



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

Volume 42, Issue 2

SEMARA W1AEC

February 2006

Kid's Day - Winter 2006

SEMARA was the scene of lots of HF activity on Sunday, January 8 beginning around 1800Z. About a half dozen kids and elders gathered in the radio room to take part in the semi-annual Kid's Day contest.



MONTANA, KB1MKQ, LOOKING FOR A KID'S DAY STATION

The intent of Kid's Day is to give kids a chance to enjoy themselves talking to other kids over ham radio. This hands-on on-the-air experience might be the catalyst for them to develop an interest in becoming hams at some future date. Plus it is a pretty good way to get some positive publicity of ham radio and SEMARA.



ROB, KD1CY, SHOWING RYAN JOHNSON AND HIS DAD DOUG, KB1MFE, HOW IT'S DONE



SIVONNA (L) AND SIERRA (R) YERGEAU, MONTANNA'S SISTERS TALKING TO OTHER KIDS AS FAR AWAY AS ALABAMA

The kids are encouraged to work in the 28.35-28.40 MHz, 21.38-21.40 MHz, or 14.27-14.30 MHz sub-bands within the 10-, 15-, and 20-m ham bands. You might have even heard some of their exchanges. They called "CQ Kid's Day" to find other kids and exchanged their *name*, *age*, *location*, and *favorite color*. They were encouraged to work the same station again when the operator at either end changed!



MICHAEL MILLER JR. AT THE MIKE

They can even use our 2-m repeater, with SEMARA's permission, of course. Remember, every licensed member of SEMARA can take part in the summer Kid's Day on June 17, 2006.

ZERO BEAT

<http://zerobeat.semara.org>

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**Southeastern Massachusetts
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 54 Donald Street,
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EDITOR

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ADVERTISING

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

THE 25TH 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 we are pretty lucky to have a club like ours. Where else can you enjoy a good ragchew, free beverages, and a warm place to meet – all this for only a one-time fee of \$20 to become a life member? It seems to me (am I repeating myself?) that we really need to find a way to make this worth more to the average member. Perhaps the great feeds we put on every once in a while aren't enough. Well, what about the world-class HF stations that are in the radio room? Can't figure it out. With this much to offer, one would think that getting people to step up to do the simple jobs around the club would be easy. OK, prove me wrong. Volunteer to fill one the jobs on the list.

I was sorry to hear that two of our members had been in St. Luke's with pneumonia. Both **Henry, W1GYL** and **Bill, W1POW** have since returned home. Don't ask them to blow up balloons for your next party just yet.

I was glad to see that someone else recognized the dedication of **Rob, KD1CY** and his participation during *Katrina*. Isn't it nice to know that we have members who do public service, like the FCC (but not Governor Romney) expects use to do?

Some of our members can't find enough to do at SEMARA, so they are *2006 BCRA officers* as well:

President: **Paul Gosselin, N1RHS**; Vice President: **Don Manley, N1PMB**; Secretary: **Ron Silvia, WB1HGA**; Treasurer: **Dave Neal, W2DAN**; Director at Large: Arthur "Skip" Denault, KB1CNB; Trustee (2m): Wayne Souza, KA1LH; and Trustee (70cm): **Roland Daignault, N1JOY**.

Well done – everyone!

POINT TO PONDER

“Climb out on a limb, that's where the fruit is.”

~Anonymous

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G4E01 Which of the following connectors is NOT designed for RF transmission lines?

- A. PL-259
- B. DB-25
- C. Type N
- D. BNC

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES

The **January 5, 2006** Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Rick Cabral, W1RJ**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call. A quorum was present.

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

Treasurer's Report (Scott Szala, W1EV)—absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Andy Reuter, WA1FNM)—Reports that the water heater needs to be replaced. He also announced that he is stepping down.

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

Technical (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)—He announced the new committee members are: **Dave Neal, W2DAN, Tim Smith, N1TI** and **Don Manley, N1PMB**. The HF antenna on the tower is repaired and now turns. No further work has been done on the repeater. Dave will research getting licenses to put the XP operating system on all club computers. The 2-m frequency coordination application has been renewed. Autopatch is installed, all alarms are connected; answering machine at club will have access number posted at the phone to playback recorded messages. Instead of using a 2-m handheld, the panel will be wired directly to the repeater controller.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship/Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—He is addressing a problem with the internet database. Otherwise, everything is OK.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—absent.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY & Tony Duarte, N1XRS)—Rob wishes to thank everyone for their participation during the last winter storm. An ARES drill is coming in February, more information about the dates later. Rob notes there will be a meeting with the Governor's office on Jan. 9 regarding the value of ham radio in times of need. Reminder: check into the RACES net on the 147.135 repeater on the first Monday of each month.

