



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 71st YEAR

Volume 39, Issue 12

SEMARA W1AEC

December 2003

Simulated Emergency Test 2003

SEMARA participated in the Simulated Emergency Test for 2003. This drill focused on an early season Winter Storm.

The scenario: "A cold front crossed southern New England. The cold front spawned a large area of low pressure, roughly 200-250 miles off southern New England. It deepened rapidly with powerful north-east winds gusting to minimal hurricane force. High Wind Warnings are posted across the South Coastal area. Wind Advisories and Winter Storm Warnings are in effect. Interior Southeastern Massachusetts has 1-2 feet of a heavy wet snow, causing damage to trees, power lines and minor structural damage. Along coastal areas, after 2-3" of rain fell, 6-12" of a very heavy wet snow is causing similar damage."

The purpose of the drill was to test several aspects of Emergency Communications that includes:

- Local ARES coordination and deployment.
- Local NTS and tactical message handling.
- Intra-district message handling.
- Handling of SKYWARN reports.
- Passing messages to NWS Taunton.
- Employing HF, VHF, UHF, Packet, IRLP and EchoLink modes of communication.
- Contacting EOCs or Simulated EOCs within the district.

The following is a list stations operating in the exercise.

National Weather Service Taunton, Massachusetts (WX1BOX)

The National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts served as the hub for SKYWARN



information. It issued statements and information to the various ARES Nets and received mainly tactical message traffic regarding SKYWARN reports, and NTS formal written traffic relating to ARES Operations.

SEMARA: Southeast Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (W1AEC)

W1AEC was active for the duration of the drill. It served as the hub for local ARES operations in South Coastal Massachusetts and as a district ARES station as well as a link with RACES. The repeater on 147.000+ MHz FM was operated on battery power during the drill. HF links were established on 7270 kHz LSB and 52.540 MHz FM-simplex with other EOCs (Emergency Operation Centers).

There were eleven members operating at *W1AEC*. **Carl Bredberg, K1KID**, was net control for the repeater, and handled both tactical and formal messages.

The following participated at *W1AEC*: **W1EV-Scott, K1IBR-Bill, K1KID-Carl, N1DXD-Ron, N1XRS-Tony, W1RJC-Rick, KB1CHQ-Mike, KB1FRL-Chuck, KB1EVX-Ray, WA1CXG-Dick, and WA1FNM-Andy**. Check-ins though the SEMARA repeater: **AD1M-Roy, W1AEI-Art, W1EAV-Chris, W1EKW-Joe, K1KVV-Bob, N1EBW-Ray, WA1FYF-Bill, and WA1CRA-Dick**.

The drill was a huge success and the fact that a real incident occurred, a gas leak in Bridgewater, during the drill helped out the response for that incident if it had have been needed. A huge thank you to everyone who checked in and participated at/through SEMARA.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY

SEMARA ARES Emergency Coordinator

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54 Donald Street,
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EDITOR

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV
Phone: (508) 758-6311
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.

HAMMING AROUND

E8B01* What digital code consists of elements having unequal length?

- A. ASCII
- B. AX.25
- C. Baudot
- D. Morse code

ANSWER - See page 7

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

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

Did you know that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) is good for only 365 days? However, if you have passed the 5-wpm Morse code exam, you can have credit for Element 1 even after the CSCE expires. That means that a Technician class licensee can operate as a Technician Plus—and have Novice HF privileges, just don't lose that CSCE *in case the FCC forgets!*

Why should any Technician want to pass the Morse code exam? The FCC is going to eliminate the 5-wpm Morse code requirement, right? Maybe the FCC will go with a compromise and drop the Morse code exam only for the General but keep it for the Extra! So why not be sure and get that out of the way? Pass the code and know that you have passed a hurdle that holds up many people; but not you! **Upgrade in 2004.** Do it and keep on going up the ladder: *Technician* → *General* → *Extra*. **Make 2004 an Extra special year!**

Jessica Kirkwood, KB1JUW, of Westport was featured in an ARRL Web story, *Youth and Emergency Communication*. The article describes Jessica's participation in our recent emergency communications course offered by the EMA ARRL ARES leadership at the SEMARA. Jessica is an active SEMARA member. She says she's "ready to help her community" should an emergency arise. See more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/10/15/1/>.



