



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 11

SEMARA W1AEC

November 2003

## QRP FIELD TRIPS

Reported by Carl Bredberg, K1KID

### FORT PHOENIX, FAIRHAVEN

**E**d, WA1ZCB and Carl, K1KID went on a field trip to the wilds of Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven on Tuesday, September 30. Shortly after our arrival we were joined by Norm, WA1KDT, who acted as the official observer. As an old time CW operator he was quite interested in our field set-up and equipment. Perhaps we can get him back on the CW airwaves again.

It was a fantastic day to enjoy the great outdoors. We were not only blessed with fine weather but the gods of propagation smiled upon us as well. Ed and I were each using the Elecraft K1 QRP radios running at 4 watts output. Ed's antenna was an unusual 84 foot long wire with a 17 foot parallel counterpoise wire underneath on spreaders, strung up to a nearby cedar tree. The design of this antenna was described in a recent ham magazine article. I used a 20 foot collapsible fishing pole for the support of a 24 foot, near vertical wire (K1KID-24FP-2x16 antenna). The two 16 foot wires were laid on the ground as a counterpoise.

We operated on 15 and 20 meters from around 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Between us, we worked stations in Louisiana, Alabama, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, Denmark, and several in Poland. Ed's prediction of good propagation based on his knowledge and observations of the various indexes held true. All signal reports (RST) received were from 559 to 579.

Although it was a bit breezy most of the afternoon, the wind really picked up about 3:00 p.m. By 3:30 we decided that the best of

the afternoon was behind us. We packed up our gear and headed for Honey-Dew donuts for a coffee and to discuss what we might do differently or even better on the next excursion.

**A**nyone interested in coming along on the next trip, to operate, or just observe QRP at its best, should get in touch with either Ed, WA1ZCB, or Carl, K1KID.



WA1ZCB operating.

**S**ome of the contacts Ed, WA1ZCB, made on September 30 with 4 watts and the antennas described in the text:

|        |        |               |
|--------|--------|---------------|
| HA7JJS | AL     | Ocea, HUNGARY |
| F5RRS  | DAMIEN | near Geneva   |
| PA0OI  | GER    | Amsterdam, NL |

### NEW BEDFORD FIELD TRIP

**C**ontacts made on October 9 by Carl, K1KID, and Ed, WA1ZCB, with 4 watts into the K1KID-24FP-2x16 antenna:

|        |       |                 |
|--------|-------|-----------------|
| ES1QD  | VELLO | Estonia         |
| KE4COH | BRYAN | Lancaster, SC   |
| KA4IFF | ESTER | Lakeland, FL    |
| G4ARY  | TERRY | Oxford, England |
| G3UAA  | ALF   | England         |

### FORT BARTON, TIVERTON, RI

**C**ontacts made on October 13 by Ed, WA1ZCB, and Ron, WB1HGA, with 4 watts into the K1KID-24FP-2x16 antenna:

|       |        |               |
|-------|--------|---------------|
| WB8E  | WALT   | Detroit, MI   |
| I3KAN | HERRY  | Padova, ITALY |
| CM2UE | ALFRED | Havana, CUBA  |

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**Southeastern Massachusetts  
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### EDITOR

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV  
Phone: (508) 758-6311  
E-Mail: [EDITOR@SEMARA.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@SEMARA.ORG)

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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.

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THE DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR  
PUBLICATION IS THE 15<sup>TH</sup>  
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

## HAMMING AROUND

**E5B07\* What is the time constant of a circuit having two 220-μF capacitors and two 1-MΩ resistors all in parallel?**

- A. 47 seconds
- B. 101.1 seconds
- C. 103 seconds
- D. 220 seconds

**ANSWER - See page 7**

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

# IT SEEMS TO ME ...

**I**s BPL going to be the end of amateur radio as we know it? For an amateur radio point of view, you can look at the Editorial by David Sumner, K1ZZ, in the November issue of *QST*. Of course it has a bias — what else is new? But what I want to know is, “Did these electrical engineers ever take a course in *Fields and Waves*?” Surely someone does not want to think about radiation from unshielded power lines.

