



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 72nd YEAR

Volume 40, Issue 12

SEMARA W1AEC

December 2004

## Meet the Candidates

SEMARA elections will take place during the regular business meeting on December 2.

**O**pen nomination policy. You still have time to throw your hat into the ring. Just add your name to the slate (actually the white board in the club house). Self-nominations are encouraged. *Please don't nominate someone else unless they have agreed to serve if elected.*

**T**he nominating committee has been working hard to find ready, willing, and able candidates. As of press time, this is the slate of candidates, with available photos:

*President:* Don Manley, N1PMN

*Vice President:* Chuck Moszczenski, KB1FRL

*Secretary:* Ron Silvia, WB1HGA;  
Rick, Cabral W1RJ

*Treasurer:* Scott Szala, W1EV

*Board of Directors (vote for 3):*

Rob Macedo, KD1CY;

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX;

Alan Dulong, WB1FQP;

Bill Vincent, W1POW;

Charles Pelletier, KD1DA;

Marty Jordan, KA1YFV

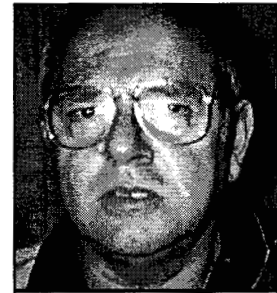
*Trustee (serve through 2009):*

Bill Vincent, W1POW

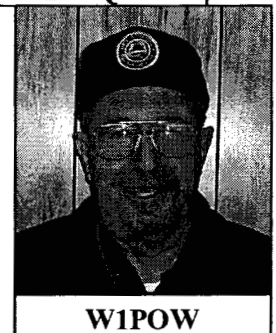
**C**an you match the photos with the candidates? Give it a try! And remember to come to the December business meeting and vote for your candidates. Note, absentee ballots are only counted on the first ballot. They must be received before the meeting.



KA1YFV



WB1FQP



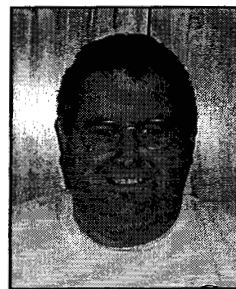
W1POW



W1RJ



KB1EVX



N1PMB



KD1CY

## ZERO BEAT

Published monthly by the  
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 54 Donald Street,  
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\*\*\*\*\*

### ADVERTISING

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.

### 2004 SEMARA OFFICERS

#### *President*

Donald Manley, N1PMB

#### *Vice President*

Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL

#### *Secretary*

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

#### *Treasurer*

Scott Szala, W1EV

#### *Board of Directors:*

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX

David Dean, K1JGV

Marty Jordon, KA1YFV

#### *Trustees: (year term is up)*

Edward Blouin, KA1AW (2004) - Ch.

Norman Riley, W1ATI (2005)

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)

William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

#### *WEBSITE:*

<http://www.semara.org>

#### *E-MAIL:*

[clubinfo@semara.org](mailto:clubinfo@semara.org)

#### *FISTS CW*

**club no. is 10555**

#### *GPS Coordinates:*

**Lat. N 41° 36.795'**

**Long. W 070° 56.590'**

# IT SEEMS TO ME ...

That Bob Zeida, N1BLF, deserves a lot of thanks. He gave us a CD that he recorded from the General Class Manual (2004) on Morse code. This CD is remarkable since it contains no Morse code in the approximately 45 reading. What it does contain is lots of helpful hints about learning the sound language of Morse code. Here are two links that might help you out: <<http://www.aa9pw.com/radio/morse.html>> and <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>>.

New 60-meter beacons are on the air from England and Scotland. **GB3WES** in Cumbria, England, and **GB3ORK** in Scotland's Orkney Islands join **GB3RAL** in Oxfordshire, which has been on the air since mid-2003. All transmit on 5290 kHz. Each beacon has a stepped transmit power sequence and a 30-second sounder sequence of 0.5 ms pulses at 40 Hz. All three beacons transmit at a nominal power of 10 W. For more information, including how to file reception reports, see the RSGB Beacon Reporting Webpage <[http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/beacon\\_reporting.htm](http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/beacon_reporting.htm)>.

No, your antenna did not fall down. If you turned on your HF rig and heard nothing, no matter which band you tried, chances are you experienced the result of a large solar flare. Recently, large solar flares have been repeatedly bombarding Earth with a strong solar wind, and that messes up the ionosphere, making communications via HF into a strictly local phenomenon. There is virtually no "skip" at all, so the bands are behaving as if they are VHF!

