



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 11

SEMARA W1AEC

November 2005

- YANKEE STEAM UP - Wireless and Steam Museum

Carl Bredberg, **K1KID** had planned to present a talk on DLM antennas. He didn't have time to extract good construction information from the materials sent to him by **Robert Vincent, K1DFT** of the University of Rhode Island. **Carl** and **Bob Kelley, K1KVV** will try to put together this information for the next Tech Talk in November 17.



CARL
K1KID

About a dozen hardy souls did enjoy an alternate program on the "*Yankee Steam Up*." We viewed a CD personally produced made and given to the club by **Whitey Doherty, K1VV**. This video was shoot on the scene at the Steam and Wireless Museum in East Greenwich, RI.

Although the day was overcast and somewhat damp, Whitey managed to do a great job of capturing the atmosphere. Literally, there was lots of steam in the air as he interviewed hobbyist from around the region who were there showing off their old and replica engines.

If you really want to learn something about external combustion engines, that is the place to go. There were some that ran on hot (or compressed air) or some other working fluid. I learned a lot just from the interviews and views of the magnificent machines. Did you know that horsepower (HP) depends on both steam pressure (PSI) and RPM? *Field trip anyone?*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget that when you turn back your clock to standard time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October each time zone switches at a different time. This happened on Sunday, October 30, 2005 this year.

That means that 0000 GMT will be an hour earlier or 7:00 p.m. EST. For everyone using local time, the nets will come on at the same time next Sunday, except for Arizona and other locales that didn't change to daylight time. For them and DX stations, the nets will appear to be shifted by one hour. By the way, checkout your email clock; it should now indicate -500 in the time line.

REPEATER ON AGAIN

The repeater is the air on a trial basis. The autopatch and echo test functions are temporarily unavailable. Please try the repeater over the next week and tell us about the coverage and the audio quality. The SEMARA 147.000+ repeater was out of service while the duplexers were being evaluated. Thanks to **Tony, N1LDY** at *Universal Electronics* for looking at them. Thanks to **Roland, N1JOY** for assisting with the troubleshooting. The status will updated at the November 3rd business meeting.

73 de Technical Committee.

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

2005 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Donald Manley, N1PMB

Vice President

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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 no. 10555

(Adventure Radio Society)

Bumblebee no. 71

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>

That there seems to be a waning interest in Tech Talks. I can understand that Carl would hesitate to invite an outside speaker and then find only a dozen or so members there to hear the presentation that took a lot of time to put together. So, tell me what the problem is. I am looking for first-person, signed responses only; all others will be deleted without ceremony. [Nominating committee: we need to get a few more people involved in organizing Tech Talks, including pizza.]

Anyone willing to organize a trip to the Steam & Wireless Museum?

Did you miss the repeater as much as I did when it was off the air? I couldn't believe how large a void was created when 147.000 was silent. Maybe I should get a life; but I listen more than I talk. I do learn a lot of things about what is going on at SEMARA and what its members are doing. Let's make sure we give the Technical committee our support by giving of our talents when there are problems.

Need help to use the SEMARA Wi-Fi network? There will be help available at SEMARA on Sunday, November 5 until noon. Otherwise, contact the Technical committee <technical@semara.org> or 508-991-2424 for help.

In case you haven't noticed, there are few pictures in this issue. That's because you haven't been sharing them with *Zero Beat!* Remember, the other members are interested in what is going on. So, when something is happening, particularly at SEMARA, you need to send me a summary of the activity and a few photos (preferably as attachment to the e-mail — 300 dpi resolution please).

POINT TO PONDER

“Do not follow where the path may lead ...
 Go instead where there is no path and
 leave a trail.”

~Anonymous

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G7A01 What safety feature does a power-supply bleeder resistor provide?

- A. It does not effect voltage regulation
- B. It discharges the filter capacitors
- C. It removes shock hazards from the induction coils
- D. It eliminates ground-loop current

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES



The October 6, 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Don Manley, N1PMB**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call. A quorum of 43 members was present. No guests were present.

Secretary's Report (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA excused)—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)—The report was accepted as presented.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)—The new boiler has been installed. Please try to keep the windows and doors closed as much as possible during the winter months.

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

Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJC & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Need more time to fix the radio on the wall at the club.