**JESSICA KIRKWOOD
KB1JUW**

Just when you thought that CW was dead, this announcement showed up in a recent ARRL e-letter. The **National Radio Emergency Network (NREN)** will commence operations December 1. A cooperative effort of several US CW net managers, NREN hopes to provide an alternative public service network geared to low-power, portable and mobile stations. "Because CW provides significantly more reliability for stations operating at low power levels (QRP) or with compromise antennas, this will be a CW-based program," said Chuck Mabbott, AA8VS. NREN will work on the "radio watch" principle, and member stations will maintain a watch on one or more of three selected frequencies in the 40-, 30-, and 20-meter bands. A detailed description of NREN, along standard operating procedures is available on the NREN Web page <http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>.

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 November 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. by **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Twenty nine members were present 219 absent.

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**)—Absent.

Technical (**Carl Bredberg, K1KID**)—Nothing to report

Activities (**Scott Szala, W1EV**)—Christmas Party, Dec. 18.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship (**Larry Houbre Jr., AA1FS**)—Absent.

Internet (**Larry Houbre Jr., AA1FS**)—Absent.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—An ARES drill will take place on Saturday morning Nov. 8. The drill will take a bad snow storm scenario. This will be a section drill for Eastern Massachusetts from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They will run on battery back-up.

There will also be a SkyWarn Appreciation Day on December 5 from 7:00 PM Friday to 7:00 PM Saturday.

Communications (**Carl Bredberg, K1KID**)—A flyer on model trains is posted on the Bulletin board.

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

President's Comments (**Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**)—The President wishes to thank Sam Wagstaff for the many nice donations to the club.

Members are welcome to attend a BOD meeting, but just as a reminder, members have no input to the meeting.

Nominations for 2004 officers are:

President	WA1CRA	Board of Directors (3)
Vice President ...	KB1FRL	KB1EVX
Secretary	W1RJC	KB1KGG
Treasurer	W1EV	WA1YFV
		K1JGV
		WB1HGA

Trustee (1) (Five Yr. Term)..... AA1FS
Election of Officers is December 4.

Old Business—

A *motion** to cancel any incorrect mailing address that is not correct in our data base. Zero Beat will be cancelled after the third mail return. Three strikes and you are out.

A *motion** to limit in-house meal tickets to two per member to be sold before the start of the business meeting. After the next business meeting, tickets will be sold to anyone.

New Business—

A *motion** to set the price of the Christmas Party at \$20 with the remainder to be picked up by the club.

A *motion** to get another IP address so that EchoLink and the club's computer can both be used at the same time. Total cost is \$5, with the club paying half the price, \$2.50.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—The folding of Zero Beat will take place the Friday after Thanksgiving.

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

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



CLUB NOTES

December is a month that always brings lots of mixed feelings. Plenty of parties and get-togethers with friends and family make for *happy times*. That's what's fun! But what do you get for someone who seems to have everything? What can you do?

Think about giving them something that comes uniquely from you, *your time*. You can make, or do something for them, or even spend some quality time with them. Sounds too easy? Sometimes easy is better. *Happy Holidays!*



SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2003

- 4—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 6—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 11—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 18—*Christmas Party*, Century House, Acushnet, meet at 6:00 and eat at 7:00 p.m.
- 23—**Tuesday* ZERO BEAT folding party**, 4:30 p.m.
* to avoid the Christmas holiday



JANUARY 2004

- 1—*New Years Day*, Business Meeting next week
- 3—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 8—**Business Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
- 15—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 22—Tech Talk, 7:00 p.m. **QRP**, by *Carl Bredberg, K1KID*
- 29—ZERO BEAT **folding party**, 4:30 p.m.



Ragchew at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 a.m.
Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts!

SEMARA
CHRISTMAS PARTY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER
18, 2003
AT
THE CENTURY HOUSE
Meet at 6:00 p.m. Eat at 7:00 p.m.

Four applicants were voted life members of the club during the November 6, 2003 business meeting:

- Susan Mazzucchi, KB1HMM
- Donald Mazzacchi, KB1BxB
- Mathew Silva, KB1ISK
- Paul R. Gosselin, N1RHS

Welcome to the club!



DECEMBER VE SESSIONS

- 6 SEMARA CLUBHOUSE, 10:30 A.M.**
LARRY HOUBRE, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 8 Brookline, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Mike Ardai, N1IST
781-321-7939
- 11 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.**
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 13 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-548-1121
- 20 Marlborough, MA, 9:00 a.m.**
Bill Wade, K1IJ
607-699-3670

ALTOIDS Xcvr

SEMARA's resident technical guru, **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, seems to always be looking for a challenge. He took it upon himself to design and fabricate an 80 meter CW transceiver. As if that was not enough of a challenge, he decided to make it all fit in an *ALTOIDS* tin. It sure looks like the electronic version of the proverbial "ship in the bottle". It works nicely as Bill demonstrated at the club. Schematics are available from Bill.



