



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

Volume 42, Issue 1

SEMARA W1AEC

January 2006

2006 Election Results

Elected at the December 1, 2005 business meeting are four new officers, a trustee, and three directors.

President **Rick Cabral, W1RJC**

Vice President **Carl Bissonette, WA1AKR***

Secretary **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**

Treasurer **Scott Szala, W1EV ***

Trustee (2010) **Don Manley, N1PMB**



WB1HGA



W1RJC



N1PMB

Board of Directors

Bill Miller, K1IBR

Carl Bredberg, K1KID

Tim Smith, N1TI



N1TI



K1KID



K1IBR

* Photos not available.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hey Everyone,

First off, I would like to congratulate all members elected into office for the upcoming year! I look forward to working with each of you. I also want to thank everyone who voted for me on Thursday night. I look forward to making my presidency at SEMARA for 2006 a productive and educational one for both the membership and myself.

I was once a President of this Association in the past. At that time, I was only 17 years old, and I must admit that I didn't know much about running meetings back then. :)

After taking office, I began a career at AT&T in Fairhaven working until midnight, causing me to miss half the year's meetings. Even though this was in the past, I wish to apologize for not resigning at that time, as this would have been in the best interest of the club. We live and learn; I certainly believe that wisdom comes with age.

With that off my back, I want to say (and I hope I speak for most of you) that **Don, N1PMB** did a remarkable job as President the last 2 years. It defiantly will be a challenge for me to follow in his footsteps of orderly and professional leadership, but I promise to give it my best shot.

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party and at next year's business meeting.

73, Rick, W1RJC
2006 SEMARA President

ZERO BEAT

<http://zerobeat.semara.org>

Published online monthly by the
**Southeastern Massachusetts
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**
 54 Donald Street,
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748
 (508) 997-7070

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

E-mail: clubinfo@semara.org

EDITOR

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

2006 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Rick Cabral, W1RJC

Vice President

Carl Bissonette, WA1AKR

Secretary

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer

Scott Szala, W1EV

Board of Directors:

Bill Miller, K1IBR

Carl Bredberg, K1KID

Tim Smith, N1TI

Trustees: (year term is up)

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)-Ch

William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

Don Manley, N1PMB (2010)

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 some of us might want to turn back the clock and participate in *Straight Key Night*. The object is to enjoy some good, old fashioned QSOs, using straight keys. The emphasis is on *rag-chewing* rather than fast contest-type exchanges. *SKN 2006* begins at **7:00 p.m. EST December 31** and runs for 24 hours (**0000-2400 UTC January 1, 2006**). For *SKN 2006*, send *SKN* in place of *RST* before sending the signal report. This alerts listeners that you are working *SKN*. After *SKN*, send your list of *stations worked* to <StraightKey@arrl.org> and include your vote for the *best fist* you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, give your vote for the *most interesting* QSO you had or monitored.

Kid's Day is on **Sunday, January 8** beginning at **1:00 p.m. EST** and runs for 6 hours (1800Z to 2400Z). Come to the SEMARA radio room and show the kids our hobby! As always, there will be 2 HF stations ready to go on the preferred frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400 kHz, 14270 to 14300 kHz; as well as on 2-meter simplex frequencies (except 146.520). Kid's will talk to other kids and exchange their name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. *Call "CQ Kid's Day."* All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate after completing the Kid's Day Survey at <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>>. If you know grade school kids in your neighborhood, invite them and their parents. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the wonder of Ham Radio.

POINT TO PONDER

"It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow."

~Anonymous

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G2A11 Why do most amateur stations use lower sideband on the 160-, 75-, and 40-meter bands?

- The lower sideband is more efficient at these frequency bands
- The lower sideband is the only sideband legal on these frequencies
- Because it is fully compatible with and AM detector
- Current amateur practice is to use lower sideband on these frequency bands

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES



The December 1, 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 52 members was present. Two 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 read in his absence by Secretary, Ron Silvia.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM) – Reminds all to keep doors and windows closed now that the furnace is running.

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

Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJC & Tony Duarte, N1XRS) – Repeater still has noise issues. We are approaching this problem three different ways. by different individuals, and it's still present. Right now it is gone, but we are not totally confident the solution was found as yet. The club's alarms are also connected.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship/Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS) – Nothing to report.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV) – He suggested a "Pig Roast" in January or February and is looking for feedback on this.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS) – Rob reminds everyone to participate during Skywarn Recognition Day this Saturday, Dec. 4. He also explained ARES and other volunteer Ham Radio service's position with an open letter to our Governor in regards to his negative comments about Ham Radio. Rob also thanks all who participated in this current year's events whether drill or actual.

Contests (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA) – Ron reminds all about the upcoming Kid's Day to be held Jan. 8. Also asks for participation in Skywarn Recognition Day this Saturday, Dec. 4.