When this happened before, new hams could easily conclude that their equipment has failed! Some might think "My antenna had come down" or "My coax had been disconnected." Older hams have seen this sort of thing before. They know that band conditions may not improve for days at a time, and perhaps slowly at that. So, it is a good time for building that project you have been meaning to get around to, or cleaning the ham shack, or perhaps rediscovering your local repeaters.

This solar minimum is unique in that we have the Internet as a resource, allowing us to link repeater systems to one another worldwide via EchoLink and IRLP. So I don't want to hear any complaining about the "good old days." Back in the old days, you would have been told to get outside and rake the lawn, as long as your radio wasn't working. Aren't we fortunate to live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

*73 de Bob, K1KVV [editor@semara.org](mailto:editor@semara.org)*

## FOOLIN' AROUND

**QUESTION:** If the U.S. Air Force can use the callsign **AIR** and the U.S. Navy can use the callsign **NAVY**, why is it that the U.S. Army can't use the callsign **ARMY**?

**ANSWER on page 7**



# MEETING MINUTES

The November 2, 2004 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. A quorum of 34 members was present.

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

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

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Buildings and Grounds* (**Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**)—Absent.

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

*Technical* (**Rick Cabral, W1RJG & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—Extra memory installed to fix computer hang-up problems.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

*Activities* (**Scott Szala, W1EV**)—Tickets are available for \$20.00, no limit, for the Christmas Party to take place on Wednesday, December 15 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Century House, Acushnet. There will be a voluntary \$5 gift exchange as in previous years. Wrap gifts in red for OM and green for YL.

*ARES* (**Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—**Rob Macedo, KD1CY** thanked everyone for showing up at past exercises.

Reminder: *SKYWARN Recognition Day* will be held Dec. 4, 00:00-24:00 UTC [12/03 7:00 p.m. to 12/04 7:00 p.m.]. Chance to work all SKYWARN stations.

Next full ARES drill will be in March 2005.

*Contests* (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**)—ARCBS (Amateur Radio Covered Bridge Society) held a sprint where you work other stations from any covered bridge. Club to receive a certificate for working 2 stations (Sweden & Canada) from Old Slab Bridge Road, Assonet.

*Ratifications*—No applications for life membership were received this month.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**)—Asks all members to view chore list and donate time, sign up for tasks needed to be done.

**OLD BUSINESS**—None.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Motion\** that the club terminate the fleamarket event; list donated items on the Semara reflector; and auction off the donations to members at next business meeting, unless usable by the club.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

The *Zero Beat* newsletter will be folded on Wednesday, November 24 and on Thursday, December 30.

Request to get an interface unit for the club station so operators can do PSK or RTTY or other digital modes.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE recommendations:

Pres. **Don, N1PMB**; Vice Pres. **Chuck, KB1FRL**; and Treas. **Scott, W1EV**

Secretary: **Ron, WB1HGA**; **Rick, W1RJG**

Board of Directors (3):

**Rob, KD1CY**; **Ray, KB1EVX**; **Alan, WB1FQP**; **Bill, W1POW**; **Charles, KD1DA**

Trustee (1) (5-yr term): **Bill, W1POW**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

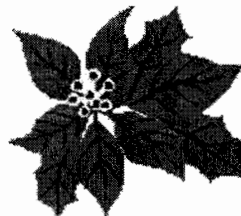
\* *All motions accepted and passed by the members present.*

## SEMARA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2004

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

Cocktails: 6 - 7 pm

Deluxe Buffet Dinner: 7 pm



CENTURY HOUSE  
107 South Main Street  
Acushnet, MA 02743

TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH — NO LIMIT!

VOLUNTARY \$5 GIFT EXCHANGE

WRAP IN RED FOR OM

WRAP IN GREEN FOR YL



# CLUB NOTES

December is a most magical month. I am certain there are at least a few of you who are waiting for the first real snow fall.

Who can resist the notion of visiting friends and relatives with snow flakes gently falling while a hush covers the world? 'Tis the season to be thankful and count our blessings. We are especially blessed with food, shelter, and good friends.

Be sure to come to the Christmas Party and (optional) bring an wrapped gift.

No applicants applied for life membership in the club during the November 2, 2004 business meeting!

The club membership remains at 279.

The SEMARA repeater, 147.000+ is running a 67.0 Hz tone for access. This is on at all times. A possible exception may be made for the 7 p.m. rag chew net. This is done by the control operator or by punching in the 5-digit TT code.

