



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 10

SEMARA W1AEC

October 2003

## FLEAMARKET A SUCCESS

In spite of the threat of rain, the day dawned bright and sunny on September 14, without a cloud in the sky! Although the number of vendors at the event was down from previous years, the income that was generated was comparable to previous years.

The club sales table was the center of attraction as the number of donations this year was awesome.

**Bob Ambroult, N1VUG**, made a huge pot of his famous mild chili. An added treat was provided by **Ken Raposa, K1NSX**, who sold ice cream specialties from a small truck he brought to the event. He even played music as is typical for an ice cream vendor. Everyone felt like a child again!

The club food tent was going full blast with hot dogs, burgers, and the like. Chefs **Ed Blouin, KA1AW**, and **Arlene Arruda, KB1KGG**, did a bang-up job on the grill.

The event ended with the traditional drawing of door prizes at 12 noon.



Vendor's Goodies Table

A big thank you goes to the following people for their help and support.

Parking Coordinator:

**Ron Silva, KB1HGA**

"Talk-in" Radio Operator:

**Pete Ryder, KB1GPL**

Ticket Sellers: **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**

**Al Dulong, WB1FQP**

**Chris Washburn, W1AEV**

"Name Your Price" Tables Supervisor:

**Chuck Moszinski, KB1FRL**

Club Table Sellers: **Ed Duclos, WA1ZCB**

**Carl Bredberg, K1KID**

Set-up and Clean-up:

**Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**

**Al Dulong, WB1FQP**

**Bill Miller, K1IBR**

**Ken Perreault, N1KP**

**Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**

Staff Photographers:

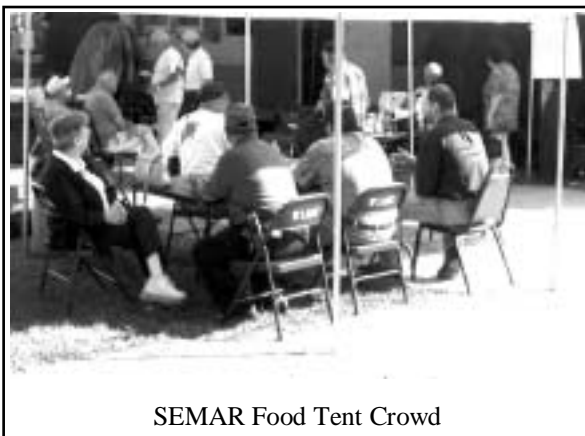
**Armand Augustine, W1BUG**

**Tim Smith, N1TI**

And finally, but never least,

Fleamarket Chairman and Coordinator:

**Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA**



SEMAR Food Tent Crowd

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

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\*\*\*\*\*

**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 15<sup>TH</sup>  
 OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

## HAMMING AROUND

**E1E07\* What is the term used to describe the operation of an amateur station that is more than 50 km above the earth's surface?**

- A. EME station operation
- B. Space station operation
- C. Downlink station operation
- D. Ionospheric station operation

**ANSWER - See page 7**

\* From the Amateur Extra Class (Element 4B) Question Pool

# IT SEEMS TO ME ...

What do *you* have to say about this? Let the FCC know how *you* feel about these Rule Making (RM) proposals.

*The following is abstracted from ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 35 (09-05-03).*

**S**everal countries—including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands—already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria, New Zealand and Australia are expected to do so soon.

**T**he FCC has invited public comments on *another* Morse code-related petition for rule making—this one from **No-Code International (NCI)** <<http://www.nocode.org/>>. It's designated RM-10786. When the FCC put six other Morse-related petitions in the sequence **RM-10781** through **RM-10787** on public notice, **RM-10786** failed to show up on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. It remained missing through September 2. NCI calls on the FCC to delete Element 1—the 5 WPM Morse code exam—totally from the Amateur Service rules and grant "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technicians. It also wants the FCC to act on the matter as soon as possible, preferably in a separate rule making and without further ado.

**C**omments poured in this week from members of the amateur community on all seven petitions. Clearly ahead in the comment-collection race is the petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, **RM-10787**, which had collected more than 350 comments by week's end. The other petitions each have garnered more than 100 comments apiece.

**I**nterested parties may file comments on any or all petitions now on public notice <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf)> by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The ECFS also permits users to view all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

**T**o file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and *you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.* You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page."

## 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  
 William Vincent, W1POW

# MEETING MINUTES

The Business Meeting was called to order September 4, 2003 at 7:02 p.m. by **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Twenty eight members were present.

The Secretary's and Board of Directors reports (**Henry R. Blanchett Jr., W1GYL**) were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report (given by **Ray Arruda** for **Scott Szala, W1EV** absent) was accepted as read.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)**—Fire Extinguishers set for this month.

