



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 3

SEMARA W1AEC

March 2005

Eunice Randall - Radio Pioneer



EUNICE RANDALL "ON THE AIR" AT 1XE

Eunice Randall was ahead of her time. At a time when most women were delegated to maintaining a household, Eunice chose to forge herself a career in radio — a bastion of male supremacy at the time.

Eunice was born in Mattapoissett, MA at the turn of the last century — when radio was in its infancy. Following graduation from Fairhaven high school she moved to Boston seeking a career as an artist. She secured a job as a draftsman at the American Radio and Research Company (AMRAD) to provide her with a source of income. This action would change her career. AMRAD not only manufactured radio sets, but also ran a radio station 1XE in Medford Hillside, MA. Eunice took to radios like a duck takes to water.

She passed the examination for a First Class amateur radio license and was issued the call letters **1CDP**. She built an amateur radio station which she operated from the family

homestead in Mattapoissett, MA.

Before long Eunice was working at the AMRAD radio station as an announcer and engineer. She also hosted a program sponsored by the "Little Folks Magazine" where she read bedtime stories to children. She eventually became the Assistant Chief Announcer at the station which later became WGI, and then WARC. In April 1925 AMRAD ceased all radio station operations.

Eunice moved on and worked for several companies in a drafting or engineering capacity. She eventually became a draftsman for New England Electric, a regional power utility service company. She also remained active as an amateur radio operator throughout her life. Eunice was issued the call letters **WIMPP**.

In 1948 she married Kenneth Thompson, of Watertown, MA. Ken was a former AMRAD sales executive. Later in life, Ken and Eunice retired to Lovell, Maine. In 1982 Eunice Randall Thompson passed away at age 78.

(Radio historian Donna L. Halper provided background information used to write this article.)



RANDALL FAMILY HOMESTEAD IN
MATTAPOISETT, MA

ZERO BEAT

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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 hams are their own worst enemy. Even when we operate SSTV, some like to push the envelope. According to **Skip Denault, KB1CNB**, "If we are serious about getting young people into the hobby we need to be responsible. If you must transfer pictures of questionable taste, use HF or arrange for a simplex meeting. Let's keep the net appropriate for all who might be there."

Is it any wonder that Lev Grossman wrote in Time Magazine, "Before this year, blogs were a curiosity, a cult phenomenon, a faintly embarrassing hobby on the order of ham radio and stamp collecting." In response, I wrote Time Magazine and got the reply that "We will be including a letter from a ham-radio operator in the January 24 Letters column." World Radio magazine quoted "The FCC declared that Ham Radio is no longer effective in emergency work and placed it in a purely 'hobby' classification."

And from the ARRL web page:

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

The ARRL says it will be emphasizing service to help counteract these damaging assessments of the Amateur Radio Service. What can be done? Follow the letter and intent of the FCC R&R Part 97.

You can help to enhance the reputation of ham radio, too. Get involved in public service. Will I see you at the ARES exercises on March 12?

73 de Bob, K1KVV editor@semara.org

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* While you are using a language other than English in making a contact, what language must you use when identifying your station?

- The language being used in the contact
- The language being used in the contact, provided the US has a third-party communications agreement with that country
- English
- Any language of a country that is a member of the International Telecommunication Union

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



MEETING MINUTES

The February 3, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the President, **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. A quorum 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 without correction.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (**Andy Reuter, WA1FNM**)—Andy needed to shovel a path to the oil tank. Doors to the bathrooms need to be kept open when not in use so that heat can get in.

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

Technical (**Rick Cabral, W1RJ & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—**Rick** mentioned that **Rob Macedo, KD1CY** was splashing into the Falmouth repeater from our station.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (**Scott Szala, W1EV**)—Tickets are on sale for the March 5 beef roast.

ARES (**Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—(**Rick Cabral, W1RJ**) indicated that there will be an ARES drill on March 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The Eastern Massachusetts Monthly ARES Net will be on Monday at 8:30 p.m. on the MMRA Repeater.

Contests (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**)—absent.

COMMUNICATIONS (**Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL**)—The club was awarded a certificate for participating in the NWS ARRL SkyWarn Recognition Day on 12/4/04.

