



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 73rd YEAR

Volume 41, Issue 12

SEMARA W1AEC

December 2005

Election of Officers, Directors and Trustee

The elections of club officers, three directors and one trustee will take place at the next business meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 1, 2005. Nominations are open up to the time of the election. These are the candidates listed on the white board in the clubhouse as of November 21, 2005.



President

W1RJC — Richard J. Cabral

KB1KSF — Stanislaus Wojnowski

Vice President

WA1AKR — Carl Bissonette

Secretary

WB1HGA — Ron Silvia

Treasurer

W1EV — Scott Szala

Board of Directors (3)

K1JGV — David Dean

K1KID — Carl Bredberg

KA1YFV — Marty Jordon

KD1CY — Robert D. Macedo

KD1DA — Charles Pelletier

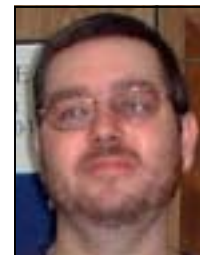
N1WCO — Eric V. Pierce

N1XRS — Antone Duarte

Trustee

N1PMB — Donald T. Manley

Can you match the hams in these photos with the candidates? Come on out to the elections and meet them in person.



"In anticipation of the large turnout expected for the business meeting, the barriers protecting the front grass area will be removed. The trailer containing a large spool near the storage facility has been requested to be removed to the Netcom area. ~Dave, K1JGV"

ZERO BEAT

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

EDITOR

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 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 Moszczanski, 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>

Zero Beat:

<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 the members of SEMARA are willing to help save for the new building. The printing of *Zero Beat* runs the club about \$2400 a year when you add in the cost of mailing it to your home. Beginning with the Volume 42, Issue 1, January 2006 of *Zero Beat*, members will be printing their own copies off the website:

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

For those who would like to look back even earlier than June 2005, I have posted the *press* versions of *Zero Beat* PDF files for the issues I have edited (warts and all): September 2003 through May 2005 in the *Zero Beat Archive* folder. Since these files contain copies of all the fonts used in each issue, they are larger files than the ones I have been posting since June 2005.

To maintain a hard copy record of the *Zero Beat*, each future issue will be printed and stored in the club history file cabinet.

Don't miss out on the SEMARA Xmas Party. It is really a special event. It is a good way to see everyone more dressed up than usual. You will be surprised how well we clean up! At only \$20 a piece (tax and tip included), it is a real bargain. You will have a hard time finding room for dessert after eating your server-cut roast beef, ham, etc. See you there!

POINT TO PONDER

“Whether, if soul did not exist, time would exist or not, is a question that may be fairly asked; for if there cannot be someone to count, there cannot be anything that can be counted.”

~Aristotle

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G8A07 What is one advantage of carrier suppression in a double-sideband phone transmission?

- Only half the bandwidth is required for the same information content
- Greater modulation percentage is obtainable with lower distortion
- More power can be put into the sidebands
- Simpler equipment can be used to receive a double-sideband, suppressed-carrier signal

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES



The November 3, 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 42 members was present. No guests were present.

Secretary's Report (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—The meeting minutes of the previous business, as it appears 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)—Absent.

Scholarship (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Nothing to report.

Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJ & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Reports a loaned repeater is up and running for testing purposes. The club's Duplexer was serviced and tuned with final adjustment to be done on location soon. We have changed antennas to back up, and this led to some improvement and finally installed temporary, a used Kenwood repeater for testing period. Also will be bench testing the amplifier (not in system yet).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship/Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Reported that numerous addresses bounced. Asks to please check your email to ensure receiving mail. Also your should be receiving monthly message from the reflector issuing reminders regarding reflector. This would be indication you are receiving email.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—Tickets for the Christmas Party beginning at 6 p.m. cocktails with deluxe buffet dinner at 7 p.m. to be held on Wednesday, December 14 at the Century House on South Main Street in Acushnet, MA. Tickets go on sale after the meeting at \$20 each. There is no limit on sales.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Rob reported the exercise drill scheduled for November 12 is being held with W1AEC becoming the hub for this area. He also discussed the recent Taunton emergency operations during the dam danger last month. Everyone found that to be a good experience for members providing communications.

