



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 8

SEMARA W1AEC

August 2005

Kits You Can Build

Building your own rigs did not die with Heathkit was the message of the July Tech Talk by Carl Bredberg, K1KID, and Ed Duclos, WA1ZCB. About two dozen enthusiastic members and guests got a chance to see what kinds of kits are around. These are a lot more sophisticated than the Heathkits of yore.

Just to get your juices flowing, Carl and Ed set up a portable QRP station in the club parking lot about 5 in the afternoon. Some of us got there early to see the QRP operation before the Tech Talk.

Examples of kit radios available from various manufacturers were displayed:

- *Elecraft* K1, K2, and KX1 models CW transceivers;
- *Small Wonder Labs* RockMite 40 and 20 meter models; and
- *Wilderness Radio* NorCal40 CW Transceiver.



CARL, K1KID & ED, WA1ZCB



QRP STATION SET UP FOR TECH TALK

Building techniques and specialized tools were on display. We learned that the advantages of getting a high-end solder station are that the handle stays cool, the tip temperature is controlled, and they have assorted tips for the various soldering tasks.

Vision aids, like head-mounted magnifiers, are essential for building kits with small parts, especially Surface Mount Technology. We saw some of the fine gauge solder that is used. It almost looks like thread. These are needed when working with SMT components, about the size of a small grain of rice.

Other builder's aids and basic tools include "third hands," and ways to hold down SMTs while placing and soldering them. Who would have thought of licking a toothpick to pick up an SMT?

Ed showed us a few of the homebrew paddles he makes from printed circuit board stock. He

(Continued on page 6)

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ADVERTISING

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

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

2005 SEMARA OFFICERS

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Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL

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 William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)
 Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)
 Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

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 ZeroBeat <http://zerobeat.semara.org>

E-mail: clubinfo@semara.org

FISTS CW Club no.10555

Grid Coordinates:
FN41mo

GPS Coordinates:
 Lat. N 41° 36.795'
 Long. W 070° 56.590'

It seems to me ...

That the proposal by the FCC to eliminate the Morse code requirement (Element 1) for all amateur licenses will cause quite a stir amongst the amateur community. Some will say it is just another step in the 'dumbing down' of amateur radio. Some will argue that it is a continuation of the process that was started "right after I got my license!"

While there are several changes the FCC has instituted that I disagreed with, and still do, I do think that this proposal is consistent with the de-emphasis that Morse code has received over the last several years. The US government did away with Morse code transmissions several years ago. I doubt that even the military officially teaches it any longer (overt operations excepted?).

So let's simply "accept that which we cannot change and change that which we can." We can become the best operators in whatever modes we use, and we can make the rest of the world envious of how well freedom of choice works. Now that's something we can do something about!

Have you noticed that the number of tasks that club has committed to undertake is growing? One of the reasons is the lack of volunteers. If you can help out, sign up to be there. Wondering what is getting ahead of us? Just check the minutes of the last few months and you will see that we are going to

- re-shingle the north side of the clubhouse, and
- repair the log-yagi antenna system — for starters.

What do you say? Are you really a member of the club? Let everyone know you belong and volunteer to do one of these tasks, or perhaps one on the monthly "To Do List."

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

POINT TO PONDER

"Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory."

~General George S. Patton

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G2E10 What is the circuit called that causes a transmitter to automatically transmit when an operator speaks into its microphone?

- VXO
- VOX
- VCO
- VFO

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES

The July 7, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the President, Don Manley, N1PMB. A quorum of 33 members was present.

Secretary's Report (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—The meeting minutes of the previous business, as it appeared in the current issue of Zero Beat, was accepted.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)—Boiler is not repairable, needs to be replaced.

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

Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJG & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Nothing to report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship/Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Absent.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—Only 5 tickets left for the Chicken BBQ. Get them at tonight's business meeting.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Rob announced that the Cape Cod Drill on July 30 at 10:00 a.m. and the Advanced ARES Workshop at Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Attleboro, MA.; contact Rob for more information. Also, Lakeville Triathlon on August 28 is looking for communications assistance; contact Rob for more information.

