



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 72nd YEAR

Volume 40, Issue 1

SEMARA W1AEC

January 2004

SEMARA Christmas Party

The party, held on December 18 at the Century House in Acushnet, was attended by 47 happy people. The festivities started officially at 6 p.m. But those in the know got there earlier to “reserve” the best tables. Of course, there are no “bad” tables in the room.

For the first hour, there was a centrally located table of grapes, various cheeses and crackers for everyone to nibble on while enjoying their favorite beverages. The bartender was able to find soda, beer, wine, and mixed drinks to satisfy the thirsty.



Our President, **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**, assisted by his wife **Arlene, KB1KGG**, took charge of the gifts brought for the optional gift exchange. Each gift was exchanged for a numbered ticket. A random drawing for the exchange was held later in the evening.

Before the dinner officially was served, Ray took a few moments to read the names of the eleven SEMARA members who became Silent Keys during 2003. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.

Dinner started around 7 p.m. with a com-



munity bowl of soup and a supply of rolls placed on each table. Once the buffet was fully stocked, each table had a chance to “un-stock” it. The choices of main entrée ranged from baked stuffed shrimp to rare roast beef to ham to baked chicken. The sides included salad, tortellini, and potatoes. As always, you could return for seconds if you were in the mood. No dinner would be complete without dessert, in this case a light and airy chocolate mousse with whipped cream. Coffee and tea put the finishing touches on a great meal.



The formal end of the party was the drawing and selection of the gifts from the gift exchange table. The scheme is simplicity itself: each OM brings a gift for an OM, each YL for a YL. At the drawing, OMs choose from the pile of OM gifts and the YLs from the YL gifts. Amazingly, it comes out even!

One of the major attractions of the party is the chance to meet with the members and their guests in such a relaxed setting. The conversation is light and most informative because of the “mixed” company. SEMARA always throws a great party!



Photos
by Larry
Lygren,
W1DBX

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

EDITOR

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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 15TH
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

FOOLING AROUND

**Find the hidden phrase
suggested by the follow-
ing:**

2 x WRONG = LEFT

(“x” stands for “times”)

ANSWER - See page 7

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

The year of 2004 promises to be a year of change and, perhaps, some surprises. For example, 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference eliminated the requirement for Morse code proficiency to gain HF access. To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character—the commercial "at" or @ symbol—to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (.-.-.) to represent the @ symbol.

The ARRL is reporting that FEMA, the federal agency here in the United States tasked with overseeing emergency communications and other emergency responses, has now come out against the scheme of broadband Internet over power lines, citing potential interference to communications during emergency situations.

"FEMA has concluded that introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS," says FEMA.

BPL is one of those things that may seem like a good idea when it is first introduced, but, as predicted, it is not standing up under scrutiny by engineering professionals around the world. The ARRL quickly addressed the broadband over power line interference potential, and continues to do so. Read it online at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/12/08/1/?nc=1>.

The WIA "Welcome to HF QSO Party." On New Year's Day 2004, all Australian radio amateurs—whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination—will gain access to the high-frequency (HF) bands. The WIA invites the world's Amateur Radio fraternity to join an on-the-air celebration to mark the occasion. The WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party will begin at 0001 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (1301 UTC December 31) and conclude at 2400 UTC January 1, New Year's Day. VK radio amateurs appearing on HF bands for the first time will have three-letter call sign suffixes beginning with H, T, U, X, Y or Z. WIA stations joining the QSO Party will have two-letter "WI" call sign suffixes or three-letter suffixes starting with "WI". Listen for the call "CQ WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party." There's more information on the WIA Web site <http://www.wia.org.au>.

—The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22 No. 50

2004 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President
Charles Moszcensky, KB1FRL

Secretary
Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer
Scott Szala, W1EV

Trustees: (year term is up)

Edward Blouin, KA1AW (2004) - Chairman
Norman Riley, W1ATI (2005) Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)
William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007) Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Board of Directors:

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX
David Dean, K1JGV
Marty Jordon, KA1YFV

MEETING MINUTES

The Business Meeting was called to order December 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. by **Ray Arruda, KB1EVX**. Forty seven members were present, 206 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)—Fuel oil tank was filled. Fire extinguishers have been checked. Winter is upon us, please keep the doors closed when not in use.