Contests/Radio Events (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Ron reminds everyone about Kid's Day coming on Jan. 8.

COMMUNICATIONS (Carl Bissionette, WA1AKR)—none.

RATIFICATIONS*—Three applications for life membership were received.

*Motion**—To admit to life membership:

Michael R. Miller, N1ITQ;
Thomas Blais, KC0JUT; and
Steve Silvestre (no call).††

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Rick Cabral, W1RJ)—He will perform to the best of his ability and is looking forward to working with everyone this year.

OLD BUSINESS—

*Motion (by secret ballot)**— to purchase the duplexer.

Motion (voted down) – to pass the by-law amendment regarding the Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS—

*Motion**— to have open calls from the answering machine.

*Motion**— to accept all proposals (except 11) as read from the Board of Directors' Minutes.†

Motion (voted down by secret ballot) – to pass the by-law amendment regarding the "Committees."

*Motion**— to have a wall mount to support the VCR and DVD player outside the closet to be made available for membership use.

Tim Smith, N1TI announced that he is taking over from **Carl Bredberg, K1KID** on the Tech Talk committee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—

Because the meeting ran very long tonight, an e-mail message will be sent to the membership informing them that an auction of some items will be held this Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by
Ron Silvia, WB1HGA,
Secretary



WB1HGA

†† KB1NAR - issued 1/20/06.

† The full text is found on page 6 in this issue of *Zero Beat*.

* Motions are voted, and passed, by those present.

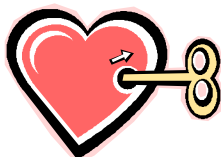
** The Sunday auction raised \$67.



CLUB NOTES

February is the month for lovers. What holds the key to your heart? For some it is a brand new QRP rig. For others a shiny new 5 W handheld.

Of course some of us do like the chocolate candy – I always give what *I* like. How about you. What do you “love?”



Three applicants were voted a life member of the club at the January 5, 2006 business meeting:

- Michael R, Miller, N1ITQ;
- Thomas Blais, KC0JUT; and
- Steve Silvestre (no call).

Welcome to the Club!!!



One candidate successfully passed the written examination for the General Class License on January 7, 2006. Congratulations goes to

Arlene Arruda, KB1KGG.

Job well done!!



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
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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. All are welcome, especially new check ins.

2-m YL Net. Please support the *RI YL Net* on 146.700- every Thursday at 7 p.m. **Debbie, WIGKE** is net control.

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB. Recently we had 12 check-ins with **Bob, NIHCW** acting as net control. **Dick, K1AHA** reports he could hear everyone using his homebrew full wave delta loop and a Yaesu 875D.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. Please note the new frequency of **3868**. This change was necessary due to increased activity on and around 3872. Ed, W1VF has been joining the regular crew from time to time. All are welcome, especially those outside the area.

LOG-YAGI REPAIRED

The Sommers Log Antenna can now be used. I went up the tower, repositioned the antenna, and drilled and bolted the antenna bracket through the mast to prevent it from moving again. I used a 5/16" stainless bolt, which is the same size as on the mast to rotor clamp set. I tightened the antenna mast clamps as much as I dare. The 5/16" bolt will surely make it quite a bit more durable.

Thanks to **Don Manley (N1PMB)** and **Bill Miller (K1IBR)** for their help.

Having helpers on the ground to tie tools to the rope sure saved me a few trips up and down the tower.

Hopefully at some time in the future this antenna can be removed from the tower, and the wind-bent elements can be straightened and beefed up to better than new condition. This will be a bigger project for another day.

Roland , N1JOY
Technical Committee

Coping with Interference

Tim Smith, N1TI, spoke at the regularly scheduled January 19 Tech Talk. An interested group of about a dozen and a half hams got to learn both about the nature of interference and how to cope with it.



N1TI

First he asked us “*Who are we and what can we do?*” His talk focused on local man-made, intentional interference, not RFI. He suggested that this situation calls for group observation. We need to be mindful of our own conduct on the air as well.

Do we display ‘*passive intelligence*’ or ‘*ignorant aggression?*’ Above all, we must keep our own house in order.

After reviewing the Communications Act of 1982, which effectively says that the Amateur Radio Service is self policing and that the Amateur Auxiliary / Official Observer has full legal standing, We learned that our nearest OO is K1LJN who lives in Chelmsford, north of Boston. An OO tries to help us in two areas: good Amateur Practice, e.g., operating legally; and good Engineering Practice, e.g., equipment functioning properly. See the FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 97 for references to both areas.

