



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

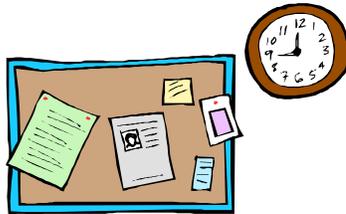
Volume 42, Issue 9

SEMARA W1AEC

September 2006

SEMARA's Hot Month

After a relatively low-key July and August, September is turning out to be a month with loads of activity. SEMARA has tons of things going on to keep you involved.



Since **Tim, N1TI**, gave his Tech Talk on *Radio Direction Finding* in June, you've all had time to think about going on a *fox hunt*. Well, **Ted, N1OHV**, has set out a fox somewhere in Dartmouth for everyone and anyone to find. Just sign the log book when you do. (See the details on page 5.)

Be sure to attend the September business meeting on September 7. In addition to all the important items that will be discussed, tickets will be sold starting at 6 p.m. for the world-famous *Chicken BBQ* luncheon to be put on by **Scott Szala, W1EV** and crew on Saturday, September 9 at noon.

The informal *SEMARA Tailgate Fleamarket* is the next day, Sunday, September 10. The clubhouse doors will open at 8 a.m. but you are welcome to arrive earlier to set up.

The lively discussion at the August business meeting about the possible options for the new building gave rise to a special Tech Talk by **Glen Bredberg, KB1GKH**, on *Steel Buildings*. This presentation raised enough interest so that the President, **Rick Cabral, W1RJC**, has called a *Special Meeting* for September 28. (See more on page 6.)

SEMARA TAILGATE

The "SEMARA Tailgate" will be held Sunday morning, September 10. It's an informal affair, and the best of all, there is no admission fee! Restroom facilities and plenty of tailgate space is available on a first come, first served basis.

Thanks to the ARRL we will be offering a raffle drawing for two very popular ARRL publications:

2006 ARRL Handbook, valued at \$39.95;

2006 ARRL Antenna Handbook, valued at \$44.95.

For directions, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ghgzg>. Additional talk-in help will be available on 147.000+ PL 67.0 Hz.

The start time is also informal...come anytime Sunday morning. We expect to have the clubhouse restroom facilities open by 8 a.m. We'll hold the raffle at noon. At this time I can't vouch for the availability of refreshments, but there are several drive-thru's on the way in or very near by. **Please mark your calendars now.**

SEMARA would also appreciate that you make arrangements to take discarded items back with you. We will not be able to accommodate disposals of heavy iron, monitors or any type of hardware. The trash receptacles on the premise are for household rubbish. We appreciate your help in managing this.

Please direct all inquiries to Tim Smith, n1ti@arrl.net.

Thanks & 73, de **Tim Smith, N1TI**

Attention SEMARA members: I still need a few bodies to help with parking and cleanup. There is not much to do during the event except buy and sell; but your help, even for just a few minutes, would be highly valued. We also need a few people to rotate the talk-in duties on 147.000. Please contact me for arrangements.

ZERO BEAT

<http://zerobeat.semara.org>

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2006 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Rick Cabral, W1RJC

Vice President

Dave Goldstein, W1DJG

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)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds

Mike Miller, N1ITQ

Scholarship

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS

Technical

Roland Daignault, N1JOY

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Website

Rick Cabral, W1RJC

ARES

Rob Macedo, KD1CY

Radio Events

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA

New Building

Roland Daignault, N1JOY



It seems to me ...

de Bob, K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

That if the biggest problem we have is chairs being moves around, we are in pretty good shape. Yes, there are lots of challenges ahead with the new building; but it is something that can be worked out, especially if we progress slowly. Now that the weather is starting to get more fall-like, we can look forward to the fall sports and fall activities. With school back in session, our lives can be more orderly than it was during the summer. It's a good time to think about getting some of those delayed projects wrapped up before we get too committed to other diversions.

Mike Miller, Jr. is the second young person to join SEMARA this year. He is the son of Mike Miller, N1ITQ. The first young person this year was Parker Bredberg, son of Glen Bredberg, KB1GKH, who joined in March. Let's hope this trend continues. I know we have had young people join SEMARA in the past. What can we do to reach out to the younger members of SEMARA to include them in the activities of the club? Perhaps we, as a club need to do a proactive job of being an "Elmer" to them. Can we offer them a ride to club events, for example?



