



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 2

SEMARA W1AEC

February 2005

Operating on 6 meters

Nine hardy souls turned out on January 20 to hear **Stan Laine, WA1ECF**, share “*My Experiences with 6 Meters.*” He has an ideal location in Barnstable with a 5 element Yagi at 300 feet above sea level. From that height, he can see all of the Cape and from Plymouth and Provincetown to Wareham and west. Stan has been a ham for a number of years, having cut his teeth in RACES using such venerable rigs as the 2 meter Gonset Communicator and rugged 6 meter Motorola gear.

Who can play on 6 meters? Except for Novices, all other classes of hams have full operating privileges in the 50 to 54 MHz band. The 6 meter band plan provides lots of space for your favorite modes. See the accompanying table. Note that horizontally polarized USB is the usual SSB mode.

Propagation. The “*Magic Band*” offers many propagation modes for you to experience. There is line-of sight and ground wave and the tropospheric anomaly modes such as the weather enhanced propagation experienced in warm weather and the aurora due to solar activity. **Sporadic E** (E_s) is lots of fun. Single hop E_s can provide about 750 mile contacts, double hop E_s can extend to 1500 miles. **Trans-equatorial** propagation is limited to stations between the 30° latitudes; however, with E_s propagation it is possible to have multiple hop TE/ E_s (a double hop is required for stations outside the TE latitudes). **F₂ ionospheric** propagation can provide intercontinental propagation; but it usually occurs only at the peak of the sun-spot cycle. **Meteor scatter** provides an opportunity for both voice and high speed digital modes. Signals are reflected by the random ionization trail caused by meteors. Usually contacts are scheduled using alternate 30 second transmissions to exchange

Frequency (MHz)	Use
50.0-50.1 50.060-50.080	CW, beacons beacon subband
50.100-50.300 50.100-50.125 50.110 50.125	SSB, CW DX calling window Int'l calling freq. National calling freq.
50.3-50.6 50.4	All modes AM calling freq.
50.6-50.8 50.62	Non-voice comm. Packet calling freq.
50.8-51.0	Radio remote control ch.
51.1-51.1	Pacific DX window
51.5-54.0	FM simplex & repeaters

QSO information.

Awards & Certificates. ARRL has *VUCC* for contacting a minimum of 100 4-digit grids; *WAS* for contacting all 50 states; *DXCC* for a contacting minimum of 100 DXCC entities. IARU has *WAC* for making contacts on 6 continents, and CQ has *WAZ* for contacting a minimum of 25 out of 40 zones.

Activities. Stan likes to chase new grids and has been quite successful at it. He says that while 10 watts is good, 100 watts is better, and 1000 watts is best. This is particularly important if you are interested in awards and certificates. He advises to use the minimum length of the best feedline you can afford to get the minimum losses and low leakage—important when running the legal limit!

QSL secrets. Stan uses 3 kinds of cards: *standard* with PSE QSL TNX and 4 digit grid; *special* for microwave with 6 digit grid, bearing and distance info; and *deadbeat* cards that are completely filled out and accompanied by an SASE for non-responders. “Green stamps” up the QSL rate.

Thanks to **Stan, WA1ECF** for a great Tech Talk.

ZERO BEAT

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

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ADVERTISING

Club members have one free non-
 commercial ad per month.

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

2005 SEMARA OFFICERS

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Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

WEBSITE:

<http://www.semara.org>

E-MAIL:

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 SEMARA has some pretty fantastic members. Some can't get enough involvement with our club so they are involved in another club as well (page 5). Others really appreciate the club station and find lots of excuses to spend some time operating their equipment too (page 6). Still others generously donate items to the club (pages 4 and 5). And then there are those un-named who seem to just do it when something needs to be done. *Wow! Aren't these people great!*



80 M ROCKMITE

Ed Duclos, WA1ZCB sent these pictures of his newest toy. It is an 80 meter QRP *RockMite* transceiver he built into a toy coke machine. [Is it a *CokeMite*?] His mini-key is plugged into the side. Ed enjoys the challenge of QRP construction projects.



80 M ROCKMITE
INSIDES



Did you know that **Joe Frois, W1VRP**, was licensed in 1996 and joined SEMARA in 1998 with callsign **N1YAL?** In 2002, he got the vanity callsign **W1JPF**, his initials. A year later, on June 10, 2003 he was assigned **W1VRP**, the callsign of his uncle and mentor, **John Amaral** who had just passed away.

Thanks to everyone who help make SEMARA the great club it is.

73 de Bob, K1KVV editor@semara.org

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* If you are a Technician licensee with Morse code credit and hold a CSCE for Element 3, what is one way you could identify your station when transmitting phone emissions on a General class amateur frequency?