**G**leaned from the internet. “**Manassas, VA** residents will soon be the first in the United States to buy Internet access over city power lines. The City Council voted unanimously on October 16 to grant a franchise to Prospect Street Broadband, LLC. “Residents can purchase the service within 120 days of the contract signing. In May 2002, a small pilot group of city residents and businesses began using the service. A modem is plugged into the electrical outlet on one end, and the computer on the other, to gain high-speed access to the Internet. “They were very impressed by the speed, reliability and flexibility.” The service is comparable in speed to any DSL program available.” And as a fringe benefit, the city can also monitor power outages through this technology. “An administrative assistant with an architecture firm in Manassas said the company has been receiving the service since February. “We've had good service with it.” “The only time it has been down is because of our equipment, or because they're testing something on the lines because it is a pilot program.”

“The grantee will be responsible for the equipment, connection, monthly billing, advertising and 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week customer support. “The grantee will be providing most of the capital of this project and assume most of the risk,” said the assistant electric director for the City of Manassas. “There's very little financial risk to the city.” The city will expand the current fiber network, which is almost complete, update optical electronics and install and maintain equipment external to the residents' homes. *Initial figures project that Manassas could receive up to \$4.5 million in revenue after the 10-year period.*”

**S**ome links for further exploration:  
City of Manassas VA: <<http://www.manassascity.org>>  
Manassas Town Commissioners and Board:  
<[http://www.manassascity.org/city\\_government](http://www.manassascity.org/city_government)>  
Prospect Street Broadband, LLC: <<http://www.prospectstreet.com>>  
Manassas VA ARC (Old VA Hams ARC): <<http://www.w4ovh.net>>

**W**ell? It seems to me the city fathers were taken in by the glitter of gold. Let us hope it does not do as much harm as feared.

## 2003 SEMARA OFFICERS

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Raymond Arruda, KB1EVX

**Vice President**  
Carl Bredberg, K1KID

**Secretary**  
Henry Blanchett, W1GYL

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Scott Szala, W1EV

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

### Board of Directors:

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Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM  
William Vincent, W1POW

# MEETING MINUTES

The Business Meeting was called to order October 2, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. by **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Thirty members were present.

The Secretary's report (**Henry R. Blanchett Jr., W1GYL**) was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report (**Scott Szala, W1EV**) was accepted as read.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)**—Oil tank has been filled. Please keep the windows closed, and the bathroom fan off, when leaving the club, as the heat costs us money.

**Technical (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)**—The Falmouth Radio Club would like to link their repeater with ours. We will have to see exactly how and what is involved.

**Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)**—It was a good turnout at the Chicken BBQ. A late October Clam, Bake was voted down.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

**Internet (Larry Houbre Jr., AA1FS)**—The web page has been enhanced.

**Fleamarket (Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA)**—A round of applause was given to Dick for his work in organizing the Fleamarket.

**ARES (Tony Duarte, N1XRS)**—A simulated explosion at a beer brewery will take place on the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup> and the morning of Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note: Whenever there is a net on the 145.490 machine, do not access any IRLP nodes.

**Communications (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)**—Nothing to report.

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

**President's Comments (Ray Arruda, KB1EVX)**—Thanks for all those people who helped with the Chicken BBQ. Thanks to those who procured the file cabinets. **Sam Wagstaff, N1GPN**, will remain in the rest home for an extended amount of time due to severe memory loss.

**Old Business**—Raffle tickets were sold at the club for a drawing after the business meeting. There are three items: an antenna manual, a 10-meter rig, and a directory. (Winners on page 4.)

## New Business—

**Notice:** The membership was told that the Club's antenna will be put on the big tower within the first two weeks of November.

A *motion\** to table the three items from last month's meeting until they can be reviewed by the BOD:

1. Ticket limits,
2. Finance committee,
3. Membership limit.

A *motion\** to put *EchoLink* on the W1AEC repeater. A copy of the Club's license is needed to register.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Please don't stand on the new chairs. They bend easily.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

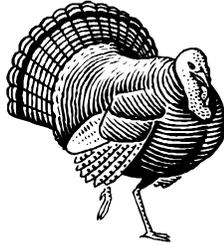
*\* Votes and motions passed are made by the members present.*

## DIRECTIONS TO CLUB



# CLUB NOTES

**T**hanksgiving is coming fast. Halloween, the smell of the fallen leaves, all the football games, loads of family and friends—that's what I think about as the weather gets cooler and the clock gets set to EST.



