



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 9

SEMARA W1AEC

September 2005

Zero Beat Exposed



The August Tech Talk was presented by **Bob Kelley, K1KVV**, *Zero Beat* Editor. He began by reviewing the evolution of the current printed version over the last two years since he became Editor.

The secrets of the present layout and structure were reviewed, page by page. He emphasized the way that material, which is (relatively) the same from issue to issue helps to give the publication a familiar feel for the reader.

To give you an inside look into what goes into the production of the *Zero Beat* newsletter, he also pointed out those parts of the production that need to be updated for each issue. The issue number and month on the *Front Page* are most obvious, while the page headers are easily overlooked.

The *Back Cover* and *Inside Back Cover* have both static and dynamic items. The *Back Cover* displays SEMARA's VE Session. The *Inside Back Cover* holds the SEMARA Event Calendar as well as lists of local VE Sessions and fleamarkets in addition to the answer (inverted, of course) to the "Hammin' Around" question from page 2.

The *Second Front Page* is usually devoted to amateur radio activities. Whereas the *Front Page* article is about a club activity, the *Second Front Page* may include other aspects of ham radio. The emphasis is on what our members are doing.

The production challenges of a press publication were lightly touched on. In addition to the constraints imposed by the number of

pages and the page size itself, you got to appreciate the differences between grayscale and color pictures as well as high and low resolution (dots per inch). To transform the individual graphics and photos, they are *massaged* to achieve the best effect. One of the most difficult tasks is to decide what can be cut or omitted. After the pieces have been assembled into the finished product, the newsletter is prepared for the press run.

The newsletter is converted into a grayscale PDF document at 300 dpi. (All the used fonts are embedded into the production file.) This file is sent as an email attachment to the printer along with the updated mailing label file. As you see, the editor has complete control over all aspects of the printed *Zero Beat*.

The *online* version of *Zero Beat* has its own challenges too. The major constraints shift from paper printing issues to internet performance issues. These are governed by both monitor size and connection/download speed, both of which are not under the editor's control. To address these issues, the pages are formatted for a 800x600 display size and each page is designed to load as fast as possible by incorporating thumbnails, small images that can be enlarged.

Special features that enhance the online version are the ready access to the current and past issues. For our members who have vision problems or are blind, each graphic has a description that is readable by their existing internet readers.

While the print version costs SEMARA about \$200 each month, the online version costs much less and gets to you a lot faster.

These are some aspects of publishing the *Zero Beat* newsletter that were exposed.

ZERO BEAT

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

EDITOR

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV
 Phone: (508) 758-6311
 E-Mail: editor@semara.org

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

President

Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President

Charles Moszczenski, KB1FRL

Secretary

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer

Scott Szala, W1EV

Board of Directors:

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX
 Marty Jordon, KA1YFV
 Rob Macedo, KD1CY

Trustees: (year term is up)

Norman Riley, W1ATI (2005)-Ch.
 Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)
 William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)
 Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)
 Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

Website: <http://www.semara.org>
 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'



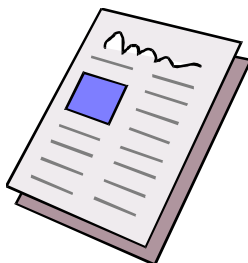
It seems to me ...

de Bob, K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

The FCC seems to be ready to really upset lots of hams with their proposal to drop the Element 1 (Morse code) requirement to get a ham license. No, it has nothing to do with the *discussion* about whether the code is an essential part of being a ham. What it does have to do with is the possibility of HF operation for current Technician class licensees.

By omission, the FCC is (1) cutting off the no-code Technicians since they have no alternative to gain HF privileges other than to upgrade to General or Extra, and (2) the so-called Tech-plus people who have 5 wpm code credit are left high and dry by being lumped together with the no-code Techs. They will all be Technician class licensees.

Can't you just hear the next big *discussion* topic? *If code is no longer a requirement, why can't anyone operate any mode anywhere in the band?* The Amateur Radio Service is supposed to be self regulating to a large degree. Do you think that the radio amateur community can agree to share the digital sub-bands so that robot packet stations don't trash a QSO in progress? Do you think that some form of bandwidth/mode allocation will help sort this all out? Personally, I think that broadcast quality audio SSB that takes up 6 kHz should share space with 6 kHz AM stations. 3 kHz communications quality SSB shouldn't have to compete with the audiophiles.