Contests (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Reports FISTS Sprint on July 9; six meter contests on 14-15 and Bumblebee contest in 31st.

COMMUNICATIONS (Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL)—Nothing to report.

RATIFICATIONS*—One application for life membership was received this month.

*Motion**—To admit to life membership:

Montana Yergeau, KB1MKQ.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—BCRA's Geekfest has been cancelled; make sure hot water in bathroom is shut off.

OLD BUSINESS—Bob Kelley, K1KVV, (Editor, Zero Beat) reported that the cost of the July issue of Zero Beat was \$198.33 to mail a printed copy to each member. This compares favorably with the previous cost of about \$233, not counting the 16 man-hours spent by volunteers to fold, seal, label and mail each issue. The cost to publish *Zero Beat* on the Internet is free!

The June, July, August, and September issues of Zero Beat online will be published in both *HTML* and *PDF* formats in addition.

At the September 1, 2005, business meeting, the editor will ask for a vote on whether to continue publishing the print version.

NEW BUSINESS—

*Motion**—To hold a BBQ for ARES on Aug 20, at our clubhouse.

*Motion**—To buy a new furnace for clubhouse that will also accommodate a new, larger clubhouse in future; three estimates to be received prior to making a decision on purchase.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Scott is making arrangements to have the antenna serviced at this time. He explains equipment will have to be brought in and this requires scheduling.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

Auction (Don & Scott)—Brought in \$66.





CLUB NOTES

August is the month for really enjoying the “warm” weather, the “warmer” ocean water, and the “warmth” in general. Of course there is nothing like the “warmth” of a good grill to complete the picture.



While summer officially started at the end of June, it seems like it doesn't really get here until August. At least that's what I tell myself. So make a pledge to yourself that you will do everything you can to soak up the warmth and vitality of the moment. Next winter, these memories will come in handy.



CAPE COD CANAL
WINTER 2005
TAKEN BY CARL, K1KID

One applicant was voted a life members of the club at the July 7, 2005 business meeting:

Montana Yergeau, KB1MKQ

Welcome to the Club!!!



VISITORS FROM CANADA

We were visited by **Terry Ladd, VE2WTQ** and his son Chris. They came over from Cape Cod just to hear the July Tech Talk. Chris also hopes to make it over again during August.



TERRY LADD, VE2WTQ AND CHRIS



EMERIL WITH CHRIS

Much to my surprise, Chris had already met Emeril when I raised the issue earlier this year. He is very much appreciative of the efforts by SEMARA members who helped to make his visit with Emeril possible.



Amateur Radio Activities

LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held nightly at 7 p.m. is averaging 4 to 7 check ins.

2-m YL Net held Tuesday at 8 p.m. is off to a good start with an average of 3 to 4 check ins. This is a YL Net only! We kindly remind gentlemen to stand by while the YL Net is being conducted. All YLs are welcome. Please check in.

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. is averaging 5 to 8 check ins.

3872 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. is getting check ins from Maine to PA, usually in the 5 to 7 range.

KID'S DAY CONTEST REPORT

de Ron, WB1HGA

Kid's Day: I wish to thank all who volunteered their time to help man the station. We had one child, Devin Kelley, who was presented with a certificate in his name to commemorate that day.



Here is the Kid's Day QSL sent out to the two full contacts made (and to the one callsign only contact). Devin's favorite color is *black*.

The next Kid's Day is in January 2006. Plenty of time to plan!

FIELD DAY ACTIVITY

de Ron, WB1HGA

Field Day: Two operators, **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**, and **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**, worked straight through to past midnight logging 47 states, including the Virgin Islands, and 4 Canadian provinces for well over 300 phone QSO's.

Next year we hope a few more of you will join us to help increase our score!