**Technical (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)**—members should have their PL set for 67.0 and leave it on. Should the PL be set manually, it is reset automatically at 5:00 a.m.

**Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV** absent)—The Fleamarket is scheduled for September 14, 7:00 a.m. till noon. The Chicken BBQ is scheduled for September 27 at noon. Tech-talk to be on *Echo-Link* by **Tony Duarte, N1XRS**.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Scholarship (Larry Houbre Jr., AA1FS)**—Nothing to report.

**Internet (Larry Houbre Jr., AA1FS)**—Nothing to report.

**Fleamarket (Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA)**—Coming along well.

**ARES Coordinator (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)**—Thanks to all that attended the ARES Workshop. The next drill is tentatively set for the second week of November.

**Communications (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)**—The MS Walk needs communication operators on Cape Cod. (Posted on Bulletin board.) Yankee Steam Up Day October 4, also posted.

**Ratifications\***—Five new members were voted into the club. See "CLUB NOTES" (page 4) for the names.

**President's Comments (Ray Arruda, KB1EVX)**—Want to thank everyone that attended the workshop, and a big thanks to all who helped make the lobster dinner a success, and a big thanks to **Scott Szala** who made it all possible. **Dave Dean** is still in the hospital to have a blood clot dissolved. Coming along fine. **Alan Dulong, WB1FQP**, did most of the grass work this month. Please don't forget to un-plug the coffee machine when leaving the club.

**Old Business**—Nothing

## New Business—

A motion was made to limit meal ticket sales to two.

A motion to create a finance committee to approve the spending of over \$50.00.

A motion to limit the membership to 250.

A motion to bring back the six-month probation period for new members.

All the above motions will be brought up at this month's BOD meeting.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

A motion\* was made to allocate one of the club's two-meter rigs for any member who might need a loner for a short time.

New nodes for IRLP have gone up this week. (page 6.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Henry R. Blanchett Jr., W1GYL, Secretary*

\* All votes and motions passed by the members present.

## DIRECTIONS TO CLUB

**SEMARA CLUBHOUSE**  
 54 DONALD STREET  
 SOUTH DARTMOUTH  
 (508) 992-0613  
 147.00 / 147.60



# CLUB NOTES

This is a great time of year with the magnificent change of colors of the leaves on all the trees. Enjoy this last month of Daylight Time, and keep your eyes open for any signs of Indian Summer.



Five applicants were voted life members of the club during the September 4, 2003 business meeting:

- Arlene M. Arruda, KB1KGG**
- Michael Leger, N1YLQ**
- Ross Lloyd, KB1IMO**
- Lucien Marceau, KA1RSF**
- Hugo Rosa, no call**

*Welcome to the club!*

Tony Oliveira, W1PWL, spotted a file cabinet with a "FREE" sign on it. He called Bill Miller, K1IBR, who then made arrangements with Ray Arruda, KB1EVX, to pick it up for the club.

Thanks Tony,  
Bill and Ray

Andy Reuter, WA1FNM, donated a used file cabinet to the club. The club now has enough file cabinets to meet its present needs.

Thanks Andy

I wish to extend my thanks to the many concerned club members and their good wishes for me while I was in the hospital. I'm doing fine but need another week to get back to normal. See all of you at the flea market next Sunday. Once again, thanks and 73s, **Dave Dean, K1JGV.**

Thanks  
to  
the  
club

# Tech Talk

Tony Duarte, N1XRS, presented a talk on *EchoLink* to about eighteen members on September 18.

*EchoLink* is software that allows Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the internet using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. The software allows worldwide connections to be made between stations

There are more than 100,000 registered users in 138 countries, and an average of 1700 stations are running at the same time.

The computer system requirements are modest: Pentium CPU (133 MHz minimum) and dial-up or dedicated internet connection at 24 kbps in both directions. 128 kbps upstream for Conferencing capability. Any Windows version 95 or later. 800x600 color display and 8- or 16-bit sound card. About 5 MB free disk space plus 8 MB RAM. Microphone and speaker for Single-User mode. *RIGblaster* type interfaces are OK; *VA3TO* or *WB2REM* & *G4CDY* interfaces are preferred.

References—Tony's *EchoLink Station* 8998:

- 146.595 Simplex, PL 141.3
- User codes: <<http://www.qsl.net/n1xrs>>
- EchoLink: <<http://www.echolink.org>>

What do EMA amateurs think about Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)? Please take a moment to answer our straw poll at <<http://ema.arrl.org>>. Let us know what you think! 73, **Phil K9HI**, ARRL EMA, Section Manager.



