



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 4

SEMARA W1AEC

April 2005

Making Contacts, Making Friends

Phil Temples, K9HI, spoke about *"The Courage HandiHam System"* to about a dozen members at the March 17 Tech Talk. Phil has been licensed since 1967. The Courage System has provided distance learning for over 30 years in the form of audio tapes, and more recently, various audio formats on the internet. The HandiHam project has been recording books for the blind, especially licensing materials and operating manuals.



**PHIL TEMPLES
K9HI**

Did you ever try to read an operating manual? Now imagine you can't see. So what do you do when the manual tells you to "push button A" without ever giving you the front panel layout? This is exactly the reason that simply scanning the operating manual is not always satisfactory for hams with vision impairments!

The HandiHam project sends out a weekly newsletter. Just go to <www.handiham.org> to get yourself on the e-letter list. No you don't have to be handicapped to get it. There are two version, a colorful HTM: version with pictures and a plain text version. Both contain the same copy.

Phil presented me with a 20 minute DVD entitled **"Making Contacts, Making Friends"** *The Courage Handiham Story for the 21st Century: Ham radio for people with disabilities.* This DVD shows scenes from the two Radio Camp sites: Lake George, MN and Malibu, CA. Campers can attend without cost and have professional care as well. All

the need to do is get there! This DVD is now part of SEMARA's DVD library.

Some of the quotations from the DVD are particularly thought provoking; such as, "Ham radio has some kind of magic for disabled persons" ... "Ham radio allows me to 'get out' everyday" ... "Making friends at school is difficult, making friends on the air is easy" ... "Ham radio lets you get around disabilities, whether sight, hearing, or mobility."

Volunteers at the Courage HandiHam project are glad to accept your old, working equipment. They will add voice read-out or whatever assistive technology is needed.

People with disabilities are helped by HandiHam both directly and through clubs that are HandiHam affiliates. By taking advantage of HandiHam assistance, disable people who cannot make the trip to one of the Radio Camps, can get the same kind of help locally.

If you come to the next business meeting, I'll explain what is involved for SEMARA to become a HandiHam Affiliated Club.

Bob Kelley, K1KVV



ATTENTIVE MEMBERS AT THE HANDIHAM TALK

ZERO BEAT

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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 **15TH**
 OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

2005 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President

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Secretary

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

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William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

Website:

<http://www.semara.org>

E-mail:

clubinfo@semara.org

FISTS CW Club no.

10555

GPS Coordinates:

Lat. N 41° 36.795'

Long. W 070° 56.590'

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

That I have too many things I want to say. So ... I'll wait until next month, or the month after that, until I can find the space. ...

73 de Bob, K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

ROCK-MITE 40-NOVICE

I did it !!! I got it all in a Altoids™ tin. It's the Small Wonder Lab Rock-Mite 40-Novice (7.122 MHz 500 mW) transceiver kit. It features Steve Weber's, KD1JV, surface mount audio filter board with a switch for filter 1 or 2 and Dale Botkin's, N0XAS, *PicoKeyer*. The Altoids™ tin weighs in at 3 oz. I wish I could get a VFO in there—maybe next time.

Gave it a test run this morning (2/19/05) and on the 2nd CQ, KC8MF-Bob in WV came back to me. We had a 21 min., solid copy QSO. Next contact was with K4CHD-Hank in AL, also a good QSO. I had to call it quits after that (too much excitement for me, HI HI).

So look for me on 7.122 MHz in the mornings. *73 Ed, WA1ZCB*

ED DUCLOS, WA1ZCB
(TOP) 3 OZ. ROCK-MITE 40 NOVICE
(NEXT TO TOP) OUTSIDE VIEW
(NEXT TO BOTTOM) INTERIOR VIEW
(BOTTOM) ANOTHER OUTSIDE VIEW



HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G1E05 What types of messages for a third party may be transmitted by an amateur station to a foreign country?

- A. Messages for which the amateur operator is paid.
- B. Messages facilitating the business affairs of any party.
- C. Messages of a technical nature or remarks of a personal character.
- D. No messages may be transmitted to foreign countries for third parties.