A place on the wall has been setup to notify technical committee of things needed to be fixed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—A Christmas Party was agreed to be held this coming December.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—The ARES Eastern Massachusetts Drill will be held on Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rob Macedo also gave an account of how important Ham Radio was during the two major hurricanes in Mississippi and Louisiana. One man use a hand held to get himself and others rescued from rooftops.

Contests (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Absent.

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

RATIFICATIONS*—Five applications for life membership were received.

*Motion**—To admit to life membership:

Paul Hopkins, N1OIL;
Walter L. McDermott, Jr., N1ZMB;
Richard A. Griffith, W2RG;
Joseph Swain, Jr., KB1MCF;
Alan T. Smallhoover, N1MXH.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—Please do not stand on the metal chairs. Three have been busted. There is a small step ladder in the front closet for that.

The new boiler has passed inspection.

OLD BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS—

*Motion**—To put back the coded access to wireless router.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

UPS for the modem and router donated by **Rob, KD1CY**.

The following people are running for office in 2006. They are:

President: open

Vice President: WA1AKR

Secretary: WB1HGA

Treasurer: W1EV

Board of Directors (3):

KA1YFV, KD1DA, KB1EVX, K1KID, KD1CY, N1XRS, N1WCO, W1POW

Trustee: N1PMB

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by **Henry R. Blanchett, Jr., W1GYL**
Secretary Pro Tem

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

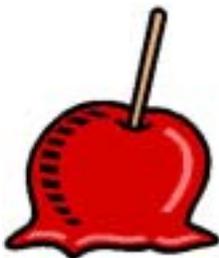
Auction income this month was \$121.





CLUB NOTES

Where did Indian Summer go? Did I miss it? Well, I certainly didn't miss the apples. In fact, I think I am keeping the doctor away until at least next year! I enjoy eating all kinds of apple dishes from pies to crisps to stuffing and sauces in addition to just plain eating them.



Given all the wind and moisture in October, can we look forward to a calm and dry November? Probably not, since that would make raking the leaves too easy. But it still might be a good time to think about getting your antennas ready for those cold, crisp nights and work the low bands for a change of pace.



Five applicants were voted a life member of the club at the October 6, 2005 business meeting:

**Paul Hopkins, N1OIL (G);
Walter McDermott, Jr.,
N1ZMB (T);
Richard Griffith, W2RG (E);
Joe Swain, Jr., KB1MCF (T);
Alan Small Hoover, N1MXH (E).**

Welcome to the Club!!!



One candidate successfully passed the Element 4 examination on October 1, 2005. The new Extra class licensee is:

Alan Small Hoover, N1MXH.

Job well done!!!



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 6 check ins, mostly regulars. All are welcome, especially new check ins.

2-m YL Net held Tuesday at 8 p.m. Check ins have slacked off a bit; but with Fall and Winter coming, hopefully there will be a larger group of YLs. YLs out there, please support the YL nets!

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. with about half a dozen check ins.

3872 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. Check ins vary from day to day with usually 5 to 7. All are welcome, especially those from outside the area.

UPDATE: The 146.700 Cranston repeater, no PL, hosts the RI Youth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and the RI YL Net Thursdays at 7 p.m.. **73 de Debbie, WIGKE.**

AUCTION FEEDBACK

I was really pleased to see the participation at this last auction. I have a few suggestions:

To improve how we run the auction, **Don Manley, N1PMB** and I will alternate the items going up for bid.

It helps a lot if the bidder sounds off *loud and clear* the *amount* they are bidding. Also, try to remain seated. If a description is needed, it is easy for the auctioneer to show the items more clearly or describe them. To pay for an item, go up to the *bursar* taking the money. (Anyone can volunteer to be the *bursar*.) This will allow the auction to move smoothly and quickly. The more valuable items will be put up first.. At the end of the auction, there will be time to shuffle through the *stuff* that did not move. No offer will be refused at that time.

Please drop off any items you think the club can auction off about a week before the next business meeting and auction. Ham gear and electronics always goes well; but just about any *useful* item is fair game. I am always open to any suggestions that will improve the auction.

73 de Dave, KIJGV

Amateur Radio News

BCRA WEBPAGE

Check out the new and improved BCRA webpage. It's still very much a work in progress, but it's definitely getting a bit of much deserved cleaning up, and organizing done.