**T**hree applicants were voted life members of the club during the October 2, 2003 business meeting:

**Raymond Guillotte, N1EBW**

**Cynthia Sellin, KB1IYS**

**Roland L. Trainor, KC8CEV**

*Welcome to the club!*



**A**nd the winners of the Club Raffle are:

**Ed Duclos, WA1ZCB**, who won an *Mstreet Radio Directory*.

**Charley Mosczeniowski, KB1FRL**, who won both a *ARRL Antenna Book with CD* and a *Radio Shack 10-meter Transceiver*.

Winner!

Winner!

**O**n Wednesday, October 15, 2003, former club member **Paul Charbonneau, W6BZH** and his charming wife Kathryn visited the club. It was over 35 years ago since Paul last was in the clubhouse. Paul now lives in Norwalk, CA. When he last lived in this area, his call was **W1IHZ**. Paul reminisced about the "old" years with *Henry Blanchett, W1GYL* and *Bill Miller, K1IBR*. Towards the end of his visit, Paul rejoined the club.



# Reading the eMail

**I**n response to the September 2003 "IT SEEMS TO ME...", **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, offers the following comments:

1. Morse code should be dropped as a test requirement for an amateur radio license. Ninety years ago when amateur radio licenses were first issued, all communication was via code and knowledge of Morse code was a valid test element. However, today we have progressed to many different modes of operation with Morse code being just one among them. Unless the testing covers ALL modes and codes used, then Morse code should be dropped. (How many hams know the Baudot code used on RTTY?)

2. Amateur bands should be just that – a band of frequencies where amateurs use various types of communications. No sub-bands should be mandated by governmental fiat. Gentlemen's agreements (like the repeater band plan on 2 meters) should determine the use of the amateur radio bands. This will also provide the flexibility to accommodate new methods of communication the future will surely bring.



**T**he SSTV net started again on October 19 7 p.m. on the 145.150 repeater, PL 123.0 in Fall River. The net will be every Sunday at 7 p.m. Net control will be either me or **Wally, N1SXX**. So come send us some of your summertime photos. **73 Don, N1PMB**



**I** will be resuming the code practice sessions on Sunday mornings December through March this winter. The hours will generally be 9-11 a.m., but may vary now and then. This is an informal, low-pressure class using a simple "straight key." The class is designed to encourage new operators who are interested in CW to achieve a level of 5-10 WPM (or even 15 WPM!). **Dave Dean, K1JGV**



**I** picked up a General Class Manual at Radio Shack on a super sale. It has the current question pool, good until June 2004. It on the book case in the Clubhouse for anyone who needs to study for their General. **Don, N1PMB**

# Tech Talk

## Richard R Hay, W1LE, SK



Dave Neal, W2DAN

There was a great tech talk on the subject of APRS — Automated Position Reporting System given by Dave Neal, W2DAN, on Thursday, October 16 to 23 members. It was especially interesting because it seemed most attendees had little or no prior knowledge of APRS. This is a fresh area for even seasoned "old timers" to explore. No need to get bored with the same old same old.

APRS operates in "Packet Mode." Data is networked and relayed via "digipeaters" (digital data repeaters) of which there are many locally and nation wide. Applications include automated weather reporting, mobile station tracking, and radio direction finding. Vehicle position and local weather data can be obtained by clicking on various icons appearing on maps provided by special APRS software on your PC. Mobile station tracking is especially useful for tracking resources in walkathons, marathons, and other events. APRS units are also placed on critical resources, tracking police, ambulance, buses, cars and the like.

A big thank you to Dave for setting up, demonstrating and explaining APRS and it's support hardware at the club using his own TNCs, GPS units, laptop PC and radios. For those interested, additional detail is available at <<http://www.tapr.org>>.