How many of you are willing to pay something extra to have someone else print and mail your personal copy of *Zero Beat* right to your door? Would you be just as happy getting it sooner and printing a copy for yourself? Well, I intend to ask these questions on the September 1st Business Meeting. *Be there to voice your ideas.*

POINT TO PONDER

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.

~Anonymous

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G8B09 What do RTTY, Morse code, PSK31, and packet communications have in common?

- A. They are multipath communications
- B. They are digital communications
- C. They are analog communications
- D. They are only for emergency communications

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES

The August 4, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Don Manley, N1PMB**. A quorum of 35 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)—Absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)—Reports the only one contractor supplied an estimate that has been forwarded for discussion.

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

Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJ & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—The hand-held radio has been purchased and will schedule some time to install it in place of the built-in radio at the clubhouse.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—Absent.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Rob announced the Advanced Communications Workshop on August 13 at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, MA. Also, EMA will hold BBQ chicken and workshop on August 20 at the SEMARA clubhouse. Any questions on this and other activities, please contact Rob.

Rob also reminds everyone to listen for weather reports and be prepared, because the tropics is very active this year.

Contests (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Reports on results of Kid's Day and thanks everyone who volunteered. He reported the results of FD, scoring over 300 QSOs, working 4 states, Virgin Islands, and 4 Canadian provinces.

Announces that National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend runs 0000Z August 6 at 0000Z through 2359Z August 7.

Also, the Amateur Radio Covered Bridge Society (ARCBS) will be activating covered bridges on the weekend of September 3-4. Ron suggests we can activate the covered bridge in Taunton, MA.

Zero Beat Editor (Bob Kelley, K1KVV)—announces he will do the next Tech Talk about Zero Beat from both the editor and publisher points of view.

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

RATIFICATIONS*—One application for life membership was received.

*Motion**—To admit to life membership:

Nazaré Aguiar, KB1CVE.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—We need to assemble a group together to shingle the north side of the building. Would like to see this project begin soon and be done before September.

OLD BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS—

Reading of the one and only bid from *John Deterra & Sons Heating and Air Conditioning* describing work and components at an estimated cost of \$2,985.00.

This work does not include electrical wiring. An electrician needs to be hired to connect power.

*Motion**—To allocated funds for the installation and the new furnace from John Deterra & Sons.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Bill, K1LP, mentions there are lots of items outside the club building that should be included in the monthly club auction.

Charles, KD1DA, reminds us about the Hurricane Awareness Workshop to be held August 9, 2005 at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay. This event is also posted on the club board.

Don, N1PMB, reminds anyone absent from the Geekfest Raffle that the list of winners is on the white board. They are Marge Mauix, Fred Burg, and Joe Loconto.

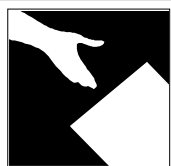
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

Auction brought in \$49.00.





CLUB NOTES

September's Labor Day Weekend has always marked the official end of summer for me. I think that's because the school year started the following Wednesday. It doesn't seem to work that way any longer; but I'm too old to learn new ways. If you want to hold out until the Autumnal Equinox, that's OK too.

So what do you have on the agenda for these lingering summer days without the crowds of people on vacation? What do you say? Do something for yourself like:

- Build a kit
- String an antenna
- Operate portable
- ...

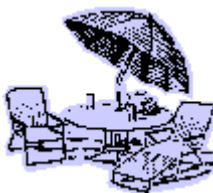
Don't even think about the cold weather that will be coming.

One applicant was voted a life member of the club at the August 4, 2005 business meeting:

Nazaré Aguiar, KB1CVE (T)



Welcome to the Club!!!



VE SESSION RESULTS

Two candidates successfully passed the Element 2 examination on August 6, 2005. The new Technician class licensees are:

Kevin W. Dyer and Kevin F Dykes.

Welcome to amateur radio.