The following equipment will be auctioned at the next business meeting.

**A complete SWAN 350 station consisting of the transceiver, 120 volt AC power supply, 12 volt DC power supply, and other related items.**

The club voted to auction off donated items to members at the next business meeting, unless the item is usable by the club.



## SPELLING DOESN'T COUNT

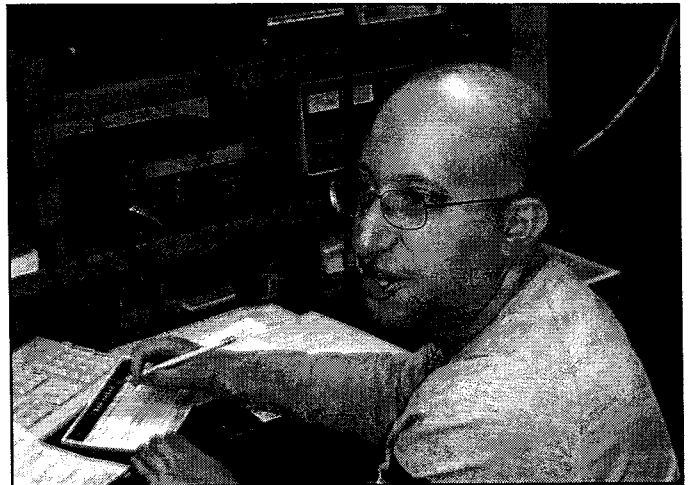
SUBJECT: I READ THE WHOLE THING TOO

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at CmabrigdeUinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the lltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihis is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Yaeh and I aw-lyas thought slpeling was ipmorant!

*Ron, Wb1hga, our club Secretary*

## EMA SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

Eastern Massachusetts ARES conducted another successful SET on October 30, 2004. The drill was an "add-on" to another planned drill that Cape Cod ARES put together for their group. According to Assistant SEC **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**, the original Cape Cod ARES drill was designed around an



**ROB, KD1CY OPERATED W1AEC AS NET CONTROL FOR THE ARES SIMULATED EMERGENCY**

immunization scenario with the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention involving flu vaccinations. However, the drill was cancelled by the CDC due to a real lack of vaccine. The modified drill/SET instead tested message relay between Cape Cod and various points in the section. It utilized HF, 6-meters, Packet and 2-meters.

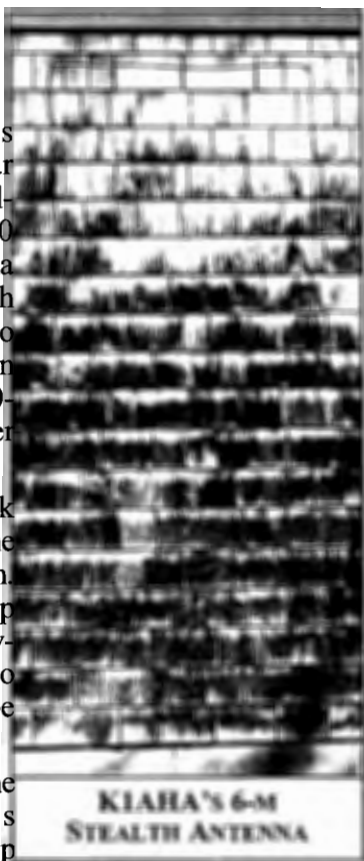
# SEMARA News & Notes

## STEALTH ANTENNA

Can you see Dick's 6-m rectangular loop antenna? It is almost invisible from 10 feet away. The antenna is a full wave loop with about a 2:1 vertical to horizontal dimension ratio. It is fed with 50-ohm coax in the center of the bottom section.

You can heard Dick when he checks into the Wednesday 8:30 p.m. 6-m Net. Since the loop is bi-directional, he covers Tiverton, RI to Mashpee on the Cape with no problem!

To cover to the north, Dick has mounted a second loop



on the inside wall of his garage. He says this antenna is really easy to make. Just use about 20-feet of wire and staple it to the wall. He feeds it directly with 50-ohm coax. Interestingly, Dick feeds both loops from the output of an L-C tuning network through a coax-tee connector. You can see it just to the left of the top-most meter.

Dick, known for his J-pole and dipole "plumber's delights," has held the K1AHA callsign since 1956.