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

MEETING MINUTES

The March 3, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Donald Manley, N1PMB**. A quorum of 23 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, W1RJG & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—Tony had nothing to report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (**Scott Szala, W1EV**)—Reminder that some tickets still left for the roast dinner.

ARES (**Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS**)—Rob reports the practice activities have been cancelled due to the actual events from recent snowstorms. A planned exercise is being planned in the Connecticut area soon. Please contact Rob to participate and more information.

Contests (**Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**)—Reports that FISTS contest went well, suggests participation in the SOC Sprint to be held Sat. March 12 and CQ WW WPX contest March 26.

COMMUNICATIONS (**Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL**)—Read a letter of acceptance from BCRA club regarding our invitation to use our club for their "Geekfest."

RATIFICATIONS—No applications for life membership were received this month.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (**Donald Manley, N1PMB**)—Request that members avoid using the menu on the Kenwood 570 if not comfortable with it. Suggests you should ask help with the menu. Also requests all to please clean the regular coffee cups before leaving.

OLD BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS—None.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Rick Cabral, W1RJG reminds all to please shut off all lights when leaving.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silve, WB1HGA, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.



FOR OUR MEMBERS

Bill Pierce's (K1LP) mother passed away last week. Please accept our condolences.
(Don Mara, WA1PLT, 3/15/05)

FAIRHAVEN REPEATER WEATHER NET GROUP

Spring Meeting, April 23, 11 a.m., at the Southworth Library, Dartmouth, in the Haskell Room.

Presentations on *Homemade Seismographs*, how they work, their construction and use; and *Hybrid Electric car*.
(Hank Riley, N1LTV)

1ST IN THE CHILI CATEGORY

SEMARA Member **Bob Ambroult, N1VUG**, placed 1st in The Chili Category of *The Bean & Chili Bakeoff* held at The February Business Meeting of The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association, Saturday February 26. Another Blue Ribbon to pin up on the kitchen wall!

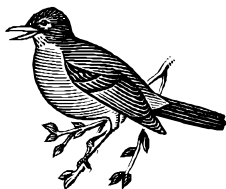
Congratulations Bob!

HBO CATALOGS are still available at the club.



CLUB NOTES

April is known for the return of Spring, and Daylight Savings Time as well as April Fool's Day and articles in some ham magazines that test your gullibility. No need to worry about that in *Zero Beat*?!?!



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

Jose X. Magalhaes, KA1WDG

Donald V. Tanguay, N1DT

William R. Smith, WA1NYV



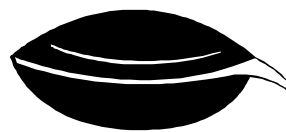
The March 5, 2005, VE Exam was cancelled due to the SEMARA Steer Roast held at the Clubhouse. Chef **Scott Szala, W1EV**, and his able crew not only roasted a "steer" but also a "pig" to accompany the fantastic soup and antipasto salad. Some, who still had room, enjoyed delicious desserts and beverages as well. Pretty good for only \$5!



Congratulations to Scott and his able crew! A job well done!

Dave Dean, K1JGV, out "official" club auctioneer, together with **Don Manley, N1PMB**, assistant auctioneer, held the monthly auction after the March business meeting. Some of the bargains that were snapped up included 10 hard drives, and HP 600C printer, a Weller soldering gun, power strips, a laptop computer, a Quasar TV, VCR, a box of 24 gauge wire and much more.

The club made \$39 in less than 20 minutes!



SEMARA CLAM BAKE

Saturday April 23, at SEMARA. 50 tickets go on sale at the April 7 business meeting. The menu includes Chowder, Clams, Chorizo, Sausage, etc. Tickets only \$20.00 a piece!

This is a limited to the first 50 who purchase their tickets. Don't miss out on this feast by master chef **Scott Szala, W1EV**, and his cooking crew!

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FROM THE PREZ

Well gang the Steer Roast has come and gone (great job Scott and the cooks). Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. With that done, the date for the *Clam Bake* was announced as April 23rd. Tickets to go on sale at the April business meeting. Don't miss out on a great meal and time. See **Scott Szala, W1EV**, for your clambake tickets starting April 7th.