- Give your call sign followed by the words "general class"
- No special identification is needed, since your license upgrade would already be shown in the FCC database
- Give your call sign followed by the words "temporary AG"
- You must wait until your new license arrives by mail from the FCC before using general class frequencies

* Taken from the 2004 General (Element 3) question pool **ANS. on page 7**



MEETING MINUTES

The January 6, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. A quorum of 31 members was present.

The Secretary's report (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**), as it appeared in the current issue of *Zero Beat*, was accepted without correction.

The Treasurer's report (**Scott Szala, W1EV**) was accepted as read without correction.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

Technical (**Rick Cabral, W1RJC & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—(**Tony Duarte, N1XRS**) Issues with PC addressed. Issue from ARES repeater operation splashing Falmouth repeater during ARES activities. Suggests we run tests to prevent or reduce the problem.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (**Scott Szala, W1EV**)—Xmas party went well; we had more food than we could eat. There are plans for roast in late February or March. Date to be announced.

ARES (**Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—(**Rob Macedo, KD1CY**) First Monday of each month is RACES net. Next drill is planned for early March—tentative date is March 12, An announcement next meeting will confirm exact date.

Contests (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**)—Reports the results of SkyWarn Recognition Day, with a certificate recognizing club participation being sent to SEMARA. Announces the North American QSO Party-SSB weekend of Jan. 15-16. The CW contest is on weekend of Jan 8-9. PSK FEST is on Jan 15-16.

COMMUNICATIONS (**Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL**)—**Maryan (Joe) Midurski, W1EKW SK** over the holidays.

RATIFICATIONS—Three applications for life membership were received this month. (See page 4.)

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**)—If you borrow books from the library, please return them within a reasonable period of time; for example, one week. Please use consideration in using the printer regarding paper and ink. Announced the BCRA-sponsored SSTV net on 145.15 repeater, PL 123.0, Sundays at 8 p.m. Also, SEMARA 6-meter net on 50.130 MHz USB continuing on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

*Motion** that the donated Cushcraft antenna to be used by the club for field day.

NEW BUSINESS

*Motion** that the club purchase a new TV and VCR/DVD combo with ceiling mount, not to exceed \$500. Action: Bill Miller, K1ISR

*Motion** that the club purchase seat cushions for two chairs in the radio room. Action: Chris Washburn, W1EAV.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Bill Miller, K1ISR, requests/appeals for members to sign up on the Chores Sheet for hotdogs or we will have consecutive meetings without anything to eat. The President (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**) again asks anyone to please sign the Chores Sheet or tasks such as this won't get done.

The editor (**Bob Kelley, K1KVV**) of *Zero Beat* asks for news leads and pictures.

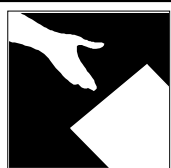
AUCTION—Prior to closing the meeting, an auction was held and raised \$27.25.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.





CLUB NOTES

February is a special month since it has both Valentines Day and the Presidents Day in it.

A favorite of mine is **Chocolate Covered Cherries**—what's yours?



Three applicants were voted life members of the club during the January 6, 2005 business meeting:

Joe Cretien, W1JJC (T)

Larry Trahan, N1YW (E)

Stan Wojnowski, KB1FSF (T)



At the January 8, 2005, VE Exam, **William R. Smith, WA1NYV**, passed his Extra Class written examination.

Congratulations! Job well done!



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HUGE THANK YOU

Join me in sending a huge thank you to Mike, KA1YZT for the very generous donation of a combination VCR/DVD player. Mike delivered the unit to the club personally. This has been added to the new TV system that is mounted on a ceiling bracket. It is there for all members to use.

Thank you again Mike on behalf of the BoD and members of SEMARA.

Don Manley N1PMB, President

WINTER BLUES FEED

This social event will be on Saturday March 5, 2004 at SEMARA. 50 tickets are available for sale at the February 6, 2005 business meeting at 6 p.m. sharp.

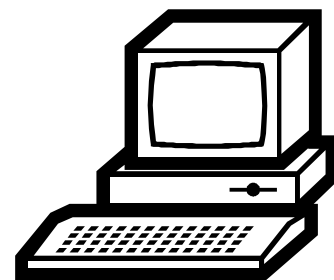
The menu will include Slow-Roasted Steamship Round Beef and Slow-Roasted Pork Loin with homemade Minestrone Soup.

Ticket prices are only \$5.00 a piece. (The usual rules for limit-seating events apply.)

PSK FESTIVAL

0000Z 15 Jan. to 2400Z 16 Jan. 2005

Well it turned out to be a very active 20 meter band today. First off, I brought my station to the radio room. It consists of an Argonaut V, a Z11 tuner, power supply, and cables for computer connection. It took me about 40 min. to connect and test everything.



