



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

Volume 42, Issue 3

SEMARA W1AEC

March 2006

Cubs Scouts Visit

Mike Miller, N1ITQ introduced these young people, Tiger Cubs, to the clubhouse on Saturday, January 21. It looks like they had fun with the Morse keyer sets.

Now that they have been exposed to the “Sound of Morse” can classes for the Amateur Radio Technician license be far behind? As can be plainly seen, they enjoyed their visit.

Many thanks to Mike for taking the time to take them on this field trip. What are they doing Field Day 2006?



JANUARY 22, 2006 VISITORS

LEFT TO RIGHT: MIKE MILLER JR., LOGAN AVELAR, SAMUEL DAHLBERG, BRANDON HARRISON, LUCAS FERREIRA, AND ALEX STALTER. NOT PICTURED IS DALTON HARRISON.



CHRIS, W1EAV OPERATES THE SCOREBOARD AND KEEPS THE CLOCK AT BULLDOG GAMES

KEEPING SCORE*

Chris Washburn, W1EAV is the man at Old Rochester Regional. For the last eight years he has been operating the scoreboard and keeping the clock at Bulldog games.

He started out doing just the girls freshman games. Now he does both the shot clock and scoreboard for the boys and girls freshman, junior varsity and varsity games.

In addition, he also handles the sound, music and security. His knowledge of radio allows him to set up the radios for the staff, as part of the security detail. Chris also works football, basketball and soccer games. “As a basketball clock operator, there’s none better – he is *the man*.”

* Abstracted from *The Sentinel*, Feb. 9, 2006, p A33 article by Casey Snedecor

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 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 Steer Beef Roast for only \$5?

Tickets go on sale at the March 2 business meeting. for the Saturday, March 25 feast.

It starts at noon. Ticket restrictions apply since the seating is limited. Up to two tickets can be bought on the first round. We want to give everyone a chance to enjoy this event put on by Scott, W1EV and his expert crew.



Special recognition goes to **Bud, N1BUD**. He has spent the last 24 years in Paradise Island Park, Haines City, FL. In 1988, he took his Novice test at **Ken (N1AVA) Howland's** home and he remembers **Brad, WB1AOK, SK** who lived across the street. He checks in on 40 meters South Cars Net, so you might hear him He turns 88 this spring, so wish him a happy birthday from SEMARA, will you? He is legally blind but says he enjoys hearing what is going on in the club through *Zero Beat Online*. He wishes everyone a "Happy and Healthy 2006."

POINT TO PONDER

"What is the use of a house if you haven't a tolerable planet to put it on?"

~Henry David Thoreau

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G2B01 If you are the net control of a daily HF net, what should you do if the frequency on which you normally meet is in use just before the net begins?

- Reduce your output power and start the net as usual
- Increase our power output so that the net participants will be able to hear you over the existing activity
- Conduct the net on a frequency 3 to 5-kHz away from the regular frequency
- Cancel the net for that day

* 2004 General (Element 3) question pool



MEETING MINUTES

The February 2, 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 of 34 members. We have one guest. A quorum was present.

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

Treasurer's Report (Scott Szala, W1EV)—absent. Report read by the President; accepted as read.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds (Mike Miller, N1ITQ)—Nothing to report as he volunteered at the meeting to become property custodian. Thank you, Mike!

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

Technical (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)—Reports that **Rob, KD1CY** and **Tony, N1XRS** has also volunteered to serve on the committee. The new 2-m antenna is in, with plans to install it soon. Club cost is \$655. Explains we now have a work list. If anyone wishes to place a work order, approach the committee and it will be entered on the list. The autopatch is now working with a list of numbers to be programmed. Regarding PCs, the XP operating systems are in. When installed, all users will be able to use the PCs except to install and delete programs. (You will be able to download programs, but not install them.)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)—Explained that if you email to the SEMARA reflector along with any other addresses, it will be seen by the reflector as SPAM and it gets dropped. Send your email only to members@semara.org and it will be posted.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)—absent.

ARES (Rob Macedo,)—absent. Read by the President, "ARES exercise Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.; ARES net Feb. 6 on MMRA repeater system. The meeting with Governor's office went well with potential additional support from said office and a Ham Radio Proclamation to be issued by the Governor in June." Also **Charles, KD1DA** announces the local New Bedford ARES Monday night @ 7:15 p.m. and looking for volunteers.