The bi-annual HOSSTRADERS Hamfest is on October 3-4 at the Hopkinton State Fairgrounds, off I-89, Exit 7, in Hopkinton, NH. Check the official H O S S - TRADERS site at <<http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/>> for more information.



Members should put a PL of 67.0 MHz into their rigs. Another repeater on 147.000+ (i.e., Somers, CT) has been breaking our repeater. To prevent this, the PL is turned on. The PL is automatically turned off at 5:00 a.m.

# Blackout 2003



Report by **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**

*SEMARA ARES Coordinator*

At the request of **Mike Neilsen, W1MPN**, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. SEMARA ARES was activated at 1645 EDT on August 14, 2003 to monitor the major power blackout that occurred across portions of the Eastern United States and Canada. At the time, it was not known what the cause was and what effect, if any, it would have on Eastern Massachusetts.

At my request, I sent ARES member, **Mike Leger, N1YLQ**, to fire up the station because I was not sure who, if anyone, would be at the club. I left work to also man the station at SEMARA. It was great to see that there were several members of SEMARA who were there for the "Rag Chew" night and pitched in to help with Operations. Thanks to all those members for their support.

ARES Operations began at 1830 EDT. We checked in with **Mike, W1MPN**, on the **146.640 Waltham Repeater** and alerted him of our status. We also checked in with the following repeaters and ARES teams:

**145.23-Boston Repeater**—Checked in with Metro Boston Area ARES DEC-**Mark Duff, KB1EKN**.

**147.195-Attleboro Repeater**—Checked in with **John Benson, N1FLO**, ARES EC for the Sturdy Memorial ARES EMCOMM Team

**3943 kHz Massachusetts ARES/RACES Emergency HF Net**—Checked in with **Marc Stern, WA1R**, who was Net Control.

**MEMA Framingham HQ, WC1MA**, was on frequency through the efforts of **Tom Muise, W1CDA**.

We assisted with information on power outages in Western Massachusetts by contacting the SKYWARN Coordinator for Western Mass. The Massachusetts ARES/RACES Emergency Net was secured at 1945 EDT when it appeared most, if not all, locations in Massachusetts that lost their power had had it restored.

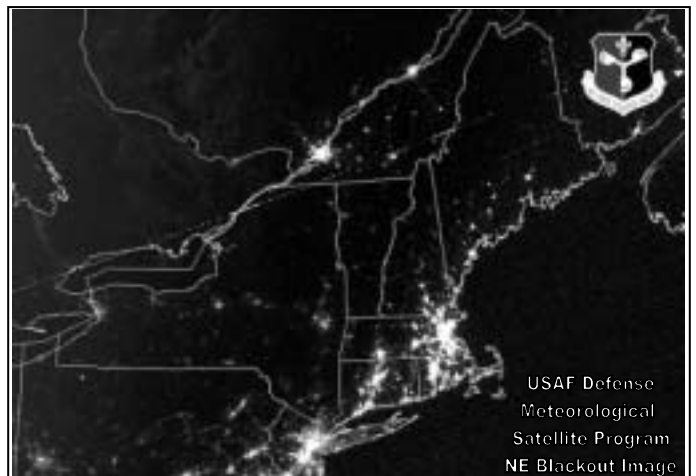
Stations in Walpole, Massachusetts and

Southern Worcester County Massachusetts were heard with no problems. Meantime, ARES Stand-by status continued.

We checked in with **Connecticut ARES** on **3965 kHz**. They were handling tactical messages and providing some logistical support for areas hardest hit by the power outages in New York State. One Red Cross shelter in New York City only had 2 hours of emergency power left and had no way to get more fuel. We alerted Connecticut ARES of the status of Eastern Massachusetts ARES and Massachusetts RACES and the nets that were active and on alert and those that had secured. Connecticut ARES held a net every hour on the hour and went informal after the call for check-ins was completed.

We checked in to the regular session of the **Sturdy Memorial EMCOMM ARES Net** on the Attleboro Repeater and gave an update on the blackout. We checked in with the Massasoit ARA Emergency Coordinator, **Carl Aveni, N1FY**, on the **147.180-Bridgewater Repeater**. We checked in with CT ARES on **3965 kHz** for their last net at 2000 EDT and then the net secured. Finally, we contacted **Mark Duff, KB1EKN**, on the **-Waltham Repeater** and secured the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Stand-By Net at 2200 EDT.

Incidentally, **Mike Leger, N1YLQ**, became a member of SEMARA at the last business meeting.



↑ Actual view from space.

← Widely circulated hoax image.