My first QSO was in California, and I was on my way! It was a mixed bag of different states for the next three hours of contesting.

I worked over 30 stations during that time, all of it QRP. The club beam was the difference! When I began to tire, I decided it was time to call it quits. Too bad no one else turned out. I did have one visitor, though, to watch the operation.

The control cable for the Kenwood 570 came in later today! This means next time we can use the club station for Digital Modes! Maybe more will come next time and we can increase the score card!

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA

ARRL EASTERN MA SECTION

I was relieved by **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**, as IARES Section Emergency Coordinator on 1 January 2005.

This extremely talented and motivated individual will lead outstanding **ARES** and **SkyWarn** organizations during my two-year term.

Michael P. Neilsen, W1MPN, SM

SEMARA News & Notes

\$27.25 FROM JAN. AUCTION



Our auctioneer, **Dave Dean, K1JGV**, tells me there are more goodies for the next business meeting auction.



What's in store for the February auction? Remember, you will have to be there in person to and take home these "steals!"

DONATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

The SEMARA library got a whole lot bigger, thanks to the efforts of **Bob "Whitey" Doherty, K1VV**. Whitey donated a set of ham-related DVDs to the library. Whitey personally produced and created many of the titles himself.

Over the last couple of years, Whitey and others have put together a number of video DVDs. They've donated some to the ARRL. They also sell them on their web page according to Whitey, they receive no compensation for this, nor do they expect any. Some of the DVD programs have been shown on Braintree cable television.

The set of DVDs include:

1. New England Museum of Wireless and Steam
2. International Lighthouse Weekend
3. Real Radio Ft Burnside RI W1NZR Military Radio equipment.
4. Marconi 100th Anniversary Cape Cod, MA, January 18, 2003
5. FISTS CW Event on the USS Salem Quincy, MA.
6. South Shore Fox Hunters' Association
7. STEAM UP at the New England Museum of Wireless and Steam
8. JOTA-Scouts Jamboree On the Air, Cape Cod, MA.
9. SET-Simulated Emergency Test Bridgewater, MA.
10. BPL-Broadband Over Power Lines.

BCRA

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Gosselin, N1RHS

Vice President: **Don Manley, N1PMB***

Secretary: **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA***

Treasurer: **Dave Neal, W2DAN***

Director at Large: Arthur "Skip" Denault, KB1CNB

Trustee (2m): Wayne Souza, KA1LH

Trustee (70cm): **Roland Daignault, N1JOY***

* SEMARA members

11. ARRL-Trip and tour of the American Radio Relay League Newington, CT.
12. The Mighty 4 Watter-CQ Magazine April 1956 rebuilt Tube QRP rig.
13. 1934 Collins 30FX Transmitter Restoration by Don, K1DC.
14. Museum Ships Event-USS Salem Quincy, MA.
15. DXCC-ARRL DX Century Club.

In response to Whitey's donation, another SEMARA club member, **Michael Thompson, KA1YZT**, donated a new DVD player to the club.

With the new ceiling mounted TV set, SEMARA has an impressive media center and library for members' use.

A special thank you to both of these generous SEMARA members. Be sure to seek them out and express your gratitude for these gifts.

CALLBOOK WANTED



The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) needs a 1975 Callbook to complete its collection. If you have a copy and would like to donate it to the QCWA please contact **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, at billmiller@netzero.net.

Membership in the QCWA is open to any amateur that held a license 25 years or more ago. Full details are available at <http://www.qcwa.org>.

More News & Notes

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

Too bad no one came to join the fun! I'm talking about SkyWarn Recognition Day held in early December. I could only participate a portion of the time but logged 8 QSOs with other SkyWarn weather stations exchanging basic weather reports from our regions.

The W1AEC station does very well for coverage throughout the United States. We got Texas, Washington State, Colorado and others in between. We even "bagged" a station from Canada.

SEMARA should be getting a certificate from the SkyWarn group acknowledging our participation. Watch the mail box!

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Contest Coordinator



STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

With renewed interest, I decided to participate in this year's SKN. I had a new radio, an Argonaut V, and a 20 year old straight key bought from somewhere I couldn't remember.

On New Years Eve, I casually listened off and on for any Straight Key operators. Eerie I thought, straight keys were heard everywhere!

You can recognize the distinctive fist of each operator. There was no "perfect," electronic keyer CW like on other nights.

My first contact is a ham sending CW patiently but accurately. I matched his speed. We chatted for about twenty minutes exchanging our adventures, and misadventures, as ham radio operators. A new friend was made!

Later on I worked another operator whose luck ran out. He was hoping for no snow this season; but, instead, he got blanketed with over a foot out there in the Midwest. He joked that was wishful thinking to hope for no snow. But he took comfort in the knowledge that he was warm by the fire-place, making contacts "out there," while watching the snow fall outside. It also made me feel comfortable knowing I made another new friend.