DICK, K1AHA, AT HIS OPERATING POSITION

## 6 METER NET CHECK-INS

K1AHA	N. Dartmouth	Dick	N1PMB	New Bedford	Don
K1DYO	Bourne	Dan	N1RHS	Fall River	Paul
K1JGV	New Bedford	Dave	N1SIC	Bourne	Don
K1KID	Wareham	Carl	N1WDL	Scituate, RI	David *
K1UI	South Chatham	Rob *	N1YHS	Falmouth	Ralph
KA1BXB	Mashpee	Don	W1GYL	New Bedford	Henry
KA1NSB	Harwichport	Dick	W1JJC	Mashpee	Joe
KA1YSV	South Dartmouth	Marty	W1OA	Salem, NH	Al *
KA1YUA	Brewster	Fred	W1PPY	Mashpee	Chris
KB1DFC	Scituate	Gary	W1REA	Falmouth	Lenny
KB1GKH	Lakeville	Glen	W1VF	New Bedford	Ed
KB1GSK	Plymouth	Laz	W2DAN	Tiverton, RI	Dave
KB1HJG	Plymouth	ED	WA1ECF	Sandwich	Stan
KB1IQR	East Freetown	Brad	WA1GPO	Falmouth	Jim
N1HCW	New Bedford	Bob	WA1JSE	Osterville	Paul *
N1JOY	Westport	Roland	WA1LSH	Westport	John
N1LVV	Somerset	Jay			

\* new check-in on 11/17/04

Carl, K1KID

# More News & Notes

We put at least one error in every issue — just to see if you are paying attention.



Bob, K1KVV, Editor

## US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY SEEKS RADIO AMATEURS

**C**Q, CQ, CQ! The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is looking for Amateur Radio operators or prospective amateur licensees. At times like these, the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary rely on the Auxiliary Net (AuxNet), a backup radio network, to maintain communication with both the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. In areas where there is no regular Coast Guard presence, the Auxiliary may rely solely on its AuxNet for communication. In areas with a large USCG presence, the AuxNet operates in both a support and backup capacity.

The USCG Auxiliary is seeking ham radio volunteers because amateurs have skills they've developed both in everyday radio operation and participation during emergencies in RACES, ARES and SKYWARN. Amateur Radio and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary are an ideal fit.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is open to all US citizens over the age of 17. A security background check, paid for by the US Coast Guard, is required before an applicant is accepted. To find out more, visit the USCG Auxiliary Public Website. <[www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/getzip.html](http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/getzip.html)>.

## UPDATES

**L**et's keep the information given in *ZERO BEAT* up-to-date. Contact me at:

[editor@semara.org](mailto:editor@semara.org),

**T**wo local repeaters have changed their operating mode:

145.490- has dropped IRLP and EchoLink node access; and  
443.800+ is undergoing repairs.



## 2005 FLEAMARKETS

**22 Jan Nashua, NH**

NE Antique RC — Marty 603-938-5051

**19 Feb Marlboro, MA**

AARC — Ann 508-481-4988

**26 Feb Milton, VT**

RANV — Mitch W1SJ 802-979-6589

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

**T**he sixth annual ARRL-National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>> event starts at 00:00 UTC Saturday, December 4. During the 24-hour activity, radio amateurs set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and work as a team to contact other hams around the world. Stations will be able to contact over 90 NWS offices that are on the air throughout the 24-hour period.

NWS Taunton, **WX1BOX**, will be active from 7 p.m.-12 a.m. on Friday Evening, December 3, and from around 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday, December 4. The Voice Over IP System will be active using IRLP reflector 9219 and EchoLink WX-Talk conference room linked together, just like during hurricane net activations. NWS offices will be on in shifts during the course of SKYWARN Recognition Day on the system and NWS offices will also utilize other EchoLink and IRLP nodes that are available to the NWS offices in their areas.

It would be great for SEMARA to have some operators at the club house during the course of this event. I will be tied up at NWS Taunton for much of this event so having some members at SEMARA would be a big help. This is a fun event where endorsements can be earned by contacting various NWS offices across the region. An endorsement checklist is being formulated and will be posted on the web soon. SKYWARN Recognition Day is discussed more in the December issue of *QST Magazine* on page 72.