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

RATIFICATIONS* – One application for life membership was received.

*Motion** – To admit to life membership:

Eddie Pereira, VE3EDP.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Donald Manley, N1PMB) – He asks all to please shut off club lights. He came by one time and found all lights left on without anyone in the building. Also, he reminds all present who wish to be considered for nomination for office to place their names on the bulletin board.

OLD BUSINESS–

*Motion** – To rescind the motion to table the motion for club purchase of repeater, and replace it with a motion to have the club accept and install the new donated repeater; and that this will not be used to set a precedent in any future meetings and decisions.

NEW BUSINESS–

Two amendments to the Club Constitution were read tonight and will be voted upon by the membership at the next meeting.[†] The first amendment deals with the responsibility and authority of all committees. The second amendment deals with the Board of Director's duties. Both amendments carried the required number of signatures for consideration.

*Motion** – To mail notices of voting on the two amendments to all members; voting to take place during the Jan. 2006 business meeting.

*Motion** – To table purchase of duplexer to next meeting.

*Motion** – To remove Verizon lines and install Comcast.

*Motion** – To buy an autopatch module for the repeater.

*Motion** – To insert our club President's message, as it appeared in the Dec. 2005 *Zero Beat*, into the Board of Director's report of Dec. 2005.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB–

Ray Arruda, KB1EVX, reminds everyone there are Christmas Party tickets left, and that the gifts be limited to \$5.00.

ELECTIONS – Paper ballots were passed out, counted and the election results are:

President **Rick Cabral, W1RJC**

Vice President **Carl Bissonette, WA1AKR**

Secretary **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**

Treasurer **Scott Szala, W1EV**

Trustee (2010) **Don Manley, N1PMB**

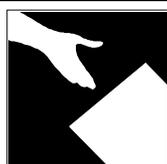
Board of Directors: **Carl Bredberg, K1KID; Bill Miller, K1IBR; Tim Smith, N1TI.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

*All motions accepted and passed by the members present.

[†]Full text is found in Jan. 2006 issue of *Zero Beat* (pg 6).



CLUB NOTES

January stands for new beginnings in many ways. While you may not have noticed it, the light is returning – the days are getting longer! Winter began officially a few weeks ago and it seems to be getting colder!



So, why fight nature? This is a good time of year to explore new things, like new operating modes, or *even* upgrading to **Extra** if you haven't done it yet.



Don't be left out in the cold, take some time to share what you enjoy in amateur radio with a young person. See if they can catch the spark that excited you. Set them on fire – the way you were not so long ago!

Stay warm – share your light.

One applicant voted a life member of the club at the December 1, 2005 business meeting:

Eddie Pereira, VA3EDP.

Welcome to the Club!!!



Licensed Before 1982?

QCWA invites you to join with those distinguished amateurs licensed 25 or more years ago. Request an application form:

QCWA, Inc.
 PO Box 3247
 Framingham, MA 01705-3247
www.qcwa.org

**Q
C
W
A** **a
n
y
o
n
e
?**

LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held nightly at 7 p.m. on 146.550 simplex. Participation is down a bit due to everyone's busy holiday schedule. All are welcome, especially new check ins.

2-m YL Net that had been held Tuesday at 8 p.m. ceased operation on November 29. **Arlene, KB1KGG** made the reluctant decision to cancel due to lack of participation.. Please support the RI YL Net on 146.700 every Thursday at 7 p.m. **Debbie, W1GKE** 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. Some mornings the band is quite busy. Check for us on the alternate frequency of 3868. If that frequency is busy, check all the way to 3850 to locate us! All are welcome, especially those outside the area.

TUNING UP THE REPEATER



PETER, AA1PL AND ROLAND, N1JOY

We are looking at the SWR of the repeater duplexer after aligning it with the IFR service monitor.

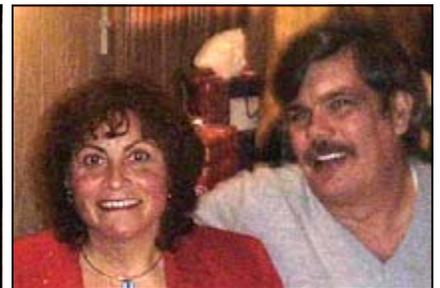
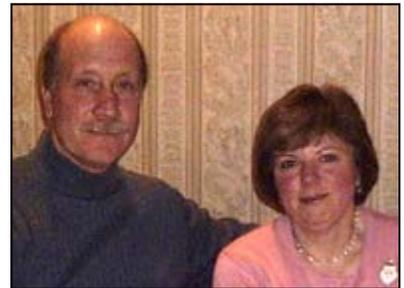
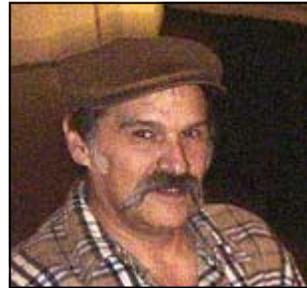
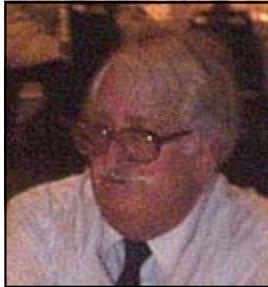
The piece of equipment being used is an Anritsu Site Master, which can analyze SWR, Return Loss, and Distance to Fault.