# Local IRLP Links

by Rob Macedo, KD1CY

**T**hanks to everyone for their moral support as we moved Larry's **WIDBX** IRLP Node 4617 to the 145.490- Fairhaven Repeater. Special thanks to **Tony-N1XRS**, **Rick-W1RJC** and **Jed-N1JBC** for assisting with the repeater installation, and for the nice road trip to *Ham Radio Outlet* to get the needed tone board that made the linking of the IRLP node to the repeater possible.

**145.490- / PL off / Fairhaven, MA / Node 4617:-**

These are the codes to activate and deactivate the IRLP link:

To activate a Node:

**Enter \*\* and then 4 digit node number; e.g., \*\*4259**

To deactivate the Node: **Enter \*\* and then #; e.g., \*\*#**

**R**ick Cabral's **W1RJC** IRLP node is on 443.800+ MHz. This was done with the help of Ray Weber, KA1JJM, from Western Massachusetts **SKYWARN** who donated 2 PC's to Rick for this project.

**443.800+ / PL 88.5 / Dartmouth, MA / Node 4259:-**

Connect to a Node:

**Enter 4 digit node number; e.g., 4617**

Disconnect from the Node: **Enter #; e.g., #**

**R**ick will be leaving his node connected to the New England reflector (9603). I have chosen to leave the repeater disconnected from the reflector as local traffic could make the reflector busy. The nodes are provided for everyone to utilize. Please keep in mind that in the event of some form of **ARES**, **RACES**, and/or **SKYWARN Activation**, these nodes will then be utilized for **Emergency Communications** purposes as a **priority** and as required.

**E**njoy using IRLP with our local nodes. **Calling CQ DX is OK!** In fact, if you really want to make a contact, just say "This is K1KVV calling CQ, is anyone available for a contact?" as opposed to "K1KVV Listening"...silence for 2 minutes, followed by a disconnect.

- **DO** pause between transmissions to let other in or others to enter DTMF commands.
- **DO** identify before sending *DTMF* command tones.
- **DO** hold your microphone *PTT* for about *1 second* before talking to allow all systems time to rise.
- **DO** pause for *10 seconds* or when entering the reflector before talking.
- **DO NOT** rag-chew locally while connected to the *reflector*.
- **DO NOT** run a Net without permission from the *reflector* owner.

**S**pecial thanks to SEMARA for running the Cat-5 Cable required installing IRLP at Rick's Repeater. SEMARA is currently paying for half of the bill for Broadband Internet access at SEMARA.

References:

- **Information on IRLP:** <<http://www.irlp.net>>
- **Status and locations of Nodes on IRLP:** <<http://status.irlp.net>>

**NEXT SEMARA  
VE SESSION  
October 4, 2003  
10:30 am  
SEMARA Clubhouse**

## OCTOBER VE SESSIONS

**06 Brookline, MA**  
Mike Ardai  
781-321-7939

**09 Providence, RI**  
Judy Nelson  
401-231-9156

**11 Falmouth, MA**  
Joanne Reid  
508-548-1121

**18 Marlborough, MA**  
Bill Wade  
617-699-3670

**18 Slatersville, RI**  
Bob Jones  
401-333-4787


## ***A POINT TO PONDER***

**"Curiosity killed the  
cat, satisfaction  
brought him back."**

**—Folk Wisdom**

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B. Space station operation

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**SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR**

<p><b>OCTOBER 2003</b></p> <p>2—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>4—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>9—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>16—Tech Talk, 7 p.m., APRS by Dave Neal, W2DAN,</p> <p>23—Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>30—ZERO BEAT folding party, 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2003</b></p> <p>1—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>6—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>13—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>20—Tech Talk, 7 p.m., Aviation Technology by Dave DeCosta, KD1YZ,</p> <p>27—ZERO BEAT folding party, 4:30 p.m.</p>
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Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 a.m. Drop by and ragchew!

# SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

**Sunday** - 8 a.m. 28.700

**Daily** - 7 p.m. 147.000 +

**Monday to Friday**  
7:30 a.m. 3.872 MHz

— **SEMCARES NET** —  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month at 7:30 p.m.  
145.490 - (Fairhaven Repeater)

**FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET**  
8 p.m. Monday - Friday 145.490 -

**SEMARA SWAP NET** Every Monday at 7:30 p.m. on 147.000

# 2003 FLEAMARKETS

**Oct 3-4 - HOSSTRADERS**

**Oct 11 - NE Antique RC, Nashua**

**Oct 19 - MIT**

**Nov 15 - WARA/Auction, Newton**

## 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
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth	442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth	443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI	443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
146.730 -		W1SGL	Sandwich	443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI	443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC	Dartmouth
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
147.000 +	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	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
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

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**SEMARA**

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