... Thanks to all those who helped at the club with setup and cleanup. Your work is appreciated by all ...

Don Manley, N1PMB, President

SONNY MELLO, KA1ESG

Sonny,

When you look at page 4 of the March *Zero Beat* you will see that I really need someone like you to proof read my stuff, especially article headlines like "SONNY MELLO, WA1ESG" – I'm really sorry about that!

73 de Bob / K1KVV – editor@semara.org

10,370 MILES PER WATT!

Thursday night (March 3, 2005) at W1AEC using my *Rock Mite @ 500mW*.

My QSO with Argentina resulted in:

Distance = 5185 miles ⇒ Miles/Watt = 10,370.

Now to work (again) for QSL and certificate!

© Ron, WB1HGA

Ten-Tec Argonaut REVIEW

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA

I recently bought an Argonaut V and want to pass along my thoughts on this radio.

First, an introduction about this radio: it's a DSP QRP radio adjustable from 0 to 20 watts (zero? I thought about that too). The radio covers 160 through 10 meters, AM, SSB, CW and FM. It has over 100 memory "channels" and "band-stacking" capability. It has Dual VFOs, speech processor, pass-band tuning, RIT and XIT. The radio also sports built-in electronic keying from 5 to 60 wpm, with adjustable weighting and side-tone pitch. Oh yes, it has a noise blanker and adjustable squelch, too; and a built-in watt meter, SWR meter. It also covers the general bands for short wave listening!



TEN-TEC ARGONAUT V - FRONT PANEL

I put the receiver to the test during the CQWW contest. I picked the most crowded spot in the CW portion of the band. Using both bandwidth adjust and pass-band tuning, I was able to park it between stations. Really neat! The radio boasts bandwidth down to 250 Hz for CW and it delivered.

In the **PSK mode** the radio is, in Ten-Tec's words, "a PSK operator's dream." Ten-Tec supplies the cables (as an optional accessory) to connect to your computer. There are no adjustments to make other than the audio levels in the PC's software. With the optional factory-installed TXO, the signal never drifted in RX or TX throughout the QSO. This is a really nice option to have whenever using any digital modes. The fan attachment (also an option) snaps easily onto the heat sink in the rear of the radio. When the fan has been on during digital modes, I could hear the fan running, but I found the noise level to not be objectionable. If you run 10 watts or less, the fan is not needed.

In **CW mode**, you have a choice of using either

straight key or paddles. There is an adjustment for speed which I was able to perform *during* QSO. I like that very much because you want to match the other operator's speed as a courtesy. You can also adjust the loudness of the side tone. All the adjustments are done from the front panel. That's convenience! There are other adjustments, such as weighting, and tone, made from the front panel too.

In **SSB operation**, the radio also has speech processor adjustment including on/off from the front panel. It appears to be working. When I placed a scope on the audio trace and confirmed that the processor was working, on the air reports indicate no difference is heard. This seems to be an issue with many Argonaut V owners but Ten-Tec claims it *is* working. Otherwise, the included hand mike, in normal mode, received good audio reports.

The SSB filters run from 3000 Hz down to 200 Hz! I did not get a chance to do more operating on phone, but from the current contacts I made, the built-in speaker reproduced clear, clean sound.

The SSB mode is very nice and simple to operate. With the hand mike (supplied) the ALC is adjusted just so led blinks on peaks. That's it! When using the speech processor, back down ALC a bit more.

AM mode was not tried. I did manage to listen to some BC stations and the radio provided clean audio too.

FM mode was also not tried. It's hard trying to locate a 10 meter repeater to "hit" from here.

A **serial connection** is provided in the rear for radio control capability from your PC. This is also to allow for firmware updates from Ten-Tec. The current version is 1.07 that enables operation in the 60 meter band. Some of the radio control software is free and some is not. The one I used works very well with the Argonaut V. I prefer not to mention any details due to limited space here. Go on-line



TEN-TEC ARGONAUT V - REAR PANEL WITH FAN

(Continued on page 6.)