Tony, N1XRS, Technical Committee

SEMARA Xmas Party

Some of the folks who enjoyed the fabulous Christmas Party at the Century House. The food complemented the fine company. Space limitations prevent me from rubbing it in; but the rest of you should really try to make our next party in 2006. Whether you like roast "beast" or scrod or shrimp or chicken or ham or ...

See you next year!



More SEMARA Stuff

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

First proposed Bylaw amendment

Make all existing language "Section 1 - Composition:

Add a section to Bylaw Article VIII - Committees:

Section 2 - Responsibility and Authority

All Committees shall be charged with the operation, repair, and maintenance functions in their respective area [sic]. Additionally, they shall be authorized to expend club funds up to one hundred dollars each month for repair and maintenance only. Unused funds shall not be carried into succeeding months. In no case shall Committees make substantial or major changes to their area or purchase new equipment, or accept donations, without prior Board of Directors review and membership approval.

Second Bylaw Amendment

Add a new section to Bylaw Article IV - Board of Directors:

Section 4 - Authority

A. The main function and charge of the Board of Directors is to review plans and items of interest to the Association and then make recommendations to the membership. The membership, by vote, shall accept or reject such plans or items of interest at a regularly scheduled or special business meeting. The membership shall reserve the right to modify, amend, limit or expand, or impose sanctions or conditions upon the scope of such plans or items prior to a vote.

B. Additionally, the Board of Directors shall have no authority to accept major donations, with a value greater than two hundred dollars, to the Association. They shall, however, recommend to the membership the acceptance or rejection of said major donations.

C. The Board of Directors shall have no authority to authorize any major changes to the club's infrastructure, including, but not limited to, the building, towers, antennas, and radio equipment including the club's repeater(s).

D. The Board of Directors shall have no authority to authorize the expenditure of Association funds, excepting emergencies as outlined in S[ub]section E.

E. In case of bona fide emergencies, the Board of Governors may authorize temporary measures, including the expenditure of club funds, to protect the club property and equipment. The membership, at the next business meeting, shall make the final determination relative to what final measures shall be authorized to address said emergency condition.

To be voted at the Jan. 5, 2006 business meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 2005

Scott, Marty, Chuck, Ray, Don, Rob and Ron attending

Rob reports the processing application through Homeland Security for the generator is on going.

Scott reports the insurance rates have gone up and after discussion, the board advises that the body vote to decide on the 500 dollar or 2500 dollar deductible.

The Board also recommends that the body approve selling one of the old repeaters and keep the other complete one, for backup purposes.

The President has volunteer to send the notices to members on current status of repeater and that all donations were made by members of the SEMARA club. Only one donation wishes to remain anonymous.

The Board motioned to have Secretary send a thank you to AA1PL, Peter Harrison for his valuable help.

This following was added by a motion from the floor and passed, during the December 2005 meeting, that the President's comments in December issue of Zero Beat be added:

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.

Meeting adjourned

MISTEAKS, NO! MISTAKES!*

Did you ever make an honest mistake and have a ton of people after you for it? Not a lot of fun, is it? What's more, sometimes it makes a person not want to go back and try again. OK! So we all made *mistakes* ... but if you hear one being made on the air, the best thing to do is to call the person on the phone later. Speak to them the same way a teacher would to a student. Don't get them all embarrassed in front of all their Ham buddies and who ever else may be listening.

Avery, k0hla@handiham.org

*Handiham World Weekly E-Letter, Dec. 14 - 21 2005

JANUARY VE SESSIONS

- 7 SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 12 Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-263-6045
- 14 Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-540-2483
- 14 Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m.**
William Needham, K1WN
781-845-4400
- 16 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 19 Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858

FLEA MARKETS

- 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
- 19 Mar Henniker, NH**
Contoocook Val. RC — Jim 603-428-4743
- 24-25 Mar Lewiston, ME**
Androscoggin ARC — Rick 207-740-1266
- 25 Mar Rochester, NH**
Great Bay RA — Karen 207-698-1618
- 26 Mar Framingham, MA**
FARA — Kevin 508-653-2863
- 8 Apr Londonderry, NH**
Interstate RS — Gayle 781-598-1442
- 10-11 June Newington, CT**
ARL — Dan 860-206-3379
- 25-27 Aug Boxboro, MA**
NE Div Conv — Mike 978-250-1236

HEAVY HITTERS TRAFFIC NET

Hi SEMARA,

Effective January 1st, the **Heavy Hitters Traffic Net**, which is a National Traffic System affiliated net for passing formal written messages between hams and non-hams, will be operating nightly at 10 p.m. on the *MMRA network*. Their nets generally run about 30 minutes.