**P**lease let me know if you can get to the club for this event.

*Rob, KD1CY*

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**Mathew Vangel**  
KA1THM

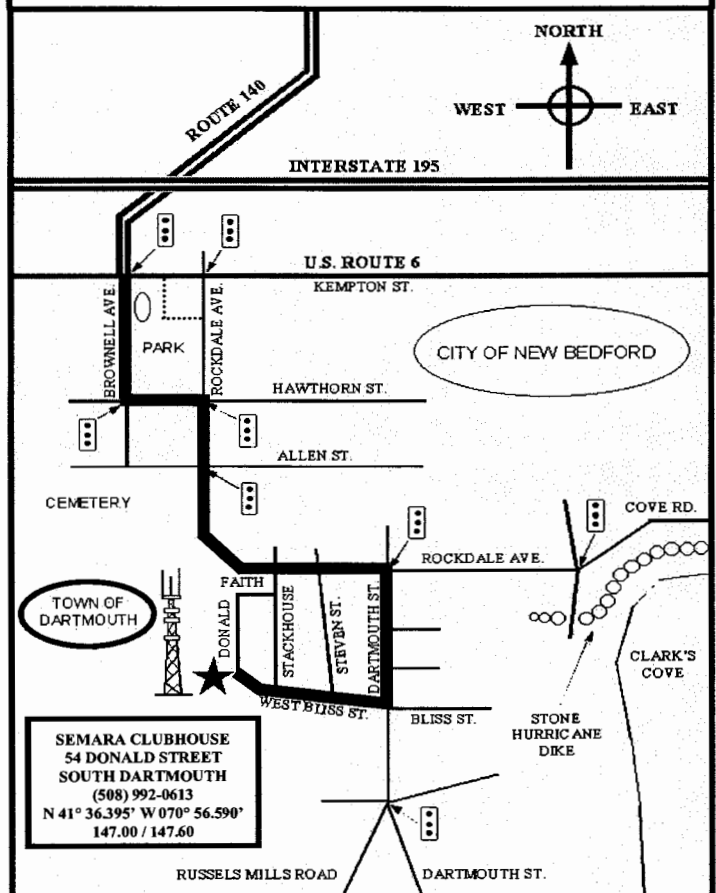
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**DECEMBER VE SESSIONS**

- 4 SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.  
Larry Houbre, AA1FS  
508-991-6055
- 9 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.  
Judy Nelson, KC1RI  
401-231-9156
- 11 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.  
Joanne Reid, N1LNE  
508-548-1121
- 16 Norwood, MA, 7:30 p.m.  
Richard J Cantin, AA1TI  
508-339-1089
- 18 Slatersville, RI, 9:00 a.m.  
Robert E Jones, WB1P  
401-333-4787
- 20 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.  
Skip Denault, KB1CNB  
774-644-3469

**Directions to SEMARA**



SEMARA CLUBHOUSE  
54 DONALD STREET  
SOUTH DARTMOUTH  
(508) 992-0613  
N 41° 36.395' W 070° 56.590'  
147.00 / 147.60

**SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR**

**December 2004**

- 2—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 4—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 9—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 15—Christmas Party—*Century House, Acushnet*, 6:00 p.m. (\$5 wrapped gift)
- 30—ZERO BEAT folding party, 3:00 p.m.

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

**POINT TO PONDER**

"The best portion of a good life is the little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love."  
*William Wordsworth*

ANSWER: The U.S. is allocated calligns in the series AAAA-AIZ; thus U.S. calligns cannot begin ARM.

## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>144</b>			
145.150 -	123.0	WAIDGW	Fall River
145.490 -	<b>67.0</b>	KD1CY*	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		WILM	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
146.730 -	67.0	W1SGL	Sandwich
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000 + SEMARA	<b>67.0</b>	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	KA1GG	Taunton
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard

\* IRLP #4617 & EchoLink #4611 nodes *non-operational*

### 440

441.400 +	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
443.600 +	88.5	NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	<b>88.5</b>	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
447.025 -	77.0	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

\*\* IRLP #4259 & EchoLink #4259 nodes *repeater under repair*

## SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

### — RAGCHEW —

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB

Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB

Wed - 8 p.m. 50.130 MHz USB

Daily - 7 p.m. 147.000+

M-F - 7:30 a.m. 3.872 MHz LSB

### — KD1CY WEATHER NET —

Mon--Fri 8:00 p.m. 145.490-

### — W1RJC Sunday Activities 443.800+ —

7 p.m. - New England Net

9 p.m. - ARRL News followed by Amateur Audio News

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

**DECEMBER 4, 2004**

**10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE**

**LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS**

**508-991-6055**

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

**SEMARA**

**FIRST CLASS**

PLACE LABEL HERE

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January 2011*