Technical (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)—Our 80 foot tower needs a pin through the mast to stop the antenna from slipping.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—Christmas Party, Dec. 18. Hope everyone has a great time. Scott Szala was told by Al Costello that our two-meter antenna will be installed the next time he climbs the tower.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

Fleamarket (Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA)—Nothing to report.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)—Rob wished to thank everyone who participated in the recent black out. There will be another ARES Drill February 21, 2004. The scenario will be a major loss of power..

Communications (Carl Bredberg, K1KID)—A thank you letter was received for the stamps that were donated.

Ratifications*—Five 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 everyone who gave donations to the club. He also wishes to thank everyone who helped him during his term as president. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Old Business—There will be no extra cost to have another IP address put on our computer cable line.

New Business—

A *motion** to purchase a boom for a mike in the radio room.

A collection of \$75.00 collected from the members present at the meeting to help keep up the 145.490 repeater in Fairhaven. Any other donations from those who use this machine would be greatly appreciated.

ELECTION—The following were elected into office for 2004.

President: Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President: Charles Moszcensky, KB1FRL

Secretary: Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer: Scott Szala, W1EV

Board of Directors:

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX

Marty Jordon, KA1YFV

David Dean, K1JGV

Trustee: Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (5-year term)

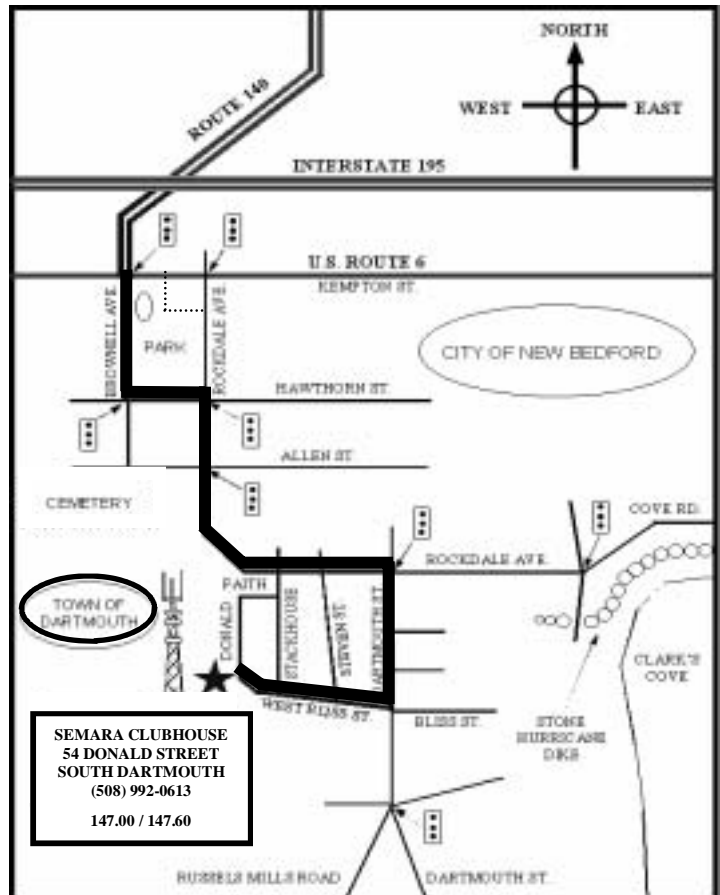
FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—A phone call at 7:50 p.m. from Ed Duclos, WA1ZCB saying he made it back to Stuart, FL before the snow storm..

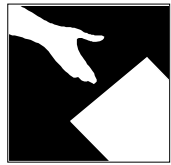
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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

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

DIRECTIONS TO CLUB





CLUB NOTES

January is a month that signals the start new things. Plan to achieve just one goal, like upgrading your license or building that *gizmo* you have been thinking about forever or ... !

