

Member Manuel Cabral, NI1VK, of New Bedford, died in Boston following a short illness at age 64. Manny was a 440 fan. (Manuel's brother Richard, N1RF1, and nephew Rick, W1RJC, are also club members.)

*Rest in Peace, Manuel.*



## MILTON V. FRANCIS, K1BOC, SK

Member Milton Francis, K1BOC, of Dartmouth, died on Monday, July 7, 2003, at age 89. Milt was a teacher at Keith Junior High for 25 years, and started a radio club at the school in the 1960s. Milt's pleasant demeanor will be missed.

*Rest in Peace, Milton.*



## TWIN LOBSTER BOIL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 12 NOON @ SEMARA CLUBHOUSE

TICKETS \$10 PER PERSON

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 50  
RESERVATIONS AT THE CLUBHOUSE  
STRICTLY LIMITED TO 50

**SOLD OUT**

# NEW ANTENNA GOES ONLINE!



**A**fter many months of hard work by several club members, the new antenna and tower was put online. On Friday evening, June 27th, the first contact was made by **Scott Szala, W1EV**, when the island of Crete was worked with a 5X9+ reported. Then **Joe Frois, W1VRP**, worked Brazil with a 5X9 report, after which it was realized the station was being worked off the side of the beam! After turning the beam to the south the same station reported 20 dB over S9! The third station worked was a maritime mobile off the coast of New Zealand - another 5X9+ report.

The next two days the system was put to the test on Field Day. When "CQ Field Day from W1AEC" was called, a pileup ensued! On the flip side of the coin, calling a station that a pileup was trying to work found us getting acknowledged on the first attempt 9 out of 10 times. And that was using a 100 watt transmitter! The linear was not used at all - you didn't need it.

Pictured above are the tower with the SOMMERS log-yagi antenna and one of the two 20 foot ROHN 25 towers used to support the four hardline coaxial cables and rotor control cable. They go from the tower to the radio shack. All fittings on the cable support system are stainless steel for long term durability.

The antenna and tower system is thoroughly grounded with all connections made with Cadweld. No compression fittings are used. All ground rods are 5/8 copper clad steel. Seven Polyphasor bulkhead lightning arrestors are mounted on a ground panel in the wall of the radio room. All antennas terminate outside the shack on a Polyphasor. All rigs in the radio room have coaxial cables that permit rapid selection of the antenna system desired. NOTICE - Members should verify that no cables are connected to the Polyphasors on the ground panel when terminating an operating session in the radio room.

# ARES TRAINING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2003 9 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.  
SEMARA CLUBHOUSE 54 DONALD STREET  
SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA

This Emergency Communications Workshop training will include an overview of ICS, net operations, NTS message handling, GO kits, and several interactive exercises on field operations. A two hour lunch break for a Chicken Barbecue with CERMARC members in attendance shall be held.

**PREREGISTRATION is required!** For further information or to pre-register, contact by E-Mail either:

Tony Duarte, N1XRS, at [TDDuarte@concast.net](mailto:TDDuarte@concast.net)

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, at [rmacedo@rcn.com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com)

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

August 2, 2003  
10:30 am  
SEMARA Clubhouse

## AUGUST VE SESSIONS

- 09 Falmouth, MA  
Ben Fleck  
508-540-2583
- 11 Brookline, MA  
Mike Ar dai  
781-321-7939
- 14 Providence, RI  
Judy Nelson  
401-231-9156
- 23 Danvers, MA  
Neil Henden  
978-777-1608



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Carl Bredberg, K1KID  
[cbredberg@comcast.net](mailto:cbredberg@comcast.net)  
508-291-4906

## CLUB LAPEL PINS FOR SALE



Club member Bill Field, WA1FYF, has privately made lapel pins for use by club members. He is selling them for \$1 each on a direct sale, or \$3 each by mail. If interested in getting one, contact:

Bill Field, WA1FYF  
774 County St.  
New Bedford, MA  
02747

## POINT TO PONDER


*"The love of Liberty  
is the love of others;  
the love of power  
is the love of ourselves."*

*William Hazlitt  
(1778 - 1830)*



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**SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR**

<p><b>AUGUST 2003</b></p> <p>2 - VE Session, 10:30 am.</p> <p>7 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm.</p> <p>9 - ARES TRAINING (See page 6 for details)</p> <p>16 - Lobster Boil @ 12 noon in clubhouse</p> <p>14 - Ragchewing @ clubhouse, 6:30 pm.</p> <p>21 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Wireless Computer Networking" by Tim Smith, N1TI</p> <p>28 - ZERO BEAT folding party, 6:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2003</b></p> <p>4 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm.</p> <p>11 - Ragchewing @ clubhouse, 6:30 pm.</p> <p>14 - SEMARA HAMFEST! 7 AM TO NOON</p> <p>18 - Tech-Talk, 7 pm, "Echo Link" by Tony Duarte, N1XRS</p> <p>25 - ZERO BEAT folding party, 6:30 p.m.</p>
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Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday Morning 7 - 11 am. Drop by and ragchew!

# SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

Sunday - 8 am 28.700  
Daily - 7 pm 147.00/.60

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

SEMARA SWAP NET Every Monday at 7:30 pm on 147.00/.60

# 2003 FLEAMARKETS

August 7 - MIT

September 14 - SEMARA!!!

September 20 - Forestdale, RI

September 21 - MIT

Oct 3,4 - HOSSTRADERS

## 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
146.685 -		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	W1RJC	Dartmouth
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater	444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
				447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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