RATIFICATIONS—Three applications for life membership were received this month and approved.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**)—The shed and container had been broken into. The 16' extension ladder and a large aluminum pot had been taken. We need a path to the fuel tank to be cleared after a snowstorm. When plowing is done, the snow needs to be pushed to the side.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—1/29/05

- Treasurer's records reviewed. No problems noted.
- After our recent break-in, we need to pursue outside lighting, alarms and old security cameras.
- ARRL insurance needs to be considered. This would give replacement cost for our equipment.
- BCRA would like to use our club building for a Geek Fest on July 30.
- Planning for the new building should be delayed until our treasury has at least \$50,000.
- Chris Smith's refrigerator has been returned.
-

*Motion** to accept the BOD recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS—none.

NEW BUSINESS

*Motion** that different types of insurance for the equipment will be checked into.

*Motion** that all computers be fully accessible to all without an administrator or need for a password.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Carl Bredburg, K1KID mentioned that the 6 meter net is now on 50.200 MHz at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by **Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL**, Secretary pro tem.

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

BLIZZARD OF '05

A good amount of snow was removed off of the parking lot of the club and a path has been made to the door. There was still a lot that needed to be done but at least we could get into the building for emergencies. Thanks to **Brad Anselmo, N1VUF** and his friend Chris who helped with this effort.

Tony Duarte, N1XRS



CLUB NOTES

March is supposed to be the month when the weather is windy but warmer. This is just the kind of inspiration I need to start thinking about repairs to the feedlines and wires at my QTH.

Easter also comes in March this year. So think PEACE — to everyone, everywhere!



Three applicants were voted life members of the club during the February 3, 2005 business meeting:

[Names will appear in next month's *Zero Beat*-editor.]



At the February 5 2005, VE Exam:
Steven V. Cabral, KB1HYU passed the Morse Code exam and the General Class written exam;

Ronald L. Trainor, KC8CEV passed the Extra Class written exam; and

Ronald A. Wilbur, K1JQE passed his General Class written exam.

Congratulations! Job well done!



Whitey, K1VV has donated 3 VHS videos to go with his earlier donation of DVD collection.

Thank you Whitey, your donation is appreciated by all!



THANK YOU

CLIFFORD J. SNELL SR., N1BOA, SK

Clifford J. Snell Sr., N1BOA, (formerly WA1OYW) of New Bedford died at age 90 on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, at Blaire House after a long illness. He joined SEMARA in 1975.



May he rest in peace.

ZERO BEAT FOLDING

This shows only a few of the folks who come out each month to fold, seal, stamp, and mail your copy of the *Zero Beat*. What say we say "thank you" at the next meeting?



SOME OF THE ZERO BEAT FOLDING GANG

SONNY MELLEO, WA1ESG

Sonny Mello, KA1ESG broke his hip. He is in St. Luke's Hospital before returning to Alden Court. Wish Sonny a speedy recovery. Your best bet is to send cards to his home address:

240 WOOD ST, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745

STEAMSHIP ROAST

Saturday March 5, 2004 at SEMARA. 50 tickets went on sale February 6, 2005. The menu includes Slow-Roasted Steamship Round Beef and Slow-Roasted Pork Loin with homemade Minestrone Soup. Tickets only \$5.00 a piece!

Did you manage to get yours?

FISTS SPRINT

We had a few people show up to operate in the FISTS Sprint. We all exchanged tidbits on operating experiences over coffee and donuts, then went to work.



CARL, K1KID AND RON, WB1HGA

One operator manned the logging and the other manned the radio. With CW filling the room, the usual chatter was heard “Is it a dupe?” “What’s the call again?” “Argh! I’m getting QRM’ed.”

At one time we were using both radios during the Sprint. The gang logged QSO’s from many parts of the country including Canada.



WHITEY, K1VV; MIKE, KB1NB; DON, N1DT

Maybe next time you can join us and help to add to the score and multiply the fun!

Ron, WB1HGA

HRO catalogs are now available at the clubhouse. Pick yours up now!

YAESU VX-5R REVIEW

by Shawn De Cesari, K1VSR

The Yaesu VX-5R is a feature-packed tri-band 50/144/440 MHz handheld transceiver (HT) with wide receiver coverage. Whether you use it for emergency communications or for ragchewing on the local repeater, there’s something for everyone in this small package!