APRS Display of locations

Former member Dick Hay, W1LE, died on August 26, 2003 at 94 in West Columbia, SC. His obituary appeared in the Standard-Times. He was an active member of SEMERA. Dick joined in 1967 and rapidly assumed several important roles. He was Emergency Coordinator in 1970. In 1974, he installed the 147.000/147.600 repeater, WR1ADR, in his garage. Remember the 3-seat folding chairs? Dick acquired them when the City of New Bedford declared them surplus! He also served a SEMARA Secretary in 1978, Vice-President in 1980, and Treasurer in 1981. *Rest in Peace.*

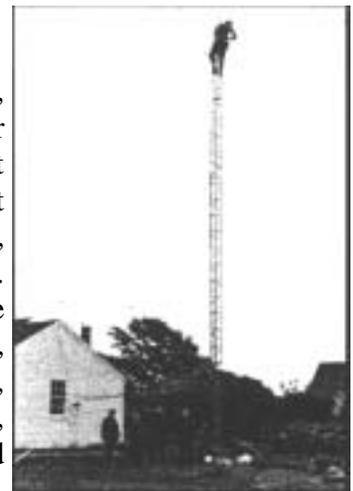


Dick Hay, W1LE, pours Dave Gomes, WN1JHM, a cup of coffee. Father Charles Pohle, W1AIE, and Ray Smith, K1VOK look on.

### FIELD DAY COFFEE TIME ON GOOSEBERRY ISLAND (1968)\*

Dick Hay, W1LE, installing a Ringo Ranger antenna atop the 40 foot tower outside his garage at 288 Smith Neck Road, South Dartmouth, MA.

Looking on are Larry Purcell, WA1CRI, Al DosSantos, WA1KFA, Clarence Whitaker, W1LAZ, and Jim Johnson, W1CGR.



\* Scanned from SEMARA Photo Gallery in "History of the Association: 1932-1999," Appendix V, pp. 5, 7.

# SEMARA Members List

The SEMARA members list web page is currently up to date. If members will get online and check their listing, it would be helpful in detecting errors. The page now shows which email address are NOT working (based on bounced messages)! Maybe members will help by providing the corrected addresses. Send corrections to AA1FS@arrl.net. *[Please check to see if you have a photo. If not, make arrangements to get one put into the database—editor.]*

With few exceptions, everyone in the SEMARA members database who has an email address on file has been added to the email list: members@semara.org. This was done to “synchronize” the club's databases for the web page and email list.

To be removed from the email list, it is easy for you to unsubscribe on your own by visiting this link:

<[http://semara.org/mailman/listinfo/members\\_semara.org](http://semara.org/mailman/listinfo/members_semara.org)>.

If you forgot your password, it will be mailed to you. Just follow the procedure on how to unsubscribe.

**M**embers who do not wish to be subscribed can send a message to AA1FS@LRH.net to be removed. The record in the club's database will be marked that they do not want to be on the email list. This will prevent future “automatic” subscriptions. They should include their name and email, and “SEMARA members list” in the message!

Thank you for your attention and patience in this matter.

Larry/AA1FS, SEMARA Webmaster

**S**am Wagstaff, NIPGN has donated some equipment to the club for auction, raffle or maybe the next flea market:

- Bearcat Scanner, year and model number not known.
- A meter.
- An AM-FM-TV combination unit - condition unknown.

**F**ISTS CW Club has submitted a Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC. They argue to not only keep Element 1 but to add a 12 wpm code requirement for the Extra exam. They also propose tougher exams. For more information see

<[http://www.qsl.net/n1ea/FIST\\_FCC\\_Petition\\_8-30-303.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/n1ea/FIST_FCC_Petition_8-30-303.pdf)>

Thanks to everyone who baked desserts, and helped with preparation and clean up at the **September 27 Chicken BBQ**. Also special thanks to **Scott, W1EV**, and **George and his crew** who once again, cooked the chicken to perfection!! We had a large number of desserts on hand that disappeared rather quickly and good weather for the event. Again, thanks to the many who helped to make this a very enjoyable event for all!!

