



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

Volume 42, Issue 11

SEMARA W1AEC

November 2006

## September Events

### SEMARA CHICKEN BBQ

If there is one thing that we know how to do, it is eat! Here are a few pictures taken at the Saturday, September 9 festivities – just before the successful SEMARA Tailgate party reported last issue.



**THE BBQ CHICKEN ON THE COALS – NOTE SCOTT'S SECRET WEAPON ON THE EDGE OF THE FIRE PIT**

**A FEW OF THE GUESTS ARE ENJOYING FRENCH FRIES WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE BBQ CHICKEN, CORN AND SALAD**



**THE CREW PREPARING THE CORN**

### AM BROADCAST BAND DIRECTIONAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

The Tech Talk on September 21 was given by Bob Yankowitz, the CBS-Boston's RF Systems Manager, from CBS-4 and WBZ-AM to an attentive crowd of more than a dozen attendees. Bob lives in New Bedford.

Bob talked about several different things; but the highlight of the presentation was the Excel program he showed us that plotted the radiation pattern as a function of the number of towers, their spacing and phase shifts. He actually used this program for the WLWC transmitter site in Freetown. He used it to adjust the position of the antennas to fill in a major dead spot – New Bedford. This is one talk you won't have wanted to miss!



**DAVE GOLDSTEIN AND BOB YANKOWITZ**



**SOME OF THE TECH TALK ATTENDEES**

## ZERO BEAT

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

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### 2006 SEMARA OFFICERS

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Dave Goldstein, W1DJG

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Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

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Carl Bredberg, K1KID

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Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

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#### Building and Grounds

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#### Scholarship

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS

#### Technical

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#### Activities

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#### ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo, KD1CY

#### New Building

Chris Smith, K1CJS

#### Radio Events

Ron Silvia, WB1HGA

#### Repeater

Rick Cabral, W1RJC

#### Website

Rick Cabral, W1RJC



## It seems to me ...

de Bob, K1KVV <[editor@semara.org](mailto:editor@semara.org)>

That the FCC is as confused as the rest of us. The FCC released their "Omnibus" Report and Order on October 10. It will go into effect 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register – with a few changes of course.

As proposed, 75-m phone starts at 3600 kHz for Amateur Extras, at 3700 kHz for Advanced class, and at 3800 kHz for Generals. 40-m phone starts at 7125 kHz for Amateur Extras and Advanced class, and at 7175 for Generals. No change for 20-meters. 15-m phone starts at 21.275 for Generals, no change for Amateur Extras and Advanced class.

The biggest change is for Novice and Technician Plus licensees. They will be able to work CW on: 80-m 3525-3600; 40-m 7025-7125; 15-m 21,025-21,200; and 10-m 28,000-28,300. This represents a gain of 250 kHz!

The Handiham World Weekly E-Letter for the week of 11 October 2006 had an interesting piece by Avery, KOHLA on learning Morse code. See what you think of his advice (summarized here). "Think of Morse code as learning another language. When you learned English, first you learned the alphabet, then words, then sentences, and then paragraphs. Ham radio is a hobby, so make learning this code stuff fun. Make it a big game. Listen to code on the ham bands. See how many letters you can copy. Remember, you are only in competition with yourself.

"Learn the following common words that could be on your exam:

**the, name, hr** (short for *here*), **is, QTH, QSO, QRZ, 73, CQ, WX, rig, Alinco, Icom, Kenwood, Ten Tec, Yaesu, Vertical, Beam, Dipole ...** and of course **your own call.**"

So? What about it? Do you feel you could improve on his advice? Then ... please do! Everyone learns differently – you can help.

## POINT TO PONDER

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."

~Mohandas Gandhi

## HAMMIN' AROUND

**Question\* G4E03** Which of the following power connections would be the best for a 100-watt HF mobile installation?

- A direct, fused connection to the battery using heavy gauge wire
- A connection to the fuse-protected accessory terminal strip or distribution panel
- A connection to the cigarette lighter
- A direct connection to the alternator or generator

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

Answer on page 7



# MEETING MINUTES

**T**he **October 5, 2006** Business Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the President, **Rick Cabral, W1RJJC**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call of 43 members. A quorum was present.

**Secretary's Report (Ron Silva, WB1HGA)**– (Absent.) The minutes of the previous business meeting 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)**– Nothing to report.

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

**Technical (Rick Cabral, W1RJJC)**– 2m and 440 remote radios has been mounted on the wall and 12VDC cable ran in the basement to the electrical closet. RG-6U/QS cable ran in the basement between the two closets.

A shelf was placed into the electrical closet to hold the Comcast modem, hub and router.

A donated 500 ft. underground cable is to be ran next week from the site to the clubhouse to restore autopatch and alarms to the repeater.

**Recommendation** is made to sell the old repeater controller, receiver, transmitter and duplexer. Money to go to upgrade VoIP link computer on the 147.000, as it is very slow and ready to crash. The remainder should go back into the SEMARA treasury.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Website (Rick Cabral, W1ARJC)**– Nothing to report.

**Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)**– Tickets are on sale for the Fish and Chips Fry, November 4.

**ARES/SKYWARN (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)**– SET Drill Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30. SKYWARN Recognition Day is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Radio Events (Ron Silva, WB1HGA)**– Absent.

**New Building (Chris Smith, K1CJS)**– Among suggestions by committee chairperson is to move radios into storage.

**COMMUNICATIONS (Dave Goldstein, W1DJG)**– None.

**RATIFICATIONS\***– No applications for life membership were received.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Rick Cabral, W1RJJC)**– Nothing to add.

**OLD BUSINESS**– None.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Motion\* passed** to sell old backup repeater, controller and duplexers, with funds to be deposited into the SEMARA treasury. Pending Board of Director's recommendation, duplexers are to be sold for no less than \$800.

**Motion\* passed** to upgrade the VoIP (EchoIRLP) link computer on 147.000, with expenses not to exceed \$500.

**Motion defeated** to buy a new HF amp for the radio room.

**Motion defeated** to move club radios into storage **shed** in preparation of Quonset Hut removal.

**Motion defeated** to move club radios into the **clubhouse** main hall in preparation of Quonset Hut removal.

**Motion\* passed** to buy larger mail box with lock, with key accessible by club officers only.

**Motion withdrawn** to give members without access to internet the option to receive ZERO BEAT by US Mail if requested.

**Motion\* passed** to allow **Mike, N1ITQ** to use the club hall at the beginning of 2007 for a spaghetti dinner for cub scouts; a copy of liability insurance coverage is required.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB**– None.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:52 p.m.

*Submitted by*  
**Rick Cabral, W1RJJC,**  
*Secretary, Pro-tem*

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



**RON SILVA,**  
**WB1HGA**  
**SECRETARY**



# CLUB NOTES

November makes me think about plenty of food, warm clothes and a good roof over my head. Only then can I enjoy the luxury of planning my cold weather operating conditions. Do you have your antennas set-up to take advantage of the winter propagation 'up' on 160- and 80/75-meters?



No applications for life membership were received at the October 5, 2006 business meeting.



Three candidates successfully passed their exams at the VE session on October 7:

**David M Cronin, KB1NZT** passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam, and both the Technician and General written exams;



**Douglas E. Johnson, W1RDJ** upgraded to Tech-plus by passing the 5 wpm Morse code exam; and

**Joseph Medeiros, WA1ZNC** passed the General written exam.

## LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

*Please support these local nets by checking in!*

**2-m Roundtable Net**, or more popularly known as the Camel Net, is held every evening at 7 p.m. 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. This informal net discusses everything from antennas to the weather as well as the recent band openings.

**3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net** held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. All are welcome, especially those from outside the area.

## SUDOKU

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

Solution is on page 5.

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

### SEMARA FISH & CHIPS FRY

Saturday  
November 4, 2006  
12 noon @ clubhouse



50 tickets went on sale  
before the October 5 business meeting  
- only \$5 / ticket -

### SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, November 4, 2006  
10:30 a.m.  
Contact: Larry, AA1FS  
[LRHguy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
508-991-6055



# Amateur Radio News

## LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVATIONS

**HIGHLAND LIGHT USA110  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2006**



W1AA worked 75-, 40-, 20- and 17-meters. We had 80 QSOs: 6 on CW, the rest phone. Worked four Europeans. Band conditions were poor: Solar Flux 71, K Index 3 and A Index 2.

Station set up - IC-7000 with an MFJ mobile tuner running 100 W to a 33 foot vertical wire antenna held up by a 33 foot telescoping mast on a home made mount in the trailer hitch slot in the back of the truck, two extra car batteries in parallel with the truck battery - 2 meter packet station with 170 W amplifier and 4 element beam. We were able to connect to the RF packet node **K1RK** in Falmouth about 40+ miles away to spot ourselves on the DX Summit.



**HENRY, K1WCC**

We had a fun time in spite of the poor band conditions. Keep the Flame.

*Henry, K1WCC and Whitey, K1VV*



**STAGE HARBOR LIGHT USA806  
OCTOBER 7, 2006**

Don, N1DT returned to operate CW. Activated Stage Harbor Light USA806 from 7:30 AM EDT (1130 UTC) until about 2:00 PM EDT (1400 UTC).

Operation started on 75 meters. On 40 phone, W1AA worked between the nets. 20 phone later on in the morning above 14310, or 17-meters above 18150. We returned to 40 phone about noon local time.

CW operation was conducted roughly on the half hour: 7035, 10116, 14035 and 18080 kHz, plus or minus QRM.

Accessing the RF packet node 20 miles away, we post our spots on the DX Summit: <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/hfdx25.html>.

Keep the Flame.

*Don, N1DT #962 and Whitey, K1VV #957*

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

# More SEMARA Stuff

## GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

Hi Guys,

I guess that I am one of the more remote members as I live up here in Montreal. Unfortunately I don't get to participate too often in the meetings except in the summer. I have always enjoyed your hospitality and friendship on each and every visit to the club. I can truly say that I have never met a member I did not like. I appreciate getting the newsletter too.

I think of you all often and how you helped to realize my son's dream to meet Emeril. I will be forever grateful to you all.