Of course you could decide to come to the next Tech Talk or the Zero Beat Folding Party. That would be nice, too.

Speaking of a new start, let me apologize to one of our newer members. Not only did I spell his name wrong, but I got his call wrong too. So here it is, as it should have been in the first place:

Donald Mazzucchi, KA1BxB

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

Thomas Dussault, no call

Norman R. Guivens, N1IPS

Henry Keefe, KB1GQC

John Robert Malicky, no call

Robert G. Stoner, WE2Z

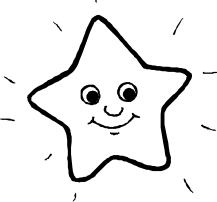
Welcome to the club!

Congratulations are in order for passing exams at the SEMARA VE Session on December 6, 2003:

Thomas Dussault passed both the Technician and General written exams.

Bob Manchester, KB1JBC passed the **General** written exam.

Fine Business gentlemen!



SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

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!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

JANUARY 3, 2004

10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055

JANUARY VE SESSIONS

- 8 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.**
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 10 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-548-1121
- 12 Brookline, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Mike Ardai, N1IST
781-321-7939
- 15 Norwood, MA, 7:30 p.m.**
Richard Cantin, AA1TI
508-339-1089
- 17 Marlborough, MA, 9:00 a.m.**
Bill Wade, K1IJ
607-699-3670

Silent Keys

SEMARA Notes

RICHARD F. SIMPKIN, SR., WA1CRA, SK
 A member since 1965, **Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA, 73**, died unexpectedly on December 16, 2003, just prior to his scheduled heart bypass operation.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:
 Simpkin Family
 69 DeWolf Street
 New Bedford, MA 02740



May he rest in peace.

RONALD D. CORREIA, N1DXD, SK
Ron Correia, N1DXD, 60, passed away December 9, 2003, after a long illness. Ron was fighting leukemia and recently underwent a successful bone marrow transplant. His sudden death was a shock to all.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:
 Correia Family
 10 Gorham Street
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748



May he rest in peace.

Convalescing

Steve Spulock, N1DSN, underwent two operations recently and is convalescing at Blair House, 397 County Street, New Bedford. He is in Room 121 and plans to get a telephone soon.

Visitors are welcome!!!

Send cards to:
 Steven Spulock
 Rm 121
 Blair House
 397 County Street
 New Bedford, MA
 02740



DONATIONS NEEDED

The 145.490 repeater has lost its High Power Amplifier. About 10 years ago when it was replaced, the cost was \$495.00. Today a new one will be \$590.00 + Tax and Shipping

The vendor is Advanced Communications Systems. All other information is on the site: <http://www.advcommsys.com>. We will be getting a new amplifier soon. The old one will eventually be repaired by them so it can be used as a spare.

The amplifier that blew up was from 1985 when I bought the 145.490 repeater. The Fairhaven repeater doesn't get any income like SEMARA does. So we need to ask all amateurs to make a donation to get it back to full power. Please donate anything you can for the cause.

We collected \$75.00 at the SEMARA December Business meeting. I mentioned the need for donations to the people that use the Fairhaven repeater on the SkyWarn WX net. Some of them will be sending a check directly to Rob:

Robert D. Macedo
 50 Mandell Street
 New Bedford, MA 02740

macedo@pop.ma.ultranet.com

73 de Larry, W1DBX

MEMBERS' ECHOLINK NODES

CALL	FREQ	PL	NODE
WB1HGA	147.440 simplex	67.0	2061
KB1HGJ	145.520 simplex	123.0	4722
N1XRS	146.595 simplex	141.3	8998
W1DBX-L			63494
KD1CY	145.490-		142790
W1RJC	443.800+	88.5	4259



Who else is out there?
 Send me the information and you, too, can be listed.
editor@semara.org

Operating Hints

HF Beacons—A great tool for HF DXers

by Carl Bredberg, K1KID

Most folks unfamiliar with HF beacons will dismiss operating on a band that appears to have no activity, and move on to the next lower HF band looking for better conditions. What if the band was really wide open and everyone monitoring moves on, with out so much as a single CQ, because they hear no activity either?