CHICKEN BBQ

In case you missed it, SEMARA enjoyed another of those fabulous feasts put on by **Scott Szala, W1EV** and his crew. Scott's secret glaze is artistically sprayed on the chicken halves as they cook. Meanwhile corn on the cob is prepared in its own special cooker. This is set off by a generous antipasto salad. What more could you ask for?



CHEF SCOTT GLAZING THE CHICKEN

Did I mention that your serving is the whole half chicken plus corn in addition to the salad? And in case that's not enough, some nice person brought fresh baked brownies for dessert!

Another gourmet feast by Chef Scott.

Tech Talk Photo Gallery

Tech Talk (Continued from page 1)



A FEW OF THE QRP KITS DISPLAYED
SOME ALTIOD BOXES CONTAIN RIGS,
OTHERS TUNERS, ETC.
A COMPLETE STATION EASILY FITS INTO THE
SMALL CARRYING CASE

also showed us how to make a key from a computer mouse, or even paper clips.

A few handy items that might come in handy include an RF signal generator kit, a dummy load kit, a 4:1 balun, and a simple Wattmeter kit (a calibrated voltage divider that you connect to your Digital Volt Meter).

For QRP field operations, they showed us some



SOLAR PANEL TO POWER QRP RIG
ROCKMITE KITS, ONE IN A "COKE" MACHINE

portable power supplies (battery packs) and solar panels.

They also discussed various antenna types for QRP field operations.

They finished their discussion on the effectiveness of low power CW (QRP), the fun of operating anywhere you like, and the thrill of making contacts with rigs that you assembled yourself.



TECH TALK PREVIEW

ZERO BEAT EXPOSED

The August Tech Talk will give you an inside look into what goes into the production of the *Zero Beat* newsletter.

In addition to the constraints imposed by the number of pages and the page size itself, you will learn to appreciate the differences between gray-scale and color pictures. You will see what it takes to transform the individual pieces into the finished product. And last, but not the least of the steps in producing the print version, is keeping the mailing list current. As you see, I have complete control over all aspects of the printed *Zero Beat*.

The online version of the newsletter has its own challenges too. The major constraints shift from paper and printing issues to internet performance issues that are governed by both monitor size and connection/download speed, both of which are not under my control.

Special features will be pointed out that can enhance the online version. Several of our members have vision problems or are blind. They have told me that they are glad to be able to read the online version with their existing internet readers, and have to wait for someone to read the print version.

These and other aspects of publishing the *Zero Beat* newsletter will be exposed. Bring your questions — together we can find the answers.

de Bob, K1KVV, Editor, Zero Beat



SOLDERING STATION AND SOLDER SPOOL
COMPUTER MOUSE KEYS, ETC.

AUGUST VE SESSIONS

- 6 SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 7 Scituate, RI, 12 noon**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-231-6045
- 11 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-231-6045
- 15 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 18 Norwood, MA, 7:30 p.m.**
Richard Cantin, AA1TI
508-339-1089
- 27 Slatersville, RI, 9:00 a.m.**
Robert Jones, WB1P
401-333-4787