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX

That has to be, by far, the best **Chicken BBQ** I have ever attended anywhere! I did not eat for the rest of the day with the chicken `n corn `n potato salad `n cranberry sauce `n.... My compliments to the Chefs. I have heard some real good comments on this one. It is an example of how well we can do when the members pull together. **Dave, K1JGV**

**NEXT SEMARA  
VE SESSION  
November 1, 2003  
10:30 am  
SEMARA Clubhouse  
Larry Houbre, AA1FS  
508-991-6055**



## NOVEMBER VE SESSIONS

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

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

**20 Norwood, MA**  
Lou Harris  
508-668-0858

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

**There's many a bestseller  
that could have been pre-  
vented by a good teacher.**

**- Flannery O'Connor  
(1925-1964)**

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**SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <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, 7:00 p.m., Aviation Technology by Dave DeCosta, KD1YZ</p> <p>28—Friday* ZERO BEAT folding party, 4:30 p.m.<br/>* to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday</p> | <p><b>DECEMBER 2003</b></p> <p>4—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>6—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>11—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>18—Christmas Party, Century House, Acushnet, meet at 6:00 and eat at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>23—Tuesday* ZERO BEAT folding party, 4:30<br/>* to avoid the Christmas holiday</p> |
|--|--|

Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 a.m. Drop by and ragchew!

# SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

**Sunday** - 8:00 a.m. 28.700

**Daily** - 7:00 p.m. 147.000+

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

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

**FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET**  
8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday 145.490

**SEMARA SWAP NET** — Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.000 +

# 2003 FLEAMARKETS

**Nov 15 - WARA+1200 Auction**  
Newtonville, MA: \$2 @ 10  
Eliot W1MJ 617-484-1089

**Dec 6 - Vintage Radio Museum**  
Windsor, CT: \$1 @ 9 \$15/T@8  
John 860-673-0518

## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

| Frequency        | CTCSS | Call   | Location     |
|------------------|-------|--------|--------------|
| <b>144</b>       |       |        |              |
| 145.150 -        | 123.0 | WA1DGW | Fall River   |
| 145.490 -        |       | KD1CY* | Fairhaven    |
| 146.655 -        | 88.5  | WA1GPO | Falmouth     |
| 146.685 -        |       | W1LM   | Plymouth     |
| 146.700 -        |       | K1CR   | Cranston, RI |
| 146.730 -        |       | W1SGL  | Sandwich     |
| 146.760 -        |       | W1HQV  | Scituate, RI |
| 146.955 -        | 88.5  | K1PBO  | Dennis       |
| 147.000 +        | 67.0  | W1AEC  | Dartmouth    |
| 147.135 +        | 67.0  | ND1N   | Taunton      |
| 147.180 +        | 67.0  | W1MV   | Bridgewater  |
| 147.345 +        | 88.5  | KB1QL  | Vineyard     |
| * IRLP node 4617 |       |        |              |

| Frequency        | CTCSS | Call   | Location     |
|------------------|-------|--------|--------------|
| <b>440</b>       |       |        |              |
| 441.400 +        | 192.8 | WG1U   | Assonet      |
| 442.200 +        | 88.5  | N1NRL  | Fall River   |
| 442.600 +        | 100.0 | K1LIQ  | Tiverton, RI |
| 443.450 +        | 88.5  | K1MYL  | Westport     |
| 443.500 +        | 141.3 | K1PBO  | Barnstable   |
| 443.600 +        |       | NS1N   | Norwell      |
| 443.800 +        | 88.5  | W1RJC* | Dartmouth    |
| 444.200 +        | 118.8 | N1YHS  | Bourne       |
| 444.250 +        | 141.3 | WA1GPO | Falmouth     |
| 444.350 +        | 88.5  | W1ACT  | Fall River   |
| 444.550 +        | 88.5  | W1MV   | Bridgewater  |
| 447.075 -        | 88.5  | N1DZD  | Kingston     |
| * IRLP node 4259 |       |        |              |

**EchoLink node 8998: 146.595 simplex, PL 141.3, N1XRS**

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