Radio Events (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)—Reports success with Kid's Day and thanks all operators who volunteered their time to make it a success. Announces FISTS Sprint to be held second Sunday this

month.

Building committee (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)—Explains the first task is to define what the committee will be doing and their priority. There is the bathroom renovation, floor resurfacing, and building expansion. He has asked all involved in this committee to meet and discuss our objectives. He is also looking for volunteers to serve in the committee.

COMMUNICATIONS (Carl Bissionette, WA1AKR)—absent.

RATIFICATIONS*—No applications for life membership were received.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Rick Cabral, W1RJ)—Certificate of Recognition to **Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM** was presented by the club President.

OLD BUSINESS—none.

NEW BUSINESS—

*Motion**—to have the monthly auction held every third Thursday of the month, before the Tech Talk.

*Carry-over motions:** contingency funds for committees and kitchen supplies and food for use by members and guests.

*Motion**—to have hot water heater installation done by a volunteer.

Motion (tabled)—petty cash fund not to exceed \$100, to be accessible only by club officers; and disbursements made only with receipt signed by officer and person receiving refund.

*Motion**—to sell one excess 2-m repeater transmitter, receiver and CAT controller on eBay.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB—Larry, AA1FS reminds us there is a VE session going on this Saturday Feb. 4. If you are not participating, please do not be at the club between 10 and noon, as it may cause a distraction.

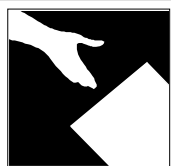
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

*Submitted by
Ron Silvia, WB1HGA,
Secretary*



WB1HGA

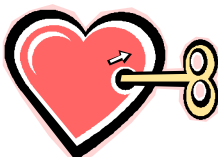
* Motions are voted, and passed, by those present.



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?”



Two candidates successfully passed the written examinations at the VE Session on February 4, 2006. Congratulations goes to

Martin F. Jordon, KA1YFV Extra; and
Robert F. Spink, no call sign, Technician.

Job well done!!



GEORGE V. ROBERTS, N1GLD, SK

George V. Roberts, N1GLD of Wareham died at home on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 after a long fight with cancer, at the age of 61. George, recently retired from the Wareham police department, was a Coast Guard veteran and a member of SEMARA.



N1GLD

He is survived by his wife, mother, two sisters, a brother, a daughter, two sons, and a granddaughter.

Our heart felt sympathy go out to his family.

May you rest in peace, George.

LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held every evening at 7 p.m. All are welcome, and please note this important change: we are back on the SEMARA Repeater, W1AEC, 147.000+ with a PL of 67.0 Hz..

2-m YL Net. 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. **Bob, N1HCW** is usually net control and the net is doing well with as many as 12 check-ins some nights from RI and MA.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. Because of crowded band conditions, once again please note the new frequency of **3868 kHz**. All are welcome to join the 5 to 7 regular check-ins. **Joe, W1VRP** and **Ed, W1VF** have been checking in on a regular basis.

HOT WATER HEATER INSTALLED

As requested by the membership, a new hot water heater was installed in place of its 30 year old predecessor by a volunteers **Dave, W2DAN** and **Roland, N1JOY**. I am sure I speak for everyone who likes to wash their hand in warm water, "Thank you for doing the job." Not only did they replace the defective hot water heater, but they also saved the club a bundle of money. The saved funds can go towards other building needs, like the shingling of the north side of the clubhouse.

[editor]



HOT WATER HEATER PHOTO, JOHN, W1ZYV

Lighthouse Activations

Keeing the Flame – Don, N1DT, #962 and Whitey, K1VV, #957, operating W1AA, have activated 17 lighthouses over the last couple of years for the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society <http://arlhs.com/>. How do they do it? They have a system! *This is their template:*

Operating time: approx 1230 to 1900 UTC [0730 AM to 2:00 PM EST].

Modes: SSB and CW Bands: 20 and 40 meters.

Frequencies: SSB 14.270±15 kHz; 7.270±QRM

CW: 14.035±8 kHz; 7.035±QRM

They start on 40 meter phone at about 7:30 AM EST (1230 UTC) then go to 40 CW.

Depending on the 20 phone QRM they may work 15 and 17 meters also.

Rig: ICOM IC-706 MK II G

Antenna: Home Brew 40/20 Truck Mounted Vertical.

They also have a packet station in the truck with a 4 el 2 Meter yagi and a 170 Watt amplifier spot themselves on the DX Summit packet cluster.