The following repeaters will automatically link at 9:50 p.m.:

146.61, 146.67, 146.715, 146.820, 147.270,
and all 222 and 440 repeaters.

The repeaters will return to their normal state at 11:50 p.m.

On Tuesdays, the repeaters will link as they always have at 7:50 pm for the TIOS net, but will remain linked until 11:50 p.m.

Note that the 146.790 repeater in Weston will **NOT** link for HHTN, so it will remain on the previous schedule of 7:50 p.m. link – 9:50 p.m. unlink on Tuesdays only.

Although the net will not begin until January 1st, the scheduler set points have been programmed and the automatic linking will begin starting now. This gives us time to make sure everything is running smoothly.

73, **Bob DeMattia, K1IW, MMRA President**

D. There are no FCC Part 97 Rules about which side band is used on any band. Amateurs have adopted the practice of using lower sideband with frequencies less than 7.3 MHz and upper sideband on bands with frequencies higher than 14 MHz. This practice began in the early days of SSB operation, because of some design requirements of early SSB transmitters. [Note, only upper sideband is permitted on the 5-channels of the 60-meter band allocation. Ed.]

SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

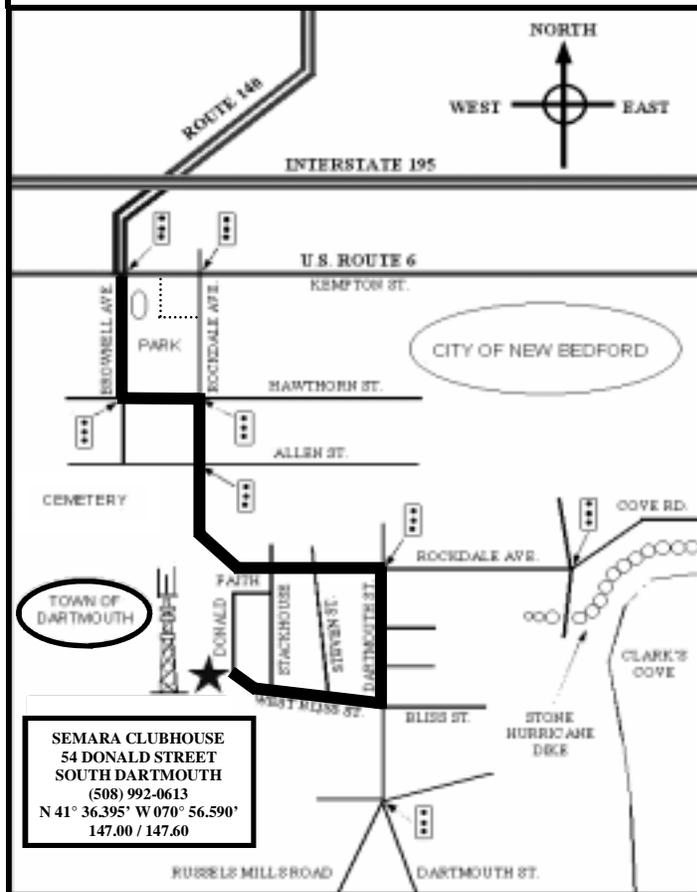
Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -	67.0 ¹	KD1CY	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1ZIZ	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
146.730 -	67.0	W1SGL	Sandwich
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI
146.835 -	192.8	W1PEV	Johnston, RI
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	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 ³	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450+	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500+	141.3 ³	K1PBO	Dennis
443.800+	88.5 ³	W1RJG	Dartmouth
444.200+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250+	141.3 ³	WA1GPO	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

Directions to SEMARA



JANUARY SEMARA EVENTS

- 5 – Business Meeting** 7 p.m.
- 7 – VE Session** 10:30 a.m.
- 8 – Kid’s Day Event** 1:00 p.m.
- 12 – Ragchew**, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 – Tech Talk – 7 p.m. Tim Smith, N1TI**
"Coping with Radio Interference"
- 26 – Ragchew**, 6:30 p.m.

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

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

JANUARY 7, 2006
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055

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. 146.550 simplex
Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.m. 3.872 MHz LSB

– WEATHER NET –

Mon-Fri - 8:00 p.m. 145.490- [alt. 146.655-]

– W1RJG Sunday Activities 443.800+ –
9 p. m. - ARRL News followed by Amateur Audio News