<http://www.qsl.net/bcra/>

It should be a little easier to navigate than before, and hopefully I will have time to add in some new content and pizzazz.

contributed by Roland, N1JOY

IS THERE A BPL SYSTEM IN YOUR AREA?

by **Patrick Tice WA0TDA**, Handiham Manager

BPL is "Broadband over Power Lines," in case you have not heard the term before. It's hard to imagine a ham operator who hasn't, as much as this topic has been thrown back and forth in the ham radio news and blogs!

Beginning November 19, the Broadband Over Powerline Interference Resolution Website <<http://www.bpldatabase.org>> will be provided as a public service by the United Power Line Council and the United Telecom Council to help you find out if there is BPL in your area. Simply enter your postal (Zip) code. The website is already up; but the actual database of BPL systems will not be operational until November 19, 2005.

This will be a useful resource to ham radio operators in the United States who suspect that they are affected by interference from BPL systems. The first step in resolving such problems is to make sure the interference could be from BPL in the first place! Readers who try the site and get feedback about BPL in their areas are invited to share their experiences with us. We want to know if the website is screen reader accessible, too.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

November 14, 2005 — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day will team up with the Golden Corral Restaurants of Fort Wayne for Military Appreciation Monday.

Amateur Radio operators nationwide will allow the public to send greetings, and expressions of thanks and appreciation LIVE over ham radio. Amateur's will be on the air at many Golden Corral's nationwide for this event so that those that serve and our veteran's can hear America's live support.

Everyone is invited to come out and join us for this event. Visit <www.goldencorral.net> and <www.armad.net> for more information.

73 de Fred, KC9EZP

Fort Wayne, IN — Home Of ARMAD

BE A TEACHER

by Elmer, Handiham

Q I like to get on the air, but I don't speak clearly because of my disability. I'm fine using modes like PSK and CW, but this leaves me out of the fun on my local club's two meter repeater. It seems like there is a lot of friendly activity on the repeater through the week, but I think people are afraid to come back to my call because they might not understand me when I talk. People who have been around me and conversed with me can understand me. Can you make any suggestions? Signed - Frustrated

A Consider yourself a teacher. I really mean that, because you are going to teach your club members that they can learn to listen and understand you and others who have speech impairments. The entire club membership and all the repeater users will be your class!

Start out by attending the meetings and making it known that you will be on the repeater. Talk, talk, talk every chance you get!

(Continued on page 6)

More SEMARA Stuff



RON
WB1HGA

FISTS ACTIVITY

de Ron, WB1HGA
Contest Chair

FISTS FALL SPRINT

1700Z to 2100Z (1:00PM to 5PM)
Saturday, October 8

The SEMARA club (FISTS member #10555) operated 2 stations racking up QSOs. Note, we always welcome operators to cover the event. AND speed not a requirement, only a desire to have a good time!

We had a decent performance today with 2 stations. One was operated on 20 meters and the other on 40 meters.

Summary of results:

- Total QSOs = 72
- Total points = 354
- Multiplier = 42
- Total score = **8,640** points!!

heah is anudder happy camper!!!

"Nice job Ron and to all that helped out. The club station sounded great on my K1 and fishing pole antenna here in East Tampa, FL. My batteries were low so I was only putting out 2 watts at the time I worked Don on 20 meters.

73 de Ed, WA1ZCB"



ED
WA1ZCB

FISTS COAST TO COAST CONTEST

Sponsored by the Fists Northwest Club

October 30, 2005

0000 Z to 2359 Z

Points and score determined by number of times our Club is worked. Look for the results later.



WA1ZCB KEY

CHOOSING A RIG

Everyone is different. What may be just GREAT for one person may NOT be so great for another. What kind of operating will you do?

- Public service: a quick and easy to use radio with few or no extra bells and whistles.
- Contesting: a "do-all with everything" rig that covers as many of the ham bands as possible.

Other considerations are:

- Is the rig computer-controllable?
- Is the manual easy to understand; will I have to carry the manual with me?
- Will I need a power supply for it?
- Will I need to add voice and or CW?
- How much should I spend?
- Is it easy to get service if or when I may need it?
- Are parts easy to get?

(Continued from page 5 - Be a Teacher)

Get on any net that might be on the repeater and check in. Remember, you will probably be asked to repeat what you say, so be prepared to be patient with your "students" and do so. Try using phonetics and remember to speak slowly.

Listen on the repeater during the day and respond to anyone looking for a contact. The more you are heard on the repeater, the more people will accept you and learn to listen and understand what you are saying.