MIKE
MILLER,
JR.

When I look over the club membership roster, I note that there are several unlicensed members who could become more active if they were licensed. Can we anticipate the retirement of Element 1, the 5 wpm Morse code test? If so, then maybe we can encourage those who are Technician class licensees to get the CSCE for Element 3, and be on the upgrade path to General? Frankly, I see no reason why *everyone* would not be able to achieve the *highest class* of *Radio Amateur license* with the help of the experienced members we have in SEMARA.

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G5B09 What is the peak-to-peak voltage of a sine wave that has an RMS voltage of 120 volts?

- A. 84.8 volts
- B. 169.7 volts
- C. 204.8 volts
- D. 339.4 volts

* 2004 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool (good thru 2008-06-30)

Answer on page 8



MEETING MINUTES



The **August 3, 2006** Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Rick Cabral, W1RJG**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call of 27 members. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report (Ron Silva, WB1HGA)– The minutes of the previous business meeting is accepted as printed in the current issue of Zero Beat.

Treasurer's Report (Scott Szala, W1EV)– Accepted as read.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds (Mike Miller, N1ITQ)– Property is continued to be maintained.

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

Technical (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)– PC upgrades are done with new HD in hall PC, all issues addressed with 2 radio room PCs completed. Station master is done; hub needs to be replaced from electrical storm damaged; The shingling project is continuing with repairs on-going.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)– Chicken BBQ Sept 9 tickets will available at the next meeting, 50 tickets limit.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)– Absent.

Radio Events (Ron Silva, WB1HGA)– Announces participation in Amateur Radio Lighthouse/Lightship National QSO Party first weekend of this month. Anyone interested is invited to WIAEC radio room this Saturday for afternoon of phone and CW contacts. He notes anyone can participate and rules do not require presence of lighthouse/ship. The Hawaii QSO party later this month is also planned.

New Building (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)– Is in research mode gathering info on building plans and materials.

COMMUNICATIONS (Dave Goldstein, W1DJG)– No communications.

RATIFICATIONS*– Two applications for life membership was received from **Michael Miller, Jr., no call** and **Jay Lewis, N1VUE**.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Rick Cabral, W1RJG)– Soda run was successful; recommends that Mike receive 35 dollars per lawn cut, to keep our lawn trimmed.

OLD BUSINESS– None.

NEW BUSINESS–

*Motion** to pay Mike Miller \$35 per cut to keep the lawn trimmed.

*Motion** to remove horses from the front drive during summer.

*Motion** **rejected** to amend the Bylaws to extend qualifications to all candidates.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB–

Need a volunteer get donuts for Sundays
Reminder that fire extinguishers should be checked monthly.

There was discussion about the new club building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by
Ron Silvia, WB1HGA, Secretary

* Motions are voted, and passed/
rejected by the members present.



WB1HGA





CLUB NOTES

Fall is the time to start thinking about getting outdoors before we are forced to seek shelter from the cooler weather. I know that October is the 'official' month for a Fox Hunt; but we should take advantage of the opportunity that **Ted, N1OHV**, has provided us. Details about his Fox appear on page 5.



Two applications were voted life membership at the August 3, 2006 business meeting:
Mike Miller, Jr. (no call);
Jay Lewis, N1VUE.
Welcome to the club!



SEMARA doesn't host an exam session on Labor Day Weekend. So study hard and pass your examinations in October.

We know you can do it!

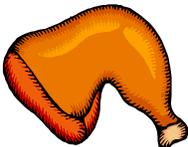
The next VE Session is scheduled on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Questions?. Contact –



Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055

SEMARA CHICKEN BBQ
Saturday
September 9, 2006
12 noon @ clubhouse

50 tickets go on sale
before the September 7 business meeting
— only \$5 / ticket —



LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held every evening at 7 p.m. Some nights we have a big crowd, other nights we have just a few. All are welcome to join in on the SEMARA Repeater, W1AEC, 147.000+ with a PL of 67.0 Hz..