<http://oh2ag.kolumbus.com/dxs/hfdx25.html>

They always operate as W1AA and use a digital photo QSL for each of the lights. If you work them, include an SASE and QSL to W1AA at CBA

On January 7, they activated Hog Island Shoal Light,



N1DT's F-150 REAR MOUNTED HOMEBREW 40/20 VERTICAL ANTENNA AND 2-M 4-EL YAGI



CONIMICUT LIGHT

NAYATT POINT LIGHT

On January 28, they activated Conimicut Light, ARLHS USA 188 and Nayatt Point Light, ARLHS USA 532.

For the first time, early on, they tried to work the close-in W and VE 1, 2 and 3 operators using 75 SSB. That are on 75 SSB: 3985 to 3999 from about 1230 to 1330 UTC.

Due to the QRM on 40 and 20 SSB they have departed from the normal ARLHS recommended frequencies. The list of their preferred operating frequencies are:

SSB frequencies: 75 SSB 3990 - 3998 , 40 meters- 7209, 7223, 7248, 7281, 7287 ±QRM, Operation on 20 meters will be above 14300, 17 meters above 18150

CW Frequencies: 7.035, 14.035, 10.122, 18.075 ±QRM on the half hour

On February 25, they were going to activate Bristol Ferry ARLHS USA 087 and Hog Island Shoal ARLHS USA 373 and for whoever wanted it (Historic) Mussel Bed Shoal ARLHS USA 959. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the activation was cancelled due to the forecasted snowstorm.



HOG ISLAND SHOAL

PRUDENCE ISLAND LIGHT

ARLHS USA 373, and Prudence Island Light, ARLHS USA 675, for the Christmas Lights event.

FORMING A SHINGLING TEAM

A team to shingle the north side of the building is being formed. We will be doing the job on April 22nd (Rain Date: April 29th). We will start at 8:00 a.m. and lunch will be served for all WORKING participants. (Supervisors will not be fed, bring your own food – Just kidding!) To volunteer, please call **Mike, N1ITQ** 508-971-4523 or **John, WA1ESO** 401-624-4576.

More SEMARA Stuff

"BREAK TAGS" MAKE ARES COMMUNICATIONS FLOW

Handiham Weekly E-Letter, 8 February 2006

A recent ARES E-Letter promoted the practice of "**Break Tags**" as part of ARES net operations. This is a new method of getting attention on a net that has origins in Connecticut and is spreading as a "*best practice*".

When net communication gets heavy, someone may have a quick solution to a problem that is taking up too much valuable airtime for discussion, but can't break into the net to share it. "**Break Tags**" deal with such a scenario. This sounds like something that we could use for just about any Amateur Radio net.

There are currently seven one-word Break Tags. They are: "**answer,**" "**question,**" "**info,**" "**priority,**" "**medical,**" "**emergency**" and **your call sign**. Most of these tags have been used with great success in large public/emergency services nets.

Here is how they work: Instead of saying "**break**" between transmissions during a directed net, the operator uses the word specified as a Break Tag preceded with a call sign. They are to be used only when the operator's traffic will be appreciated by net control and results in more efficient communication. They are to be used wisely, as net control is directed to stop and turn over the net to the breaker. The message that follows a break should be as short as possible.

If your net is using these new tags with any success, please let me know so that I can share with *Zero Beat* readers.



ANNUAL TREK TO MV

It's that time of year again! **N1JOY** is looking for brave souls to make the annual trek to the **Gay Head Lighthouse** on **Martha's Vineyard**, and operate **Islands On The Air (IOTA)**, and the **New England QSO Party**. We've been doing this trip for so long I'm losing track of just how many consecutive years (12, 13, 14 -who knows for sure?).

Even if you aren't so brave, c'mon out for a day trip, make a few QSOs, and join in the good time!!

The tentative plan is for the setup crew to head out on the afternoon of Thursday, May 4, and stay all weekend and head home the evening of Sunday, May 7. The New England QSO Party is on May 6-7. New England QSO Party web site:

<http://www.neqp.org/>

This will be a Field Day style setup, operating on generator power the entire time.

As in previous years, I will be hauling out my rusty and trusty radio trailer, and much of the radio operating will be from the relative comfort of the trailer. Unfortunately my new, bigger and better trailer will not be ready in time for this years trip, so we'll have to get one more trip out of the old faithful camper.

If you are planning to join us, or would like more information, please contact me direct at n1joy@arrl.net.

