



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 72nd YEAR

Volume 40, Issue 7

SEMARA W1AEC

July 2004

VoIP & Amateur Radio

The SEMARA Tech Talk on May 20, 2004 was on *VoIP & Amateur Radio* by **Rick Cabral, W1RJC** with the support of **Jed, N1JBC** and **Tony, N1XRS**. **VoIP** is an acronym for **V**oice **o**ver **I**nternet **P**rotocol. This allows users to send voice over the internet in data form. The data is converted back to voice at the user's receiving end.

The first public use was a program called *Internet Phone*. This was available in the mid-1990s. The idea was to use the mike and speaker on your PC to make free calls to any internet-connected computer in the world. As long as you know the IP address of the computer you are calling, just type it in and establish a connection.

Telephony. VoIP converges traditional telephone with the internet to provide cost effective phone service. Comcast, for example, is planning to offer this type of service soon.

Webcasting. Commercial radio stations and personal broadcasters use streaming audio, which is a form of VoIP, to deliver content. Listen to WolfFM.com or www.di.fm commercial stations or Rick's Mix967.com or Jed's Mix102.net personal stations.

Voice Communication. This is good for talking to friends and family, business associates, or for playing an organized online game where voice communication can make it more exciting, fun and productive. Ventrilo and Teamspeak are two such programs.

Ham Radio. Amateur operators can communicate using VoIP networks that link radio systems worldwide. **I**nternet **R**adio **L**inking **P**roject (**IRLP**) and **E**cho**L**ink are the most popular programs. **eQSO** is similar to EchoLink but has poorer audio quality. It is

available at <http://www.eqso.com>. **WIRES-II** was developed by Yaesu. It was designed with the vision of giving your repeater worldwide coverage. It has not caught on in the U.S.

New England Network (**NEN**). This is a new project that was started in December 2003 by **Brian, N1LFE**, W. Haven, CT; **Jed, N1JBC**, Johnston, RI; **Rick, W1RJC**, Dartmouth, MA; and **Tony, N1XRS**, Dartmouth, MA. **NEN** merges the power and technology of both **IRLP** and **EchoLink**. The **IRLP** side of the **NEN** connects through **IRLP Reflector #9877** in Denver, CO. The **EchoLink** side is on Conference Server #9123 in Woodbridge, CT. The Cross-Over Gateway is in W. Haven, CT (**IRLP** node #4663 and **EchoLink** node #7505). *The current full-time nodes on NEN are listed on page 4.*

Most of the 20 or so members were familiar with the operational aspects of **IRLP** and **EchoLink** thanks to earlier Tech Talks on the subject.

Rick ended his presentation with a short on-the-air demonstration. You can get a local login code from him.



SPEAKER JED-N1JBC, PRESENTER RICK-W1RJC,
AND SPEAKER TONY-N1XRS.

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 commercial ad per month.

THE DEADLINE FOR
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 PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH
 OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

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Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

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

E-MAIL: clubinfo@semara.org

FISTS CW club no. is 10555

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

Summer is a good time to actually do something about upgrading your license. If you are one of those who are waiting for the FCC to remove the Morse code requirement, Element 1, the consensus is "Don't!"

You are advised to "keep up those code studies," since there is no guarantee that the FCC will act before your General theory CSCE expires in 365 days. Furthermore, the Commission could decide to keep the code requirement. "Keep learning those letters" as the code will be useful for DX operation, no matter what happens.

This is a great time to pass the Morse code test at 5 wpm. Need some help? In the past **Dave Dean, K1JGV** was willing to help you out any Sunday morning. **Carl Bredberg, K1KID** has offered to run a slow-speed CW net for on-the-air practice for those Tech-Pluses who have passed Element 1 or anyone else who wants to improve their CW skills. If you are still learning the code, listening to this net is a good way for you to get used to the less-than-ideal conditions on HF. It can only make you a better operator. Ask and get with the code!

This is a good time for the rest of us to listen to the noise levels on HF and 6-meters. With all the BLP (Broadband over Power Lines) being introduced across the country, it is a good idea that we know when the noise floor is raised! In fact, the lack of comment when BPL is introduced unannounced is one way the proponents will claim there is no problem from BPL. While we are all accustomed to variable amounts of QRN, noise from natural sources, QRM, noise that is man-made, should not be tolerated just because it sounds like QRN! Take a listen, won't you? Make a note of the noise levels in your log book. You all keep a log, don't you? Well, it is a good habit to get into, even if you don't operate HF.

Have you noticed that we have been privileged to have really fine Tech Talk presentations? It is no accident. The presenters really know what they are talking about. So why do only about half of you show up? Would it make any difference if we offered free hot dogs and soda? Well we do offer free soda. And anyone can put a few 'dogs' in the hotdog machine, it just takes planning and the willingness to clean up afterwards. So—do we need to do this? Where's the signup list for the cleanup squad?