NO VE SESSION IN SEPTEMBER

Traditionally, the SEMARA VE Session is the first Saturday of the month. Due to the proximity to Labor Day and the weekend holiday, the VE Session is not given in September.

If you cannot wait until October, consult the listing on page 7 for other local VE sessions in September.

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. All are welcome, especially new check ins.

2-m YL Net held Tuesday at 8 p.m. continues to do well with an average of 3 to 4 check ins. The Rhode Island YL Net is hosted by the North Scituate, RI Repeater: 146.760, no PL, on Sunday at 7 p.m. YLs out there, please support both nets!

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 doing well with approximately 5 to 7 check ins, including recent new check ins from RI and NJ.

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Q *Frequently Asked Question* is "How do I inform the club of a change of address, etc.?"

A According to information on the SEMARA website, "Changes of email, street address, phone and other information should be sent to the keeper of the club database, currently AA1FS," at [<LRHGuy@earthlink.net>](mailto:LRHGuy@earthlink.net) using the *Subject* line: **Change of Information.**

Amateur Radio Activities

SEMARA HOSTS MEETING

On Saturday, August 20, 2005, SEMARA hosted a brief meeting of ARRL, ARES and CEMARC at the clubhouse. **Rob Macedo, KD1CY** acted as master of ceremonies for the morning presentations that started about 11:00 a.m.

After a round of everyone introducing themselves, Rob turned the meeting over to **Mike Neilsen, W1NPM**, Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager (SM). Mike reviewed the ARRL organization and its mission. One of the first bits of news is the new designation for the ARRL. While still keeping the initials, the designation is "The national association for Amateur Radio."



W1NPM



According to Mike, the ARRL Mission is to provide —

- Washington, D.C. lobbyist
- Outreach to new/upgrade hams
- Licensing
- Promotion of technical excellence
- Recruit new members into the hobby
- Training and education of members
- Sponsorship of field programs

Field Programs include —

- License Testing
- Technical Training
- ARES – with support of SkyWarn and RACES
- NTS

ARRL's Field Organization consists of divisions, ours is the New England Division. The director sits on the ARRL Board of Directors. The divisions are made up of sections, ours is the Eastern Massachusetts Section. Our section is that part of Massachusetts east of Worcester county; Western Massachusetts section includes Worcester country and west.

Some useful links:

ARRL — www.arrl.org

EMA — ema.arrl.org

ARES — ares.ema.arrl.org

The Eastern Massachusetts Section is ready to provide resources to help clubs grow. Contact them for —

- Speakers
- Outreach
- Training
- Technical Support
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Organizational Support

An ARES update was given by **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**, EMA Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). He reviewed the significant number of exercises and training events that have taken place over the last two years. It was impressive just how much had been, especially by SEMARA with Rob's encouragement as SEMARA ARES coordinator.



KD1CY



The meeting wrapped up shortly after noon. Then all the attendees were treated to another one of the **Scott Szala, W1EV**, world famous *Chicken BBQ* with antipasto-style salad and corn-on-the-cob.

More SEMARA Stuff

NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP

On Saturday 20 August 2005, we activated the *Nantucket Lightship II WL613 - ARLHS USA 524* for the *International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend*. The *Nantucket Lightship* is located in Wareham, MA (See <http://www.illw.net>.) We operated from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. local time (EDT).

We were fortunate to work 28 ARLHS members and 12 Lighthouses. Don managed to work 3 or 4 European DX stations on 20 CW. In total, we worked 90 stations on 40- and 20-meters using both SSB and CW.

While monitoring the local Fairhaven IRLP 2-meter repeater link on 146.490-, we made two 2-meter FM contacts. No QSOs were made via IRLP, so we will not try that again.

Band conditions left a lot to be desired; but we were happy to get out and give out a "new one" to many members and non-members.



W1AA QSL CARD

We have a packet station in the pickup but unfortunately the location DX RF packet node went down in the morning after we had spotted ourselves only once. We asked several members if they could spot us on the ARLHS mail reflector, some said they could not do it or did not know how. A few said they would spot us; but after the activation we did not find one email for a W1AA activation.