Contests (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Reported several contributions by club members helping out the radio room. Marty was recognized for contributing a keyboard to replace the defective one. **Charles, KD1DA**

was recognized for installing the matching mike with the TS180. And finally **Eric, N1WCO** was recognized for printing up some very nice QSL cards.

Reports the FISTS Fall Sprint and Coast2Coast results in which the club may be eligible to receive a Bronze certificate. Announces club plans to participate in SKYWARN day next month. The date will be posted in reflector. Finally, a schedule of activities will be posted with all planned club radio events a year at a glance.

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

RATIFICATIONS*—One application for life membership was received.

*Motion**—To admit to life membership:

Arthur De Mello, Jr., KA1WIK.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Donald Manley, N1PMB)—WA1ESO has mentioned about helping with shingling north side of the club house. President would like to see this done soon. Again appeals for volunteers to help have this done before winter arrives.

OLD BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS—

Motion—To purchase the used Kenwood repeater to replace the club's existing repeater. TABLED.

*Motion**—To subsidize the Xmas tickets sold at \$20.

*Motion**—To purchase an electronic keyer from Idiom with cables for use in the radio room with the TS180.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Nominations are being accepted for all offices.

Also, the *Zero Beat* editor has requested a picture from all candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

* All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

The monthly auction was held on Thursday, November 19 prior to the Tech Talk and raised \$58..



CLUB NOTES

December is the month of many celebrations. In addition to the religious holidays, there is the winter solstice—the longest night of the year.

Does this signal openings on the low-bands, 160- and 80-meters, as well as the possibility of long-haul 40-meter contacts? Don't forget to look at the "magic band," 6-meters; it may hold a few surprises too.

Enjoy the season, be thankful for what we have, and broadcast the good fortune far and wide.

One applicant voted a life member of the club at the November 2, 2005 business meeting:

**Arthur De Mello Jr.,
KA1WIK (G).**

Welcome to the Club!!!

One candidate successfully passed the Element 4 examination on November 5, 2005. The new Extra class licensee is:

Stan Wojnowski, KB1KSF.

Job well done!

REMINDER

**SEMARA Christmas
Party 2005**

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Cocktails: 6-7 p.m.

Deluxe Buffet Dinner: 7 p.m.

CENTURY HOUSE

107 South Main Street

Acushnet, MA 02743



LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held nightly at 7 p.m. continues to have 4 to 6 regular check ins. We have returned to our regular long time simplex frequency of 146.550, moving from the W1AEC repeater, which has been off the air while the Technical committee is working on the problem. All are welcome, especially new check ins.

2-m YL Net held Tuesday at 8 p.m. All YLs are welcome. **Arlene, KB1KGG** is net control.

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB.

3872 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. Check up or down 3-5 kHz because some mornings the band is very busy. One of our longtime members, **Randy, W1RTF** from MD has taken time from his busy schedule to check in through November from time to time along with the regulars. All are welcome to join us along with that first cup of coffee!

73 de Ray, KB1EVX

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A series of events took place recently in our organization that called to question the viability of our Constitution and Bylaws. Some may see this as a trivial matter; but others feel that testing the Constitution in this matter sets a precedent, which could impact the future of our club.

SEMARA is a unique organization. Very few clubs in our hobby can say that they have a wholly owned clubhouse, land with a manicured lawn, an antenna farm to make any ham envious, a modern and well-equipped station and a healthy financial position with a consistent revenue stream behind it. Perhaps the most important aspect is the fellowship of its members in and out of the club atmosphere.

If we chip away at the fabric of the Constitution we leave ourselves open for similar activities but with unpredictable results. The only resolution is to become active in your organization and insist on allowing the membership to shape and mold this club's future.

(Continued on page 6)

Amateur Radio News

IDA LEWIS LIGHT ACTIVATION

Don-N1DT and I made 68 contacts at Ida Lewis Light, Newport, RI. No DX worked ...



IDA LEWIS LIGHT, NEWPORT, RI

8 contacts on 40 CW;
12 on 40 Phone;
10 on 20 CW; and
38 on 20 Phone
for a total of 68 contacts.

Comments ... Solar flux was 78, K index 3 and A index 2 ... Band conditions could have been better ... but they always can be ... Odd conditions ... we worked Brooklyn, NY on 20 phone at S9 then the next QSO was with Seattle, WA!! ... Very unstable band, both short and long skip ...