Tim mentioned that we need to set up a *Local Interference Committee*. This is an excellent opportunity for public service. This committee can become the *de facto* expert when anyone has problems with ‘voices’ on their cell phones, their stereo systems, and other kinds of interference. This committee essentially gathers evidence. They listen a lot. As far as enforcement of Part 15 violations, they and the OO/AA are *not* enforcers. They act more like an “Elmer” and try to help by getting all parties to work together.

Interference on our local repeaters:

443.800	most prevalent
145.490	intermittent, Wx Net
147.000	occurs in waves

Why does this happen? Usually it is a personal grudge against someone. There may be three distinct hams involved. On 443.800, the aim seems to

be to cause the link to go down. The interference on 147.000 occurs mainly during driving hours.

So what have you heard? Pay attention to the background noise. Observe the presence of hum, alternator whine, and that sort of thing. Watch for a pattern in what is targeted by the interference. Is it an individual, a group, or an event? Your help is needed so we can all preserve my optimism about, and enjoyment of, this great hobby.

In the meantime, let’s be mindful of our own operating conduct. In a contact that is intentionally interfered with

- try to ignore it
- keep your cool
- exercise patience – lok, listen & learn
- listen on the input frequency
- log time, date, band conditions, and signal strength at your location
- discuss pieces of the puzzle *only off the air*
- do not confront an interference suspect (he knows more about you than you do about him/her)

We need to be vigilant and keep a clean house. Help safeguard our hobby. Remember to identify your station at the beginning and end of each contact and every 10 minutes or less during the contact.

SCRAP is in Tim’s website. He is recording the outputs of the three repeaters 24/7 complete with a synchronized time signal. By applying some special-purpose software, the “*fingerprint*” of each transmitter can be obtained. This can give proof that a particular transmitter was used at a certain time. This kind of forensic evidence can be used by the OO, and eventually the FCC, to identify the source of the interference.

[We all learned something from Tim’s Tech Talk. Together we will be successful in putting this episode behind us. Now is a good time to get involved in listening and more listening – while we hone our fox hunting skills.

Editor]

More SEMARA Stuff

PROPOSED 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 of interest prior to a vote.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have no authority to approve or sanction anything on behalf of the Association, excepting emergency work as delineated in paragraph "D" below.
- C. The Board of Directors shall have no authority to authorize the expenditure of Association funds, excepting emergencies as delineated in paragraph "D" below.
- D. In the case of bona fide emergencies, the Board of Directors may authorize temporary measures, including the expenditure of club funds, to protect 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.

Submitted by the following life members:
 (5 required)

William M. Miller, Jr.
 William L. Vincent
 Carl Bissonnette
 Tim Smith
 Scott E. Szala

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, January 3, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.

The board offers the following proposals for consideration by the membership:

1. A quarterly foxhunt, inviting other local clubs to participate, including BCRA and FARA.
2. A visit to the Marconi museum in Bedford, NH with a pit stop at HRO in Salem, NH.
3. An informal tailgate flea market on the 2nd Sunday of September, including a Chicken BBQ by Scott. Tim has agreed to get the word out and contact media.
4. The formation of a workforce to shingle the north side of the building. A workforce party could be held complete with dinner when the job is completed.
5. The formation of a committee to restore the club hall floor and convert the two restrooms into a single handicap accessible unisex restroom. The committee shall look into regulations to ensure the new restroom is within building requirements for when the new building permit is applied for.
6. The formation of a committee to plan the new building addition. This committee shall look into the demolition of the current Quonset hut. They should also look into various options including the type building (i.e., wooden or metal building) and present the options to the membership.
7. The new hot water heater should be placed in the basement.
8. Three Windows XP Home license keys needs to be purchased to update all computers in the club to ensure each system is running a valid genuine copy of Windows.
9. Each club computer should be administrated by the technical committee to ensure proper func-

(Continued on page 7)

FEBRUARY VE SESSIONS

- 4 SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055
- 9 Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-263-6045
- 11 Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-540-2483
- 16 Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858
- 19 Mansfield, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858 : no walk-ins
- 20 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469

FLEA MARKETS

- 11 Feb Augusta, ME**
Augusta ARA — Bill 207-623-9075
- 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
- 15 Apr Portland, ME**
Portland AWA — Roger 207-671-0671
- 23 Apr Southington, CT**
Southington ARA — Chet 869-628-9346

(Continued from page 6)

- tionality. Once each computer is reinstalled, each user will have new personal abilities such as personal desktop wallpaper and icons for what they use most and at the same time will be protected by any viruses or spy ware.
10. A brand new Super Stationmaster 2 meter antenna should be purchased to replace the current damaged antenna.
11. The current club duplexers should be left as is until after the new antenna is installed to confirm if it is need of repair or replacement.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting attended by:

Richard J. Cabral, **W1RJC**, President
Carl G. Bissonette, **WA1AKR**, Vice President
Scott E. Szala, **W1EV**, Treasurer
Carl E. Bredberg, **K1KID**
Timothy R. Smith, **N1TI**
William M. Miller Jr., **K1IBR**
Ronald A. Silvia, **WB1HGA**, Secretary (absent)

REPEATER NOTES

7 p.m. daily ragchew net is back on 147.000.