Before I forget, get your reservations in now for the *Advanced Emergency Communications Workshop* on *Saturday, August 28, 2004*. As an incentive, there will be the world famous SEMARA BBQ Chicken luncheon for all who attend. Who needs more than this to sign up —NOW!?

HAMMING AROUND

E9A06* How much gain does a 1/2-wavelength dipole have over an isotropic [equal in all directions] radiator?

A. About 1.5 dB

B. About 2.1 dB

C. About 3.0 dB

D. About 6.0 dB

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

ANSWER - See page 7



MEETING MINUTES

The Business Meeting was called to order June 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. Forty four members were present.

The Secretary's report (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**) as it appeared in the June issue of *Zero Beat* was amended and accepted.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Correspondence (**Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL**)—None.

Technical (**Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—New repeater has arrived. There is a backorder on the parts for the amplifier.

Buildings and Grounds (**Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**)—Problems with furnace will be addressed in the fall. Request all to observe parking restrictions and secure back door of the club house.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship (**Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS**)—None.

ARES Report (**Rob Macedo, KD1CY**)—June 21 at 7 p.m. a Hurricane exercise will take place. He also made a request for anyone interested in supporting communications for the Red Cross during the Democratic National Convention to be held in Boston.

Ratifications—Two applications for membership were voted life members (see page 4 for details).

President's Comments (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**)—Thanks to all for preparing the storage container for use. He presented the Special Time-Out Award to **Ray Arruda, KA1EVX**. Again, he requested someone to be fleamarket chairperson. He also mentioned that EMA is setting up temporary operations on the Battleship Cove in Fall River.

Old Business—None.

New Business—

Passed: * Motion to purchase CW filter and paddle for the club station Kenwood.

Passed: * Motion to purchase a mike/headset for club's EchoLink setup.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Andy, WA1FNM, reminds all that no food or drink is allowed in the radio room. Also food will be served during normal Field Day Operations
Carl, K1KID, asks anyone interested in going on QRP/QRO field trips to see him or Ed, WA1ZCB.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.



DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Rick, W1RJ, provided the following updates that are reflected on the back cover:

442.200	Fall River	(off)	deleted
442.600	Tiverton	(off)	deleted
145.490	Fairhaven	PL 82.5	added
146.730	Sandwich	PL 67.0	added
443.600	Norwell	PL 88.5	added
447.025	Johnston	PL 77.0	added

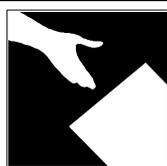
Monday Swap Net at 7:30 p.m. 147.000 deleted due to inactivity.

The Dartmouth Portuguese repeater has returned to the air after two years. This is **not** listed since it is a *closed* repeater. For those who can access it, the information is:

146.445+1MHz, PL 91.5, KB1BWN

Please give me updates and corrections as you notice them.

Bob, K1KVV—editor@semara.org



CLUB NOTES

July is supposed to be a hot and fun month. At least we can look forward to some fireworks! And while you are at it, think about upgrading your license. Or better yet, introduce some young person to the hobby. In case you are wondering how young, anyone under the age of 100 should do!



Two applicants were voted life members of the club during the June 3, 2004 business meeting:

Jason Legrow, KB1KVD,
Rachel Eddleston, no call.

At the VE Exam on June 5. **Ronald R. Smith, N1PXX,** passed the General written exam and **Shawn De Cesari, K1VSR,** passed both the 5WPM code and General written exams.

Anne Purcell, widow of **Larry (N1AS, ex-WA1CRI),** donated the last of Larry's radio equipment to the club.

Among items donated were several 2-m transceivers, walkies, and a new-in-the-box E.F. Johnson AM/SSB CB rig .

Other items included a D-104 mike, handkeys, electronic keyer, code oscillator, heterodyne frequency meter, Telex headset with mike boom, antenna parts, Benton Harbor lunchboxes, tube caddy with tubes, and a host of similar items.

The club extends its sincere appreciation of this donation to Anne.



Way to go!

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SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

July 2004

- 1—**Business Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
- 8—**Ragchewing**, 6:30 p.m.
- 10—**VE Session**, 10:30 a.m.
- 15—**Tech Talk**, "GPS Devices,"
Matt Vangel, KA1THM 7:00 p.m.
- 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!

DON'T PARK ON THE GRASS

Just a friendly reminder that parking across from the handicapped area is discouraged EXCEPT for the Fleamarket. Try to avoid giving the club a 'gypsy camp' look during the summer and fall. All club members, especially younger/able bodied members, are encouraged to park as far to the rear of the club as possible. There are areas on the gravel and also on the grass either side of the 80 foot tower.