We had a few people ask what were doing ... one of them thought we were performing some kind of experiments or tracking animals ...

When we told them we were hams they did not inquire any more ... Hi ...

It is a great location to operate from, 30 feet from



DON - N1DT— CW STATION

(Continued on page 6)

DISTRIBUTED LOADED MONO-POLE ANTENNA DATA

Here are some construction details extracted from **Rob Vincent-K1DFT's** material. This is patent pending technology of the University of Rhode Island. You are allowed to build these antennas only for your own personal use and experimentation. The information given here is for the 160- and 80-meter monopoles. Contact me for other bands and more details.

The monopole consists of four parts, starting from the base:

Helix — Mid-section — Load coil — Top-section.

1. Helix data:

BAND	HELIX LENGTH	HELIX DIA	WINDING LENGTH	MATERIAL	TURNS
160	16ft	3.5in	15.25ft	WIRE	154
160	16ft	3.25in	15.25ft	½ W x .020*	145
80	8.0ft	2.0in	7.5 ft	3/8 W x .020*	119
80	8.0ft	2.5in	7.5 ft	3/8 W x .020*	100

* COPPER STRAP

Helix inductance:

160-meters 46 µH
80-meters 20 µH

2. Mid-section diameter and length:

160-meters 2.0in 14ft
80-meters 1.0in 7.0ft

Do no mess with mid-section length-K1DFT

3. Load coil inductance:

160-meters 70-75 µH
80-meters 30 µH

4. Top-section length:

160-meters 16ft
80-meters 11ft-2in

Note: a top-hat reduces the overall height and increases bandwidth. A plano-spiral top-hat combination replacing the top-hat and load coil further reduces the antenna height. Good results have been obtained using just 4 radials.

Happy experiments!

de Bob, K1KVV

More SEMARA Stuff

COMMENTS ON TECH TALKS

I'm a brand new member of SEMARA. I visited the club during a trip back to the New Bedford area this past September and applied for membership. My wife and I are planning to relocate to the New Bedford area when we retire.

I've given several technical talks at two local clubs about PSK31, amateur VHF & Up activities, and amateur microwave activities. A fellow ham and I gave a talk about 10 GHz activities at the Dayton Hamvention. These clubs hold only one monthly meeting at which both the technical talk and club business are covered. I think this ensures a decent crowd. .

Now what are some things a club might do?

Keep at least one technical project going for the membership at large at all times. Examples:

- building something simple and of general usefulness: a power supply, a battery charger, an SWR bridge
- a bigger project that requires some coordination, such as an 802.11 network for club members
- a specialized project to expand club members' capabilities (10 GHz equipment?)
- develop a database of who has what test equipment and buy more for the club, if necessary, and be willing to lend it out
- make it easier to get to the meetings, encourage carpooling, encourage members who do attend meetings regularly to offer rides to others
- encourage active members to invite not-so-active members to the meetings
- for each major event (e.g., Field Day), invite a few members who don't usually participate

I hope some of the above rambling is useful.

73 de **Rich, W2RG-EM79tf**

(Continued **Letter to the Editor** from page 4)

Please attend the December 1 business meeting to observe, ask questions and participate.

This is your club.

73, **Tim Smith, N1TI**

VA3EDP VISITS

While I was on a personal visit to see some family members in the U.S.A., I had the opportunity to key up the radio and access some of the local repeaters in Dartmouth MA. area. A ham that I met on Echolink, **Joe P. Frois (W1VRP)**, got back to me and invited me to visit the club. I was treated like royalty as Joe gave me the grand tour of the club. Joe made me feel very welcome in my visit. I would like to thank all the hams that I met for the warm hospitality in making me feel like one the locals.



VA3EDP

73 de **Eddie Pereira, VA3EDP**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTION

Item 1. Donation of a Kenwood Repeater. The BOD has accepted the private donation of a Kenwood repeater and has given the authorization to the Technical committee to go forward with the install (with all alarms installed).

I would like to personally, on the behalf of the BOD, to thank all who have put in so much time on the work that has been going on with the repeater: **Bill-K1IBR, Roland-N1JOY, Rick-W1RJC, Tony-N1XRS, Rob-KD1CY, and Peter-AA1PL.**

Item 2. Our insurance company has notified us our deductible went from \$500 to \$2500. We do have an option to go back to \$500 deductible at a cost of about \$200 per year. If anyone knows about insurance and can advise the club on which way we may want go with this, please come to the next meeting.