AUGUST SEMARA EVENTS

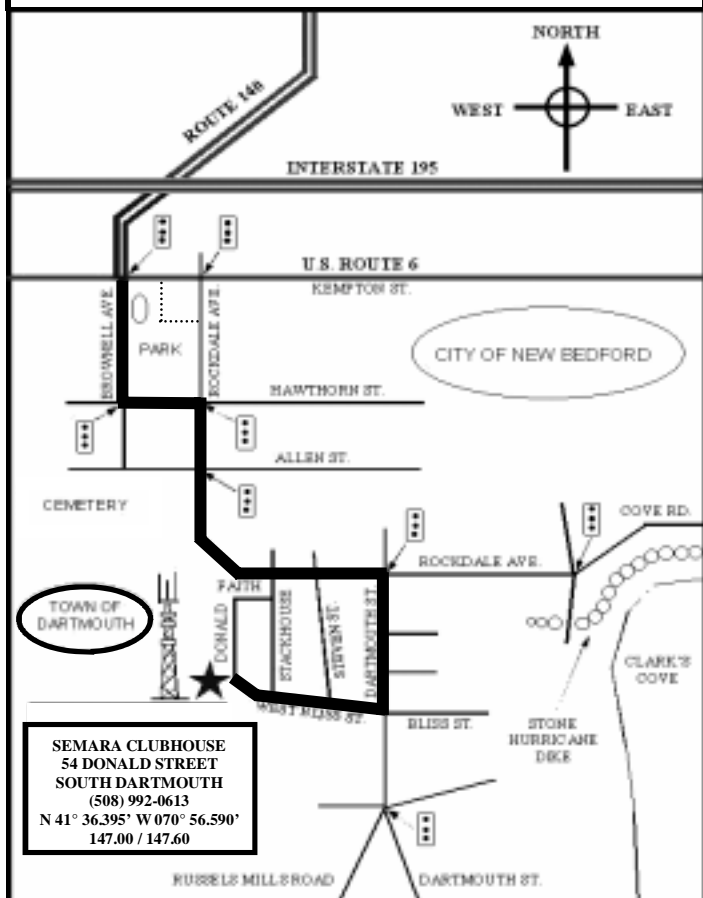
- 4—Business Meeting, 7 p.m.**
- 6—VE Session, 10:30 a.m.**
- 11—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.**
- 18—Tech Talk – Zero Beat Exposed 7 p.m.**
Bob Kelley, K1KVV, editor
- 20—Chicken BBQ, 12 noon**
- 25—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.**

Ragchew at the clubhouse every Sunday 7 - 11 a.m.

FLEAMARKETS

- 13 Aug St Albans, ME**
PARC — George 207-965-8864
- 21 Aug Cambridge, MA**
FLEA at MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 10 Sep Windsor, CT** — Vintage R Museum
John 860-673-0518
- 17 Sep Alexander, ME**
SCVARC — Skip 207-454-2156
- 17 Sep Forestdale/N. Smithfield, RI**
RI Amateur FM RS — Rick 401-864-9611
- 18 Sep Cambridge, MA**
FLEA at MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 18 Sep Newtown, CT**
CARA — Bill 203-798-2831
- 7,8 Oct Hopkinton, NH**
HossTraders — Joe 207-469-3492
- 8 Oct Nashua, NH**
NE Antique RC — Marty 603-938-5051
- 9 Oct Wallingford, CT**
Nutmeg Hamfest — John 203-440-4468
- 16 Oct Cambridge, MA**
FLEA at MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

Directions to SEMARA



B. The VOX (Voice-Operated Transmitt) circuit has automatic switching between the transmitter and the receiver. As soon as you begin speaking, the antenna is connected to the transmitter. When you stop speaking, the antenna is reconnected to the receiver.

SEMARA

HandiHam Affiliate

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

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WAIDGW	Fall River
145.490 -	67.0 ¹	KD1CY	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WAIGPO	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 ²	KB1HJG	Plymouth
147.345 +	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard
Node #s: ¹ IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611; ² IRLP-4722 & EchoLink-4721			
440			
441.400 +	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.200 +	88.5	N1NRL	Fall River
442.950 +	82.5 ⁵	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500 +	141.3 ⁵	K1PBO	Dennis
443.600 +	88.5	NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5 ³	W1RJC	Dartmouth
444.200 +	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250 +	141.3 ⁵	WAIGPO	Falmouth
444.350 +	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550 +	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.025 -	77.0 ⁴	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
Node #s: ³ IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259; ⁴ IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-55920			
⁵ Cape Cod Network			

SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

--- RAGCHEW ---

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB
Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB
Tue - 8 p.m. 147.000+ YL Net
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

AUGUST 6, 2005
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055