To allow the grass on the side of the club to recover, club members are asked to avoid parking in that area **if possible**. I fully realize that during business meetings parking will be at a premium, especially with the storage bin taking up some space. By applying a minimum of common sense, however, we will manage. Note the V.I.P. space on the side near the manhole.

I am in favor of removing the grass on the south side of the club (not the front portion) when the new building becomes a reality. It may be convenient at that time to use the same material we have for the driveway. As long as the grass is there, however, I will maintain it. I will be happy to answer any questions and will be open to suggestions on how the grounds might be improved.

73 de **Dave, K1JGV**

NEW ENGLAND NETWORK— FULL-TIME NODES

FREQUENCY	CTCSS	CALL	LOCATION
224.500 +	77.0	N1LFE	W. Haven, CT
147.505	77.0	N1LFE	W. Haven, CT
-1MHz			
447.025 -	77.0	N1JBC	Johnson, RI
443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC	Dartmouth, MA

SEMARA News & Notes

Behind the Call Sign Democratic Nat'l Conv

Armand Augustine, WIBUG
armand.augustine@verizon.net

Look for something new in the next issue! A new feature named "*Behind the Call Sign*" will commence in *Zero Beat* starting with the August issue. I, **Armand Augustine, WIBUG**, will visit your shack, take photos and conduct an interview with you there. We can discuss your favorite modes, equipment, vintage equipment that you may have, antenna systems, shack construction and organizational tips, etc. Other hobbies that you may have, ham related or not, will also be eligible topics for discussion.

We will not be discussing individuals, (the exception being a mentor you might have had, or someone who influenced you in the hobby in some way) club business, or any personal feelings about how the club is run, positive or negative in nature. Discussions will be kept to the topic at hand.

It does not matter if your 'shack' is a simple desk or a super-duper custom-built room or just a card table in the cellar, or even a corner in your garden shed! All of these shacks are what makes it interesting.

This can be a fun feature if we can get some interested people! I will do my best to keep the interview light and interesting. Input from OMs, YLs, etc. is welcomed. I'm interested whether all you have for a station is a very old transmitter with your (X)YL pumping a bicycle to generate the DC, or if you have a roomful of the big toys. There is a story there that will be of interest to others in the club!

If this idea appeals to you, *e-mail me directly* at your earliest convenience. These interviews will have to be scheduled about one month or more before publication.

POINT TO PONDER

To learn, and from time to time apply what one has learned— isn't that a pleasure?

— Confucius (500 B.C.)

As requirements for the Democratic National Convention (DNC) continue to be developed by our clients, it is clear that we will need many volunteers to help during the week of the DNC. Duties will range from maintaining net watches at home stations to direct mobilization with teams supporting groups such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Boston EOC.

We will need people in two shifts; from 0600-1600 and 1600-0100. The day shift will be most challenging to fill, as the DNC will be taking place during the work week. I cannot ask anyone to take time from work, but if you can arrange to donate a vacation day or two to help, it would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, we are looking for people who have completed any level of training in the Incident Command System (ICS). We would appreciate if all ARES members respond as well, since this particular question was not listed on our membership applications and questionnaires.

Please respond to your EC/DEC or me with any of the above requested information as soon as you can. My sincere thanks in advance for your efforts.

73, Michael P. Neilsen, W1MPN

EMA Section Emergency Coordinator

w1mpn@ema.arrl.org <http://ares.ema.arrl.org>

978.562.5662 Office // 978.389.0558 FAX

HAM RADIO CW INTERNATIONAL

Q-SIGNALS

Q-Signal	CW Meaning
QRM / QRN	Man-made / natural noise
QRO / QRP	Increase / decrease power
QRQ / QRS	Send faster / slower
QRT	Stop sending
QRX	Standby
QRZ?	Who is calling me?
QSB	Signals are fading
QSK	Break-in operation
QSL	Confirm receipt of message
QSO	Radio contact between stations
QST	Before messages for everyone

More News & Notes



JASON, KB1KVD



RACHELL, NO CALL

JOINED SEMARA JUNE 3, 2004

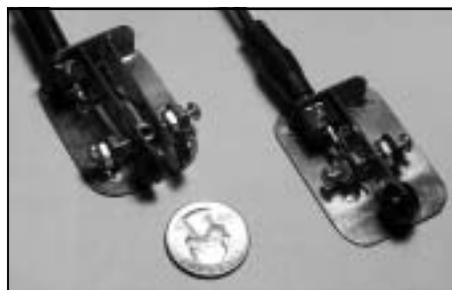


RAY, KA1EVX RECEIVES TIME OUT AWARD

It really was not his fault that he timed out the repeater. It just happened that **Ray, KA1EVX**, was caught in a time warp and time just flew.