These announcements are important to the members doing the activations as it helps others moni-

MYSTERY MAN

Does anyone recognize this man? What is he doing? I opened my email and I found this photo. So I thought I would ask you for some help.



DAVE DEAN, K1GV RIDING A LAWN MOWER

toring their mail to find and work the lighthouses.

We also noted that two of the lighthouse activations were done by non-members as they did not have a ARLHS member number to pass along.

73 Don, N1DT, ARLHS #962,
and Whitey, K1VV, ARLHS #957
W1AA Marconi Radio Club

ZERO BEAT QUESTIONS

What can SEMARA do for you? Is there some kind of help you need? Would you like to learn something new?

This is a short list; but only you can give me an answer. Please let SEMARA know what we can do to make your membership more meaningful. How can we make SEMARA a more important part of your life?

editor@semara.org

SEPTEMBER VE SESSIONS

- none SEMARA Clubhouse 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055

- 8 Providence, RI, 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-231-6045

- 19 Fall River, MA, 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469

- 24 Middletown, RI, 9:00 a.m.**
Jack Garforth, N1JK
401-683-2250

SEPTEMBER SEMARA

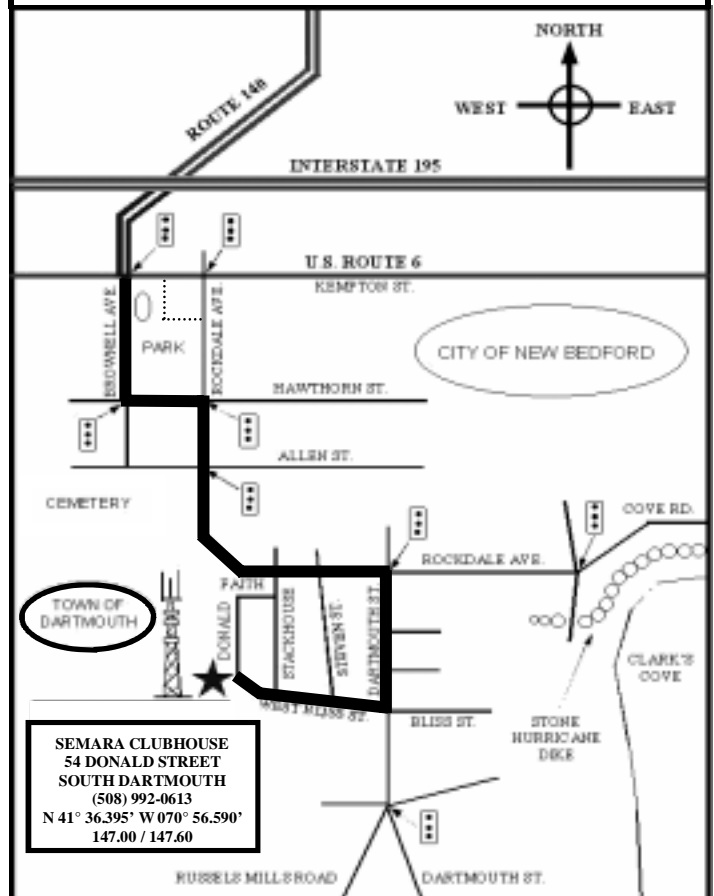
- 1—Business Meeting** 7 p.m.
- 8—Ragchew**, 6:30 p.m.
- 15—Tech Talk** – *New England Native American Culture - Past and Present*
George Estes 7 p.m.
- 22—Ragchew**, 6:30 p.m.
- 29—Ragchew**, 6:30 p.m.

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

FALL FLEAMARKETS

- 10 Sep Windsor, CT** — Vintage R Museum
John 860-673-0518
- 17 Sep Alexander, ME**
SCV ARC — 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
- 4 Nov Feeding Hills, MA**
HCRA Auction — Jim 413-245-3228
- 12 Nov East Falmouth, MA**
FARA — Jim 508-840-3021

Directions to SEMARA



B. Baudot RTTY, Morse code, PSK31 and packet radio are all communication methods that use a digital code to transfer information.

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
146.835 -	192.8	W1PEV	Johnston, 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
443.800 +	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

OCTOBER 1, 2005
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055