(Argonaut Review—continued from page 5)

and search for radio control software.

How it plays—The CW mode is awesome! I was able to log many QSO's from almost any part of the globe on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters. I do not have 160 meter capability. I also haven't been on 15 or 10 of late.

During the contests it held it's own. I made QSO's in crowded band conditions while propagation held up. I was able to work everything I could hear or even barely hear.

In digital modes, I used both options: the optional Ten-Tec line-level cables and the Rig Blaster. The Ten-Tec cables were a bonus! By eliminating the need for an interface, I had fewer cables and connections to go through! Using the interface (Rig Blaster), I was able to use more specific applications for RTTY or SSTV, which have better features than the "one fits all" software.

Who will use it?—Great for CW and digital modes. Packed together with an external auto-tuner, it makes an excellent base station without the need for lots of space. Pro: The DSP RX; Con: No built-in tuner. It's a lot of radio for the buck. Go to <<http://www.TenTec.com>> for more information.

72 de **Ron, WB1HGA**

KNOW THE FIVE WORDS

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager
March 28, 2005

The Element 1 Morse code exam is designed to test the 26 letters of the alphabet and the 10 numerals, 0 through 9, as well as the punctuation marks period, comma, question mark and slash and prosigns AR BT SK. The slash is also called prosign DN. The test **will not contain** abbreviated text like ES for *and* or TU for *thank you* or other shortcuts that you would use on the air. The exam is a typical QSO that will have all of the standard information that is normally exchanged on the air.

Relax. You can do this. *It's only five words.*

But which five words? Okay, here are the five words that you need to know to successfully pass the exam; **antenna**, **rig**, **name**, **location** and **RST**. If you can copy these five words and the information that follows them in the test along with the callsigns of both stations you should be able to answer 7 out of 10 questions about the QSO in order

APRIL FLEAMARKETS

- 2,3 Apr Timonium MD**
GBARC-800 HAM FEST
- 2,3 Apr Watertown MA**
Photographica-Ed Shaw-617 965 0807
- 3 Apr Framingham MA**
FARA-Bev, N1LOO-508 626 2012
- 9 Apr Londonderry NH**
IRS-Paul, K1NL-603 883 3308
- 9 Apr Montreal PQ**
MARC-James, VE2VE-514 697 7205
- 9 Apr Norwich CT RANSON Auction**
Gary, WT1SND-860 884 4218
- 10 Apr Enfield CT VHF/UHF Conf**
Mark ,K1MAP-413 566 2445
- 10 Apr Henniker NH**
CVRC-Jim, NS1E-603 428 7436
- 10 Apr Unionvale NY MtBARC**
Colleen, KC2HUT-845 497 3687
- 16 Apr S Portland ME**
PAWA-Roger, N1XP-207 671 0671
- 17 Apr Cambridge MA**
FLEA at MIT-Nick-617 253 3776
- 23 Apr Nashua NH**
NE Antique RC-Marty-603 938 5051
- 23 Apr Rochester NH**
GBRA-Karen, KB1KBE-207 698 1618
- 24 Apr Southington CT**
SARA-Alex-860 214 3013

to pass the exam.

Let's look at these five words a little closer.

Antenna. Here are some common antennas that you should learn to recognize. They are dipole, yagi, quad, longwire, zepp, beam and vertical.

Rig. Know your radios. Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, Heath, Collins, Drake and Ten Tec are very common brands.

Name. Copy the name as you hear the letters. Don't try to guess at it after the first two letters. What you think is going to be John can easily be Jorge or Joanne.

Location. No abbreviations are used and names of US States will be spelled out.

RST will be sent as numbers and will never be spelled out, nor will it be sent in cut numbers, such as 5NN.

CALLING ALL YLS

My name is **Arlene Arruda (KB1KGG)**. I live in Acushnet, Mass and I am thinking of running an informal 2-meter YL-only Net. Every woman is welcome.