ED, WA1ZCB AND HIS QRP SETUP: NOTE BATTERY PACK AND TUNER



SOME KEYS ED, WA1ZCB MADE FOR HIS QRP RIGS.

HE CALLED THEM EVENING PROJECTS. HOW LATE DOES HE STAY UP?



8000 MILES PER WATT

Shortly before 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2004, **Ed, WA1ZCB**, completed a QSO from W1AEC to Lithuania. He was running 0.5 Watts! When confirmed, the 4000± mile QSO will earn him a certificate for exceeding 1000 miles per watt.

Congratulations Ed!



NEW DUAL PADDLE KEY IN THE RADIO ROOM



NEW MANUAL KEY IN THE RADIO ROOM



Regarding editing mistakes, we put at least one error in every issue — just to see if you are paying attention.

Bob-K1KVV, Editor

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Members' SIMPLEX* EchoLink Nodes
CALL FREQ PL NODE

WB1HGA	SIMPLEX	147.440	71.9	2061
KB1HGJ	SIMPLEX	145.520	123.0	4722
N1XRS	SIMPLEX	146.595	141.3	8998

Send updates to: editor@semara.org

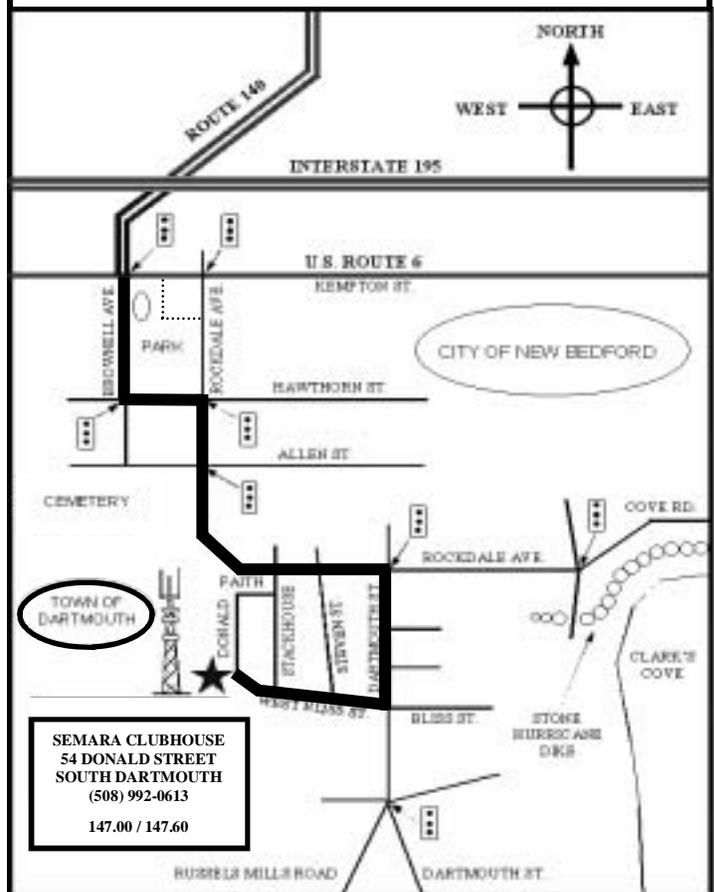
*Repeater nodes: see page 8.

July
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
- 15 Walpole, MA, 7:30 p.m.**
Richard Cantin, AA1TI
508-339-1089
- 17 W. Warwick, RI, 9:00 a.m.**
Thomas Senerchia, KA1VAY
401-822-2592
- 19 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469

B. About 2.1 dB

Directions to SEMARA



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

FLEAMARKETS

17 July—Nashua NH—NE Antique RC
Marty 603-938-5051

18 July—Cambridge MA—Flea @ MIT
Nick 617-253-3776

12 Sept—SEMARA

SEMARA NET DIRECTORY

— RAGCHEW —

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 USB
 Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 USB
 Daily - 7 p.m. 147.000+
 M-F 7:30 a.m. 3.872 LSB

— SEMCARES NET —

1st Sunday each month at 7:30 p.m.
 145.490- (Fairhaven) Repeater)
FAIRHAVEN WEATHER NET
 Mon--Fri 8:00 p.m. 145.490-

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

JULY 10, 2004
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location	Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144				440			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River	441.400 +	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
145.490 -	82.5	KD1CY*	Fairhaven	443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth	443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
146.685 -		W1LM	Plymouth	443.600 +	88.5	NS1N	Norwell
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI	443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC*	Dartmouth
146.730 -	67.0	W1SGL	Sandwich	444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI	444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis	444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
147.000 + SEMARA	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth	444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton	447.025 -	77.0	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater	447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard				
* Nodes: IRLP=4617, EchoLink=142790				* Nodes: IRLP =4259, EchoLink=4259			

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