Expanded repeater listings.

Check out the *new* 2-m repeater in Fall River and the *new* 440 repeaters in Fall River, Exeter, RI and W. Bridgewater.

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2006
10:30 A.M. @ CLUBHOUSE
LARRY HOUBRE, JR., AA1FS
508-991-6055

B. The PL-259 connector is sometimes called the UHF connector although it is generally considered to have to much loss for use at UHF. Type N and BNC connectors are also designed for use with coaxial cable RF transmission lines, A DB-25 connector is the 25-pin connector used as a serial port connector on some computers.

SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.130 -	151.4	WF1A	Cranston, RI
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.450 -	100.0	W1SYE	Portsmouth, RI
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
146.805 -	67.0	NN1D	<i>Fall River*</i>
146.835 -	192.8	WA1QCA	Johnston, RI
146.880 -	100.0	WC1R	Newport, RI
146.940 -		K1KYI	Lincoln, RI
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000+ SEMARA	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045+	141.3	W1HDN	W Warwick, RI
147.135+	67.0	KA1GG	Taunton
147.165+	67.0	WA1HAH	Exeter, RI
147.180+	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.195+	127.3	K1SMH	Attleboro
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
442.200+	88.5	KE1AK	<i>Fall River*</i>
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
443.850+	141.3	AA1PL	<i>Exeter, RI*</i>
444.200+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250+	141.3 ⁵	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
449.275 -	103.5	W1WNS	<i>W. Bridgewater</i>

Node #s: ³IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-55920

⁵ Cape Net * Repeaters newly put on the air (since December 2005)

FEBRUARY SEMARA EVENTS

2—Business Meeting 7 p.m.

4—VE Session 10:30 a.m.

9—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.

16—Tech Talk - 7 p.m.

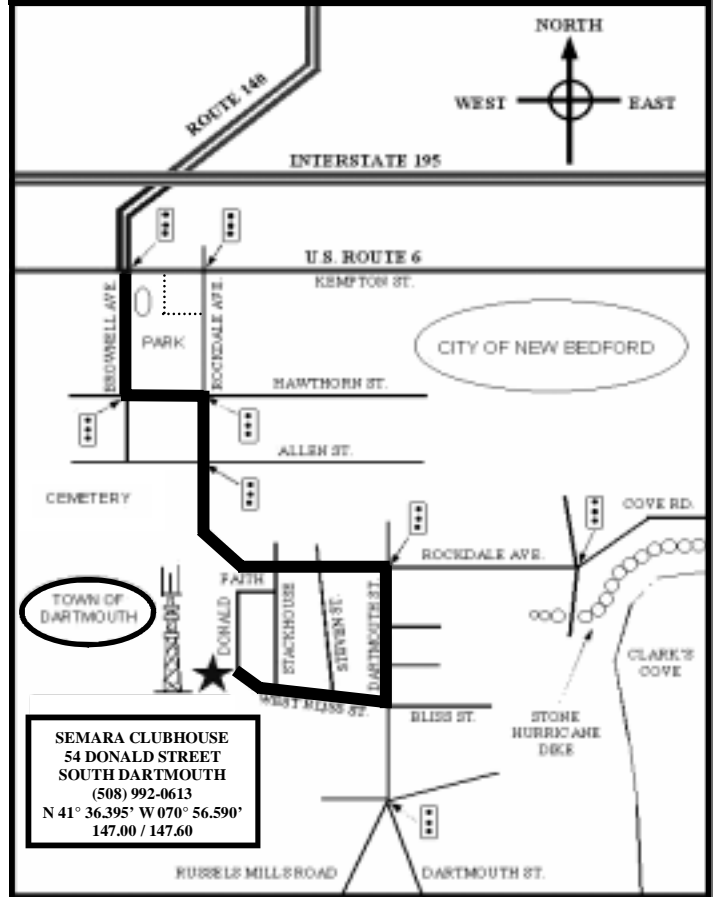
Topic and Speaker to be announced

23—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!

Directions to SEMARA



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.	147.000+ SEMARA
Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.m.	3.872 MHz LSB

— 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