I would like to get your feedback. Please e-mail me <blbomb2@earthlink.net> and let me know if you would be interested the net, which repeaters you can use, and what time is best for you.

I think that it would be fun. I hope to hear from you soon.
Arlene Arruda, KB1KGG

CHECK YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

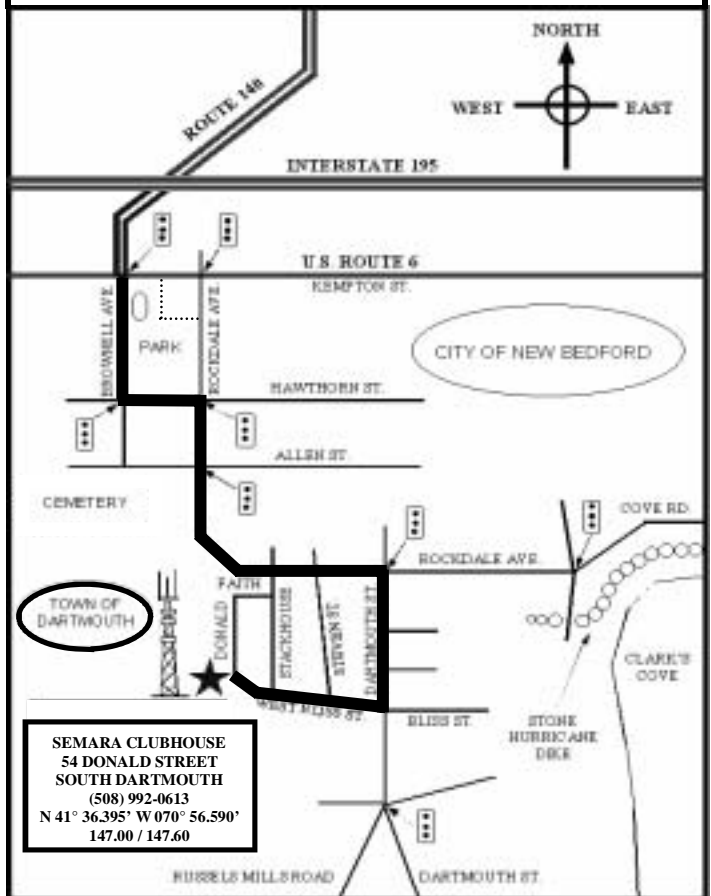
Please check your E-mail address on the club's website. <www.semara.org>. Over 25 of the E-mail addresses are invalid and flagged as in error. If your E-mail address is flagged or is incorrect, please forward the correct address to <webcommittee@semara.org>. Thanks!

(Please include your name.)

APRIL VE SESSIONS

- 2 SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 9 Falmouth, MA, 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-548-1121
- 14 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.**
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 18 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 21 Worcester, MA, 6:30 p.m.**
John Ruggiero, N2YHK
508-982-0617
- 23 W. Warwick, RI, 9:00 a.m.**
Tom Senerchia, WA1VAY
401-822-2592

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

APRIL 2005

- 2—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.
- 7—**Business Meeting**, 7 p.m.
- 14—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.
- 21—Tech Talk *-Secret Program-*, 7 p.m.
(Details on the repeater.)
- 28—**ZERO BEAT** folding party, 3 p.m.

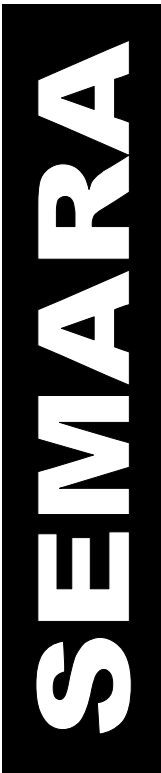
Ragchew at the clubhouse every Sunday at 7 - 11 a.m.
 Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts!

POINT TO PONDER

“Think about your ancestors, think about your posterity.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

C. Messages of a technical nature or remarks of a personal character.



FIRST

PLACE LABEL HERE

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 #s: IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611 | | | |
| ² Node #s: 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 #s: IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259 | | | |
| ⁴ Node #s: IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-55920 | | | |

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