The countdown came and went. *Happy New Year!* When I was all settled again after mak-

FEBRUARY FLEAMARKETS

5 Feb Tyngsboro MA

Bill K1FUB 603-888-6822

5 Feb Windsor CT—Vintage Radio Museum

John 860-673-0518

19 Feb Marlboro, MA

AARC — Ann 508-481-4988

26 Feb Milton, VT

RANV — Mitch W1SJ 802-979-6589

ing merry, my thoughts returned to SKN. I made 2 more QSOs then retired for the night.

Next day I worked more CW stations. Again, it felt strange tuning the bands and hearing straight keys tapping out CQ. It was a wonderful trip into the past, the way it used to sound before the popularity of electronic keyers.

I made more friends that day. The sound of straight keys slowed things down and made each contact a truly, personal experience. I laughed with a ham who laughed when my pet dog *QRP*, a Yorkie, climbed on the table and wanted to play with the key.



QRP, WB1HGA'S YORKSHIRE TERRIER

Please join me for SKN next year. It doesn't matter how proficient you are or what your code speed may be. What matters is making each QSO a memorable experience for you.

I'll be looking for you!

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA



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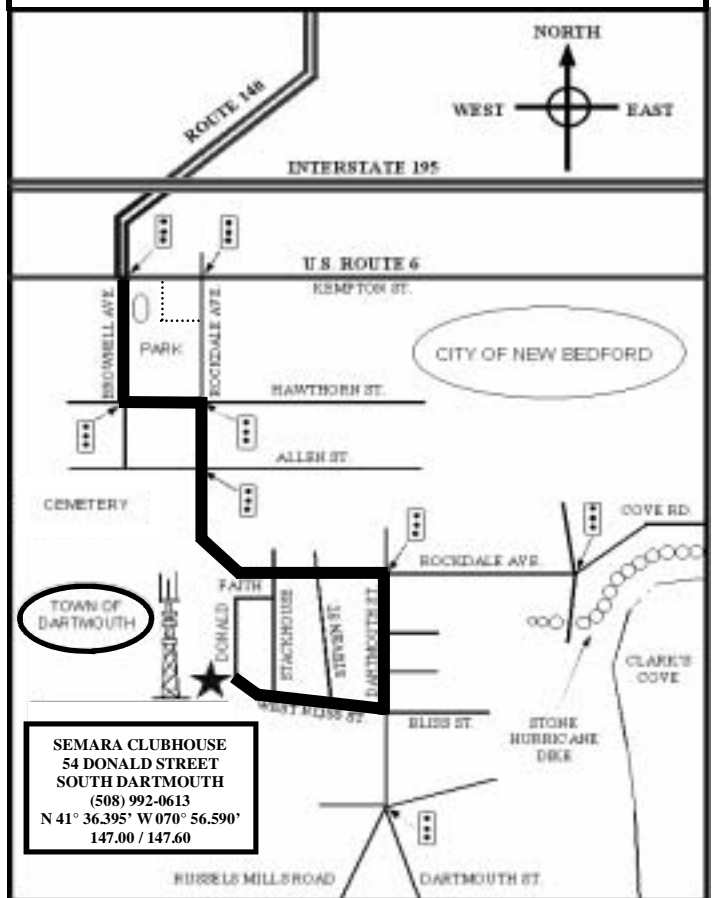
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FEBRUARY VE SESSIONS

- 5 SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 5 Middletown, RI, 9:00 a.m.
Jack Garforth, N1JK
401-683-2250
- 10 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 12 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-548-1121
- 19 W. Warwick, RI, 9:00 a.m.
Tom Senerchia, WA1VAY
401-822-2592
- 21 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469

Directions to SEMARA



SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

February 2005

- 3—Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 5—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 10—Ragchewing, 6:30 p.m.
- 17—Tech Talk— *Topic to be announced*
7:00 p. m.
- 24—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

"How rare it is, how lovely, this fellowship of those who meet together." *From Psalm 133*

C. Give your call sign followed by the words "Temporary AG"

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -	67.0	KD1CY*	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		W1LM	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	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.135 +	67.0	KA1GG	Taunton
147.180 +	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.315 +	67.0	KB1HJG**	Plymouth
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard

* Node #s: IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611
 ** Node #s: IRLP-4722 & EchoLink-4721

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 +	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
447.025 -	77.0	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston

*** Node #s: IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259

SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

--- RAGCHEW ---

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB

Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB

NEW ⇒ Wed - 8 p.m. 50.200 MHz USB ⇐ FREQ

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

FEBRUARY 5, 2005

10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE

LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS

508-991-6055

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SEMARA

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