Strange as it might seem, and based on my personal experience as well, this happens quite frequently. Of course no one wants to waste a lot of time CQing a dead band either, but there is a solution.

The "Northern California DX Foundation" has distributed 18 transmitters all around the world, on every continent and places in between. They are synchronized to operate one after the other in sequence, each on the same frequency in each band. Each transmitter transmits precisely on **14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz** in rotation.

On any given band, all 18 beacons will have transmitted their ID in CW at 22 wpm within a 3 minute period. After a beacon IDs, it transmits 4 long dashes, the first at **100** watts, next is **10** watts, then **1** watt and last is 100 milliwatts. So it is possible to determine if a band is open and how good the opening is, all in a 3 minute period. Now that's great stuff!

If you are not a CW type, not to worry. IDing the beacons can be done with your PC. There is software available that knows when a beacon should be transmitting and will highlight that beacon on a map. You need to synchronize your PC clock to WWV to get accurate time correlation for the beacon ID program. Time synchronization programs are available free on the website mentioned below.

See <<http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html>> for beacon frequencies under the "Beacon Status" tab on their web site. The software to ID the beacons, if you need it, can be downloaded from locations listed under the "Tools for Listeners" tab on the same web page.

I hope this is a help to all you DXers out there. Even if you don't chase DX, this is fascinating stuff. Give the beacons a listen, I think you will be fascinated too.



BEACON LOCATION MAP

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Locations


Call	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Grid Sq
4U1UN	US United Nations, New York City	40° 45' N	73° 58' W	FN30AS
VE8AT	Canada Eureka, Nunavut	79° 59' N	85° 57' W	EQ79AX
W6WX	US Mt. Umunhum, CA	37° 09' N	121° 54' W	CM97BD
KH6WO	US Laie, Hawaii	21° 38' N	157° 55' W	BL11AP
ZL6B	New Zealand Masterton	41° 03' S	175° 36' E	RE78TW
VK6RBP	Australia Rolystone	32° 06' S	116° 03' E	OF87AV
JA2IGY	Japan Mt. Asama	34° 27' N	136° 47' E	PM84JK
RR90	Russia Novosibirsk	54° 59' N	82° 54' E	NO14KX
VR2B	Hong Kong Hong Kong	22° 16' N	114° 09' E	OL72BG
4S7B	Sri Lanka Colombo	6° 54' N	79° 52' E	MJ96
ZS6DN	South Africa Pretoria	25° 54' S	28° 16' E	KG44DC
5Z4TU	Kenya Kiambu	1° 01' S	37° 03' E	KI88MX
4X6TU	Israel Tel Aviv	32° 03' N	34° 46' E	KM72JB
OH2B	Finland Karkkila	60° 32' N	24° 06' E	KP20BM
CS3B	Madeira Santo da Serra	32° 43' N	16° 48' W	IM12OR
LU4AA	Argentina Buenos Aires	34° 37' S	58° 21' W	GF05TJ
OA4B	Peru Lima	12° 04' S	76° 57' W	FH17MW
YV5B	Venezuela Caracas	10° 25' N	66° 51' W	FK60NJ

Current Beacon Status

VE8AT	OFF
W6WX	Power levels do not step
KH6WO	OFF on 18 and 24 MHz bands
JA2IGY	OFF
RR90	Intermittent, callsign sometimes garbled
OH2B	OFF
LU4AA	Callsign sometimes garbled
OA2B	OFF

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A POINT TO PONDER

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

- Albert Einstein
(1879-1955)



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Two WRONGS don't make a RIGHT

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

2004 FLEAMARKET

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

SEMARA WEBSITE:

<http://www.semara.org>
E-MAIL: info@semara.org

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location	Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144				440			
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 + SEMARA	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
* Nodes: IRLP=4617, EchoLink=142790				* Nodes: IRLP =4259, EchoLink=4259			

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

SEMARA

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