Specifications

Receive	510 kHz – 15.995 MHz 48 – 729 MHz 800 – 824 MHz 849 – 869 MHz 894 – 918 MHz 944 – 999 MHz
Transmit	50 – 54 MHz 144 – 148 MHz 430 – 450 MHz
Power	5W (50 – 54 MHz, 144 – 148 MHz) 4.5W (430 – 450 MHz)



The Positives

- Wide frequency coverage.
- A removable 6 meter antenna extension.
- Stock antenna is very good.
- Long battery life.
- Alpha tags and frequency can be displayed simultaneously.

The Negatives

- Gets very hot to the touch when transmitting on high power for extended periods of time.
- Whose idea was it to put 6 meters in an HT?
- Receiver sensitivity is really bad between 174 and 250 MHz.
- Yaesu takes the term “cellular frequencies blocked” to a whole new level.

Antenna: Pick your size!

Yaesu thoughtfully engineered the antenna so that there are two interchangeable elements, a 2 meter and 70 centimeter “cap” and a 6 meter “extender element.” To use 2 meters and 70 centimeters, you can use the shorter antenna cap. If you decide to use 6 meters, you can replace the cap with the 6 meter extender element which allows you to operate on 6 meters while still providing satisfactory performance on 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

(Continued on page 6.)

(Yaesu VX-5R Review—continued from page 5)

Observations

Here are some miscellaneous notes about what I've observed operating on the various bands.

6 Meters Receiving on 6 meters is pretty good with the extender element. I can hear a number of repeaters 30-40 miles away. Without it, I can't hear anything. While receiving is good, transmitting is horrible. Most people agree that VHF low-band is a bad idea for an HT. The rubber duck antenna results in the antenna radiating only slightly better than a dummy load. This means you need to live really close to a 6 meter FM repeater!

2 Meters On 2 meters everything is just fine and exactly what you'd expect out of an HT. During my testing, I've found that 2 meters operation is better without the extender element. On 2 meters, I can hit every repeater I'd expect to hit and I've even had a bit of luck talking with fixed stations on simplex.

70 Centimeters On 70 centimeters, as with 2 meters, it definitely works better without the extender element. Receiving and transmitting are very good.

Broadcast Stations The receiver is fine in the *shortwave* bands, but you're not going to hear much with the stock rubber duck antenna. However, if you remove the antenna cap and wrap a wire around the screw post with the wire out the window, you'll find reception to be quite good.

On *AM*, the receiver does OK for local stations, but if you want to listen for the distant stuff at night, you'll need to hook up a tunable loop antenna, like one from RadioShack I tested, I was able to do far better with it than without it.

FM reception is fine. It's about the same as a typical \$30 boom box. If you live too close to high power local stations, you'll get plenty of overload, as with almost any FM broadcast receiver.

The VX-5R also receives all the *NOAA weather* radio channels. Reception of those is pretty good with the stock antenna.

Reception of *TV channels 2-6* (VHF Lo) works better with the "extender element," but channels 7-13 (VHF Hi) and channels 14-69 (UHF) work better without it. When you get into the higher UHF range, above channel 45 or so, you might want to hook up a UHF loop antenna to pull those in.

Other Ham Bands The VX-5R can receive on the 1.25 meter (222-225 MHz) and 33 centimeter (902-928 MHz) bands. On the 1.25 meter band, I measured receiver sensitivity at 2.8 μV for 12 dB *SI-NAD*, absolutely horrendous! You might be disappointed if you're planning to listening to your local

MARCH FLEAMARKETS

6 March Northhampton MA

MTARA Gary AA1UE 413 739 3511

19 Mar Pomfret, CT

ECARA — Paul 860-928-2456

26 Mar Lewiston ME AARC St Conv

Rick N1WFO 207 784 1266

27 Mar Henniker, NH

CVRC — Jim NS1E 603-428-7436

220 repeater with this radio. The receiver sensitivity is only that poor from 174-250 MHz. Anywhere outside that range, the sensitivity is much better. Note, you *cannot* hear the repeater outputs in the 919-928 MHz part of the 33 centimeter band *since the receiver blocks out 919-944 MHz!*

Police and Fire The receiver and stock rubber duck antenna seem to do fine on the commercial VHF and UHF bands. I can hear all of my police and fire frequencies with no problems at all.

Battery

The included 1100 mAh lithium ion battery provides excellent battery life, even while transmitting on high power. Charging time is acceptable. A dead battery is charged in about 6 hours with the wall charger or about 2.5 hours with the CD-15A desk-top rapid-charger.