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB. Bob, N1HCW is net control. Check us out.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. All are welcome.

SUDOKU

Here's something to keep you occupied while listening for that rare one.

Solution is on page 7.

6	5	8						9
7			4		5			8
			8		9	6	7	5
3			6	9	4	5		
9		4				3	8	7
5		1		7	8	4		
	3		7	4			6	
	7			5			2	
	9	2		8			5	3

POINT TO PONDER

“Knowledge is important, but much more important is the use toward which it is put.

This depends upon the heart and mind of the one who uses it.”

~The Dalai Lama

Amateur Radio News

FOX HUNT!

That wily cunning little fox is loose again. He managed to grab a battery and get loose from my basement. OOPS! The Fox is in an old ammo can chained to a tree somewhere in Dartmouth.

The Fox ID's on 145.600 every 10 minutes as **N1OHV/FOX Open mike ... N1OHV/FOX** (lasts about 20 seconds.)

I can hear him from route 6 and 195. It is located within 100 yards of a publicly accessible parking lot. The Fox should be relatively easy to locate in it's current location; however, when you get close, the signal is quite strong, so attenuation of some kind will be necessary.

So wrap a cardboard tube with aluminum foil so you can stick your handheld in it for attenuation, dust off that old handy finder, that old portable Yagi, that old Adcock, that squeaky Doppler unit, that near-field receiver, that ..., well, you get the idea.

The fox is in an ammo can. The transmitter is an old crystal controlled HT picked up at a flea. The controller is a Basic Stamp with my program. (I will gladly share the controller program with anyone who wants it.) The antenna connection is a panel mount PL-259 mounted to the outside of the box with a simple 1/4 wave antenna made out of a welding rod attached directly.

The battery is a sealed lead/acid of the type found in emergency lights. The battery lasts about a week and I will replace it with a freshly charged one when it dies. I am planning on leaving it out until everyone who wishes to find it has had a chance to.

I made the fox in about 2001. It has been out a few times in Rhode Island. I got the idea from some hams up in the Berkshires who do the same type of hunt, only they are rather more advanced.

The nice thing about this type of hunt is that it can be done whenever one has time. Also, folks can hunt alone or in teams if they wish. There is also no embarrassment for the new hunter versus being with a bunch of other hams at a big event.

There is a book attached so you can record your call sign, the date, and time when you find him. Catch him if you can! He will be out for as long as it takes for him to be found.

Good Luck!

de **Ted, N1OHV**

ELECTRONIC LOGGING

As W1AEC QSL manager, I have set up and finalized the electronic logging program in the radio room. (This has been few years in the making) Everyone who uses the HF station is now required to log electronically. Usage is fairly simple and straight-forward.

I am willing to explain to anyone how to use it when operating HF. Both stations have the same logging program in their PC's. You may use either one.

NOTE: I will no longer be entering data from the paper log book. Please use only electronic logging from now on.

ALSO: I have taken all the QSL cards from the cabinet and file boxes and entered them into the logger. We now have a current list of confirmed QSOs dating back to 1966.

.....
Sidebar: I have entered over 500 QSL cards dated from 1966 to current. We worked (confirmed) 39 states and 63 countries. We worked all zones from Japan, Almost all zones from Germany and Russia. There is one confirmed AM QSO on 2 meters, and some 6 meter QSOs. The most popular band is 20 meters and most popular mode is CW.

No, QSL's are not used in echolink "contacts." And repeater activity is not entered in this log.

Thank you, **Ron, WBIHGA**

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

The SEMARA Constitution and Bylaws are available for download at

www.semara.org/download.htm.

CORRECT ADDRESS

§97.23 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules requires each license grant to show the licensee's correct name and mailing address. The rule provides that *"revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct mailing address."*

More SEMARA Stuff

STEEL BUILDING



**GLEN
KB1GKH**

For those of you who could not joined us for the last minute *Steel Building Tech Talk*, I hope this brief presentation help to answer some of your questions. As you probably know the *New Building Committee* has been looking into the many options available for repair and/or replacement of the existing structures.