Don Manley, President, NIPMB

(Continued **Ida Lewis Light Activation** from page 5)

the water's edge overlooking Newport Harbor with the Ida Lewis Light in full view ...

We plan to return to the Newport RI area in the future to activate more lighthouses ... there are 6 more lighthouses in that area ...

Keep the Flame,

Don, N1DT and Whitey, K1VV / W1AA

DECEMBER VE SESSIONS

- 3 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
- 11 Middletown, RI — 9:00 a.m.**
Jack Garforth
401-683-2250
- 15 Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858
- 19 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 31 Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m.**
Robert Jones, WB1P
401-333-4787

DECEMBER SEMARA EVENTS

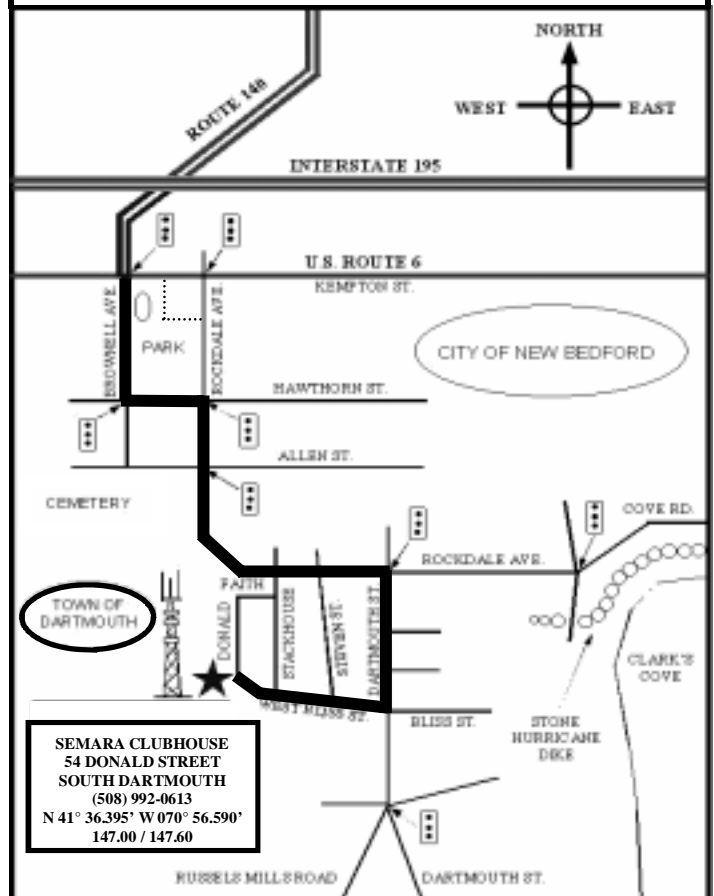
- 1—Business Meeting** 7 p.m.
- 3—VE Session.** 10:30 a.m.
- 8—Ragchew,** 6:30 p.m.
- 14—Xmas Party – 7 p.m. dinner**
Century House, Acushnet
- 22—Ragchew,** 6:30 p.m.
- 29—Ragchew,** 6:30 p.m.

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

FLEAMARKETS

- 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
- 18 Mar Pomfret, CT**
ECARA — Paul 860-928-2456
- 24-25 Mar Lewiston, ME**
Androscoggin ARC — Rick 207-740-1266
- 26 Mar Framingham, MA**
FARA — Kevin 508-653-2863
- 8 Apr Londonderry, NH**
Interstate RS — Gayle 781-598-1442

Directions to SEMARA



C. In a double-sideband, suppressed-carrier, amplitude modulated transmitter, the RF carrier is reduced or suppressed. The less energy that is used by the carrier, the more that can be put into the sidebands. This increases the efficiency of the system.

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
147.330+	173.8 ²	W1AQ	E. Prov., RI
147.345+	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard

Node #s: ¹IRLP-4617 & EchoLink-4611; ²required for use of IRLP-4907

440			
441.400+	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
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
⁵ Cape Net

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. 146.550 simplex
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

DECEMBER 3, 2005
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055