BILL'S (K1IBR) 80-M CW XCVR

I am looking forward to operating the *multi-band 100 watt Rev B model* when Bill finds the time to design and built it. I bet that one will need two *ALTOIDS* tins.

CARL, K1KID



BILL MILLER, K1IBR

Tech Talk

Aviation Technology: Radio and Navigation was the topic of the evening. **Dave DeCosta, KD1YZ** gave an interesting and animated talk to twenty enthusiastic listeners at the SEMARA clubhouse on Thursday, November 20.



**DAVE DE COSTA
KD1YZ**

Dave emphasized that radio use in aviation is very different from 2-meter FM. Because of the volume of traffic to be handled, each transmission is minimized to include only "business" and no "personal" information. He told us that radio is an essential part of aircraft safety. The recent collision in Rhode island probably could have been avoided is both aircraft had announced their intentions—similar to using your turn signals when changing lanes on a high-speed road.



DC POWER SETUP BOARD AND DE COSTA AIRLINER

Dave explained how to avoid FAA problems with uncertified add-ons in the plane. Do not hook into the aircraft's DC power or antennas; use a battery-powered hand-held aviation transceiver as a back-up. He had to do this once when his aircraft developed an electrical short while over Marthas Vineyard. He immediately shut down the aircraft electrical power and had to use his hand-held to call the tower so he could land. He did so safely.

His talk was almost two hours due to the discussion and numerous questions that he generated. *Thanks for a great presentation Dave.*

QRP News



FORT RODMAN, 11-01-03: 84' ANTENNA CLOSE UP.

We had one outing on November 1, 2003 at Fort Rodman in New Bedford, MA. Had 3 stations running, **Carl, K1KID**, set up was his Elecraft K-1 at 5 watts. And a 24FP-2x16 antenna (24-feet of #20 wire on a fishing pole and 2 16-foot radials). **Ron, WB1HGA**, set up was a Ten-Tec Scout running at 3 watts. The antenna used was a 84-foot long wire with one 17-foot radial spaced at 6-inch below (parallel to) the long wire. **Ed, WA1ZCB**, also uses the K-1 at 5 watts and the 24FP-2x16 antenna.

WX conditions could not have been better, sunny with temp in the 70s. Band conditions for DX stations was not the best, but stateside was great. On my first CQ, **K0RDW**-Ron from St. Paul, MN, returned my call giving me a RST of 599. For my second QSO, I had to call CQ twice. **K5OI**-Tim from Stillwater, FL, answered my call and my report was 579. His rig was also a K-1 es 4 watts. Nice QSO. Then I was called by **AG4VA**-Len from Leesburg, FL. Lots of fun! I am looking forward to the next outing.

Some club members who showed up were **Joe, W1VRP**, **Ray, N1EBW**, **Chuck, KB1FRL**, and **Jim, AF1Q**. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Ed, WA1ZCB




CLOSE UP OF THE K1KID 24FP-2X16 ANTENNA



BILL, K1IBR AND CARL, K1KID OPERATING QRP AT SEMARA

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A POINT TO PONDER

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."
- Albert Einstein
(1879-1955)



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D. Morse code

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** —
1st 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

FLEAMARKETS

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

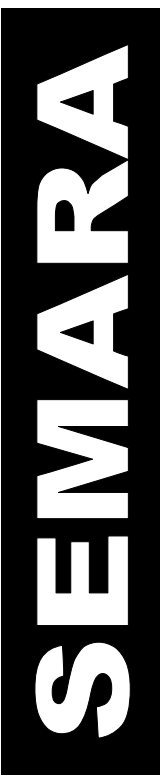
Jan 17 - NE Antique RC
Nashua NH: \$2@9 \$15/T@7
Marty 603-938-5051

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KD1CY*	Fairhaven
146.595 simplex	141.3	N1XRS#	Dartmouth
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 + SEMARA	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard
* Nodes: IRLP=4617 EchoLink=142790 # Node: EchoLink=8998			

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
440			
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
* Nodes: IRLP and EchoLink=4259			

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SEMARA WEBSITE: <http://www.semara.org>
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