Features

The VX-5R has all the common features you'd expect in a modern HT like PL, DCS, automatic repeater offsets, changeable VFO stepping, settable scan limits, 200 memories, alpha tags for memory channels, and so forth. There are some unique features such as a transmit battery saver which automatically lowers your transmit power if it detects a strong signal on a repeater. There's also a battery saver on the receive side which can be set to listen for a signal every so often. By changing the default setting from 200 ms to 1 second, battery life improves dramatically. There are plenty of other features in this radio which add to the "wow factor."

In Closing

No radio is perfect, but this is a great radio, even if they did include 6 meters! A solid 8 out of 10.

by Shawn De Cesari, K1VSR

**MARCH 5 SEMARA VE SESSION
CANCELLED**

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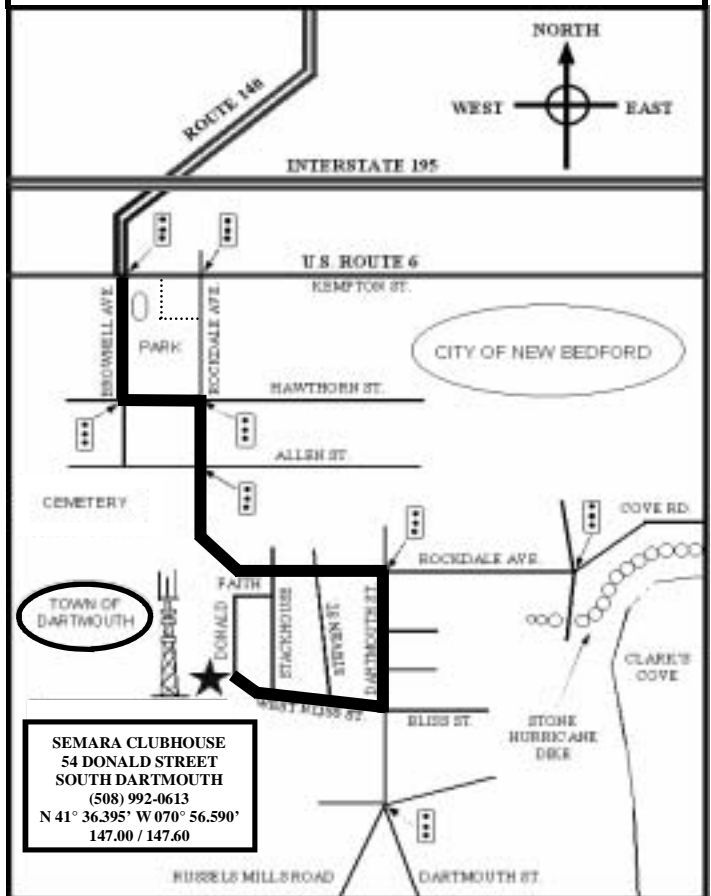
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MARCH VE SESSIONS

5 SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.
cancelled
508-991-6055

- 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
- 17 **Norwood, MA**
Richard Cantin, AA1TI
508-339-1089
- 21 **Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 26 **Slatersville, RI, 9:00 a.m.**
Bob Jones, WB1P
401-333-4787

Directions to SEMARA



SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2005

- 3—**Business Meeting**, 7 p.m.
- 5—**STEER ROAST**, 12 noon.
- 10—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.
- 12—**ARES** exercise, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 17—Tech Talk-*Handiham Program*, 7 p. m.
- 24—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.
- 31—**ZERO BEAT** folding party, **3 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

"Everyone has a gift for something, even if it is the gift of being a good friend"

—Marian Anderson, opera singer (1902-1993)

C. English

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -	67.0	KD1CY ¹	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1ZIZ	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 ²	Plymouth
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard
¹ Node #: IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611			
² Node #: IRLP-4722 & EchoLink-4721			

440			
441.400 +	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500 +	141.3	K1PBO	Barnstable
443.600 +	88.5	NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	W1RJC ³	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 ⁴	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
³ Node #: IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259			
⁴ Node #: IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-5920			

SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

— RAGCHEW —

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB

Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB

Wed - 8:30 p.m. 50.200 MHz USB

Daily - 7 p.m. 147.000+

Mon-Fri - 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

⇒ APRIL 2, 2005 ⇐

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

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