73 de Roland, N1JOY

**GAY
HEAD
LIGHT-
HOUSE**



MARCH VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

From <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

- 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
- 18 Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m.**
Bill Needham, K1WN
781-843-4400
- 20 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469
- 25 Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m.**
Bob Jones, WB1P
401-333-4787

NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

From <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>


- 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
- 15 Apr Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 23 Apr Southington, CT**
Southington ARA — Chet 869-628-9346

- 5-6 May Hopkinton, NH**
HOSSTRADERS — Joe 207-469-3492
- 6 May Goshen, CT**
SoBARC — Lee 860-435-0051
- 21 May Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

- 3 Jun Hermon, ME**
Bangor Hamfest — Roger 207-848-3846
- 11 Jun Newington, CT**
NARL — George 860-463-0948
- 18 Jun Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

- 8 Jul Union, ME**
Pen-Bay ARC — Scott 207-354-6809
- 16 Jul Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 20 Aug Adams, MA**
NoBARC — George 4/3-443-7539
- 20 Aug Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 25-27 Aug Boxboro, MA**
NE Div Conv — Mike 978-250-1236



**Licensed
Before 1982?**

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

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

**OCWA
ANYONE?**

C. Operating courtesy and common sense require that if the frequency is already in use, you should move to another frequency to conduct the net. For single-sideband phone (SSB), this means you need to move 3 to 5-kHz away in order to avoid interference.

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	Fall River
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

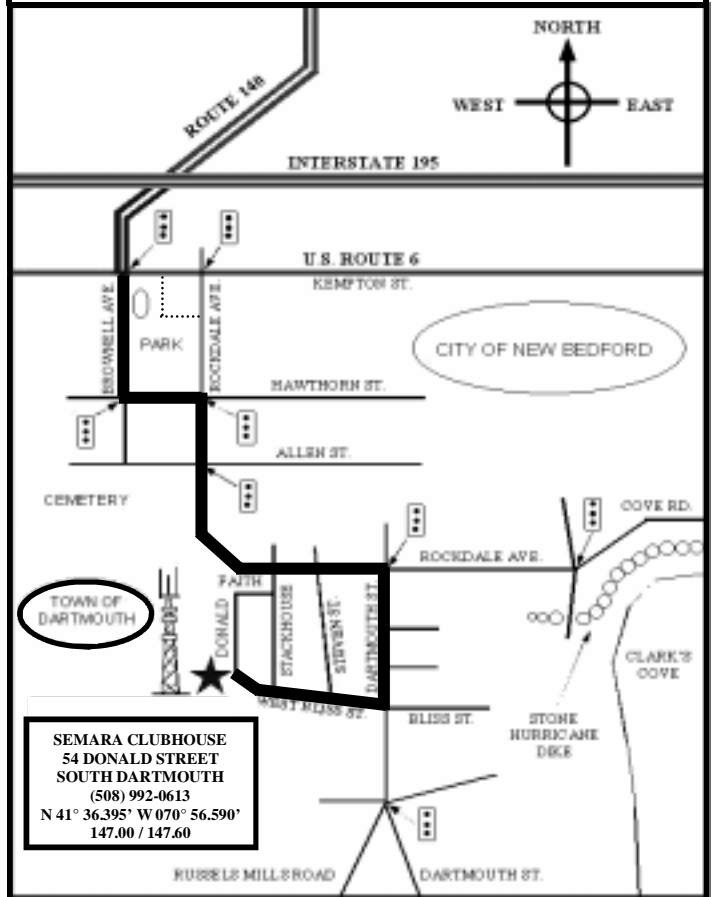
440			
441.400+	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.200+	88.5	KE1AK	Fall River
442.950+	82.5 ⁵	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450+	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500+	141.3 ⁵	K1PBO	Dennis
443.800+	88.5 ³	W1RJC	Dartmouth
443.850+	141.3	AA1PL	Exeter, RI
444.200+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250+	141.3 ³	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.350+	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550+	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.025 -	77.0 ⁴	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
449.275 -	103.5	W1WNS	W. Bridgewater

Node #s: ³IRLP-4259 & EchoLink-4259;
⁴IRLP-5920 & EchoLink-55920;
⁵Cape Net

MARCH SEMARA EVENTS

- 2—**Business Meeting** 7 p.m.
 - 4—**VE Session** 10:30 a.m.
 - 9—*Ragchew*, 6:30 p.m.
 - 16—**Auction and 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. 3.868 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