Every teacher runs into difficult students from time to time. Don't let the hard ones get you down. Keep plugging away at them, even if you have to repeat phonetically several times and only have short QSOs with them.

Eventually, you will find that some of your students are at the head of the class. These are the repeater users you should have longer contacts with on the air, talking about an ever-widening circle of subjects. Soon everyone will be so used to you and your voice that they will be able to understand you. We call that "graduation" from school!

NOVEMBER VE SESSIONS

- 5 SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 10 Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-231-6045
- 10 Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858
- 12 Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m.**
Bill Needham, K1WN
781-843-4400
- 21 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 29 W. Warwick, RI — 9:00 a.m.**
Tom Senerchia, WA1VAY
401-822-2592

NOVEMBER SEMARA EVENTS

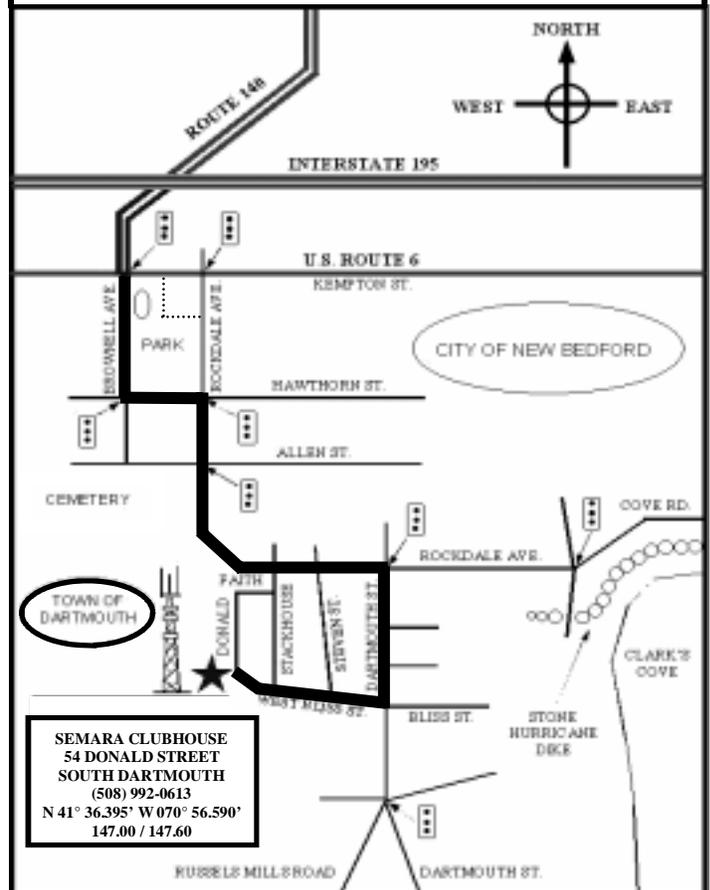
- 3—Business Meeting** 7 p.m.
- 5—VE Session.** 10:30 a.m.
- 10—Ragchew,** 6:30 p.m.
- 17—Tech Talk** – 7 p.m.
“Not Your Father’s Antenna”
presented by **Bob Kelley, K1KVV**
- 24—Thanksgiving** — Enjoy!

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

FLEAMARKETS

- 4 Nov Feeding Hills, MA**
HCRA Auction — Jim 413-245-3228
- 5 Nov Londonderry, NH**
Interstate Rep Soc — Paul 603-883-3308
- 5,6 Nov Watertown, MA**
Photographica — Ed 617-965-0807
- 12 Nov East Falmouth, MA**
Falmouth ARA — Ralph 508-548-6405
- 3 Dec Windsor, CT**
Vintage Radio Mus.— John 860-673-0518
- 2006**
- 18 Feb Marlborough, MA**
Algonquin ARC — Ann 508-481-4988
- 25 Feb Milton, VT**
VT State Conv — Mitch 802-879-6589

Directions to SEMARA



B. The bleeder resistor is installed across a filter capacitor in order to discharge the capacitor when power is not supplied to the circuit. This is to minimize the risk of electrical shock.

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: ¹IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611; ²IRLP-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: ³IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-55920

⁵Cape 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- [alt. 146.655-]

--- W1RJC Sunday Activities 443.800+ ---

9 p. m. - ARRL News followed by Amateur Audio News

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

NOVEMBER 5, 2005
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055