Steel buildings are being looked at as one viable option. There are many reasons. I will list some of them here for those missed the Tech Talk. *(Please make a mark on your calendar for the September 28 special meeting!)*

The discuss about how to cope with the aging and deteriorating buildings sure has raised some eyebrows (and some voices, for that matter). Let's continue to keep our minds open and continue down a path that gives us a clubhouse worthy of SEMARA's members as well as SEMARA's rich history!

The one thing we discovered as we looked at modern steel buildings is that technology in this field has advanced very rapidly, not so much with the steel itself, but with the coatings that are applied to it. One way to appreciate this is to visualize an automobile purchased in the late 70's through the early 80's. If you owned such a car for more than 3 years, chances are you could put your finger inside the rust-formed holes on the body panels.

Today, however, you would be hard pressed to find an automobile even 10 years old with so much as faded paint let alone rust. These finishes remain maintenance free in many cases beyond the useful life of the car. When applied as a coating to the outer surface of a steel building panel, they give many years of maintenance free service. (All the steel building manufacturers offer 20 to 30 year warranties.)

Another difference in maintenance is that if a building panel does become damaged or begins to show its age, you can simply remove it, recycle it, and install a new one. They are also impervious to insect damage, and well insulated (R-19 throughout). The created space is free of obstructions. These buildings require no interior support walls. Being at ground level, these buildings are handicapped friendly.

These are just a few of the advantages of steel vs. other construction materials. Additions and modifications are much easier, faster, and cost effective to accomplish than with other methods of construction, such as wood or concrete block.

Some may say "Yeah, OK enough with the maintenance thing. Steel buildings are just plain ugly square boxes." If this is your thinking, you might like to take a moment to check out the website www.bldgtech.com and click on the *residential/clubhouse icon* in the middle of the screen. You will see steel buildings in a whole new light.

73 de Glen Bredberg, KB1GKH

CALLING ALL SEMARA TRADES!

With all of this new building discussion happening, it would be nice to know if we have any club members who are experienced trades people in the following areas:

- Concrete floors & foundations; Plumbing;
- Carpentry; Electrician; Flooring; Drywall and painting; Drop ceilings; Insulation installation; HVAC; Civil Engineer; Crane operator;
- Environmental surveyor (a wetlands expert).

Most of us are capable of doing some of these kinds of tasks, but are there any professional trades people in the club?. If you are not one yourself, you may have a close friend or family member who is. They might help or give guidance during our upcoming construction project. Perhaps they could donate their expertise, or work for a reduced rate.

Please contact me direct at: n1joy@arrl.net.

Thanks! **Roland - N1JOY**

3	5	7	9	8	1	2	9	4
4	2	8	3	5	9	6	7	1
1	6	9	2	4	7	5	3	8
6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2	5
7	8	3	1	2	5	4	9	6
2	1	5	4	9	6	7	8	3
5	7	9	6	1	8	3	4	2
8	3	2	5	9	4	9	1	7
9	4	1	7	3	2	8	5	6

SEPTEMBER VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m. none

Larry Houbre, AA1FS
LRHGuy@earthlink.net
508-991-6055

*Exams are available at other times
by appointment only*

Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m. 9 Sep

Bill Needham, K1WN
K1WN@aol.com
781-843-4400

Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m. 21 Sep

Lou Harris, N1UEC
N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org
508-668-0858

Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m. 18 Sep

Skip Denault, KB1CNB
skip@NewTestamentSchool.org
774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m. 9 Sep

Ben Fleck, W2LYE
BenFleck@cape.com
508-540-2583

Middletown, RI — 9:00 a.m. 23 Sep

Jack Garforth, K1IG
K1IG@verizon.net
401-683-2250

Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m. 14 Sep

Louis Mester, W1CH
W1CH@cox.net
401-263-6045

SEPT. SEMARA EVENTS

7—**Business Meeting** – 7 p.m.

9—**Chicken BBQ** – 12 noon

10—**SEMARA Tailgate**

14—**Ragchew** – 6:30 p.m.

21—**Tech Talk** – 7 p.m. TBA

28—**SPECIAL MEETING: Building** – 7 p.m.

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

Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts!

NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

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

9 Sep Windsor, ME

Augusta ARA — Bill 207-623-9075

10 Sep S. Dartmouth, MA

SEMARA Tailgate — Tim 508-758-9442

16 Sep Alexander, ME

St. Croix Valley ARC — Skip 207-454-2156

16 Sep Forestdale, RI

RI Amateur FM Rtr. Ser. — Rick 401-864-9611

17 Sep Newtown, CT

W. CT Hamfest — 203-749-1610

17 Sep Cambridge, MA

Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

6-7 Oct Hopkinton, NH

HOSSTRADERS — Joe 207-469-3492

8 Oct Wallingford, CT

Nutmeg Hamfest — 203-440-4468

15 Oct Cambridge, MA

Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

SOME SEPT. CONTESTS

From <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/sep.html>

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint – 2300Z Sep 4-0300Z Sep 5

North American Sprint – CW, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 10 – SSB, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 18

QCWA Fall QSO Party – SSB/CW/Digital, 1800Z Sep 16-1800Z Sep 17

FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend – CW, 0000Z Sep 15-0000Z Sep 18

Scandinavian Activity Contest – CW, 1200Z Sep 16-1200Z Sep 17 – SSB, 1200Z Sep 23-1200Z Sep 24

Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint – CW/PSK31, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 25

CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest – 0000Z Sep 23-2400Z Sep 24

TOEC WW Grid Contest – CW, 1200Z Sep 30-1200Z Oct 1

D. If you know the RMS voltage and want to know the peak value, multiply the RMS voltage by the square root of 2 (which is 1.414). If you want to know peak-to-peak, double the result. In this case $120 \times 1.414 \times 2 = 339.4 \text{ V}$.

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	WAIDGW	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

¹IRLP-4617 & E-Link-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 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	W. Bridgewater

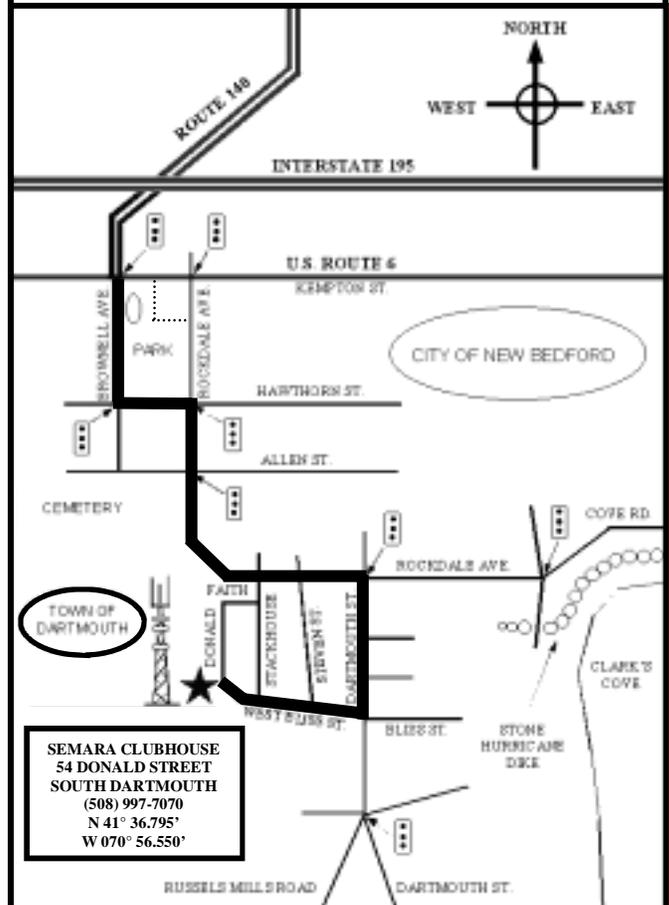
³IRLP-4259 & E-Link-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & E-Link-55920; ⁵ Cape Net

FISTS CW no.10555

Grid Coordinates:
FN41mo

GPS Coordinates:
Lat. N 41° 36.795'
Long. W 070° 56.550'

Directions to SEMARA



SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

— RAGCHEW —

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB (inactive)
 Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB (inactive)
 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

— Lowfers QRP Group —

Sun - 11 a.m. - meet at clubhouse - TBA