My son Chris is doing well and has started college. He does have some health problems and we are bringing him to a specialist in New York state in a few days. I am hopeful that some of his abdominal pain can be relieved. I am sure that you all hope the same for him. We were unable to drop by this summer because of his condition but often said we would someday soon. Let's hope we can do that next year.

I have attached photos from our trip to Lyndonville, New York, where we met with Dr. David Bell (the guy with the beard) who is an expert in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Dr. Bell feels that Chris will slowly improve but it will take a long time. At least, he is moving in the right direction.

God bless you all.

*73 de Terry Ladd, VE2WTQ*



**TERRY, VE2WTQ  
AND CHRIS**



**CHRIS AND DR. BELL**



## SOME LOCAL CLUB ACITIVITIES

### NOT-SO-EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST

Held every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. at

*The Symposium*

851 Mount Pleasant Street  
New Bedford

### CLUB COFFEE MEET

Weekdays at 1:00 p.m. at

*Boston Coffee & Bagel*

122 Allen Street (corner of Dartmouth Street)  
New Bedford

### FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Held Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Meet at SEMARA clubhouse at 11:15 a.m. to determine which local restaurant is to be honored by our presence.

These events have been ongoing for a number of years. All SEMARA members are welcome. Come on down!

## SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 TROPO ON VHF/UHF

There was some really rare going towards Maine and Canada on September 18, 2006. **Joe, W1VRP** along with **Henry, W1GYL** and I talked with two stations:

**VE1EX**, Lake Gorge Nova Scotia

22:30 on 443.800, and

**N1IVX**, Eastport, ME

22:35 on 147.000

Very fun and rare night for DX!

*73 de Rick, W1RJC*

I could hear both machines up at Ft. Devons. SEMARA was competing with at least three machines but was winning most of the battle.

*73 de Tim, N1TI*

I talked to New York and Gloucester on the same frequency that night.

*73 de Margaret, KA1BZE*

## NOVEMBER VE SESSIONS

*Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.*

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

**SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m. 4 Nov**

Larry Houbre, AA1FS

[LRHguy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)

508-991-6055

*Exams are available at other times  
by appointment only*

**Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m. none**

Lou Harris, N1UEC

[N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org](mailto:N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org)

508-668-0858

**Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m. 20 Nov**

Skip Denault, KB1CNB

[skip@NewTestamentSchool.org](mailto:skip@NewTestamentSchool.org)

774-644-3469

**Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m. 11 Nov**

Ben Fleck, W2LYE

[BenFleck@cape.com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)

508-540-2583

**Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m. 9 Nov**

Louis Mester, W1CH

[W1CH@cox.net](mailto:W1CH@cox.net)

401-263-6045

**Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m. none**

Robert Jones, WB1P

[WB1P@arrl.net](mailto:WB1P@arrl.net)

401-333-4787

## NOV. 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. TBA

23—*Ragchew* – 6:30 p.m.

30—*Ragchew* – 6:30 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

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

**4 Nov Londonderry, NH**

**Interstate Repeater Society**

Gayle – 781-598-1442

**11 Nov Falmouth, MA**

**FARAFEST**

Ralph – 508-548-6405

## SOME NOV. CONTESTS

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

**ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW**, from  
*2100Z Nov 4-0300Z Nov 6.*

(Phone from 2100Z Nov 18 to 0300Z Nov 20; see  
Oct *QST*, p 103, or [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).)

**Japan International DX Contest – Phone**, from  
*0700Z Nov 11-1300Z Nov 12*

(see Apr *QST*, p 100, or  
[jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html](http://jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html)).

**Worked All Europe DX Contest (WAEDC) – RTTY**, from  
*0000Z Nov 11-2359Z Nov 12.*

Same rules as WAEDC Phone and CW, except  
everyone works everyone. QTC can only be ex-  
changed between continents (see Aug *QST*, p 88,  
or [www.waedc.de](http://www.waedc.de)).

**RSGB 1.8MHz Contest – CW**, from  
*2100 Nov 18-0100Z Nov 19*

(see Feb *QST*, p 99).

For more information: [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org). Logs  
due 16 days after the contest to

[2nd160.logs@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:2nd160.logs@rsgbhfcc.org) or

RSGB – G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Rd,  
Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England.

A. When making the connections for your 100-watt HF mobile radio operation, you should connect both wires directly to the battery terminals. Re-member that both leads should have fuses, placed as close to the battery as possible.

# SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>144</b>			
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 <sup>1</sup>	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
<b>147.000+</b> SEMARA	<b>67.0*</b>	<b>W1AEC</b>	<b>Dartmouth</b>
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 <sup>2</sup>	W1AQ	E. Prov., RI
147.345+	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard

\* IRLP-4347 & E-Link-44347

<sup>1</sup>IRLP-4617 & E-Link-4611; <sup>2</sup>required for use of IRLP-4907

<b>440</b>			
441.400+	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.200+	88.5	KE1AK	Fall River
442.950+	82.5 <sup>5</sup>	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450+	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500+	141.3 <sup>5</sup>	K1PBO	Dennis
443.800+	88.5 <sup>3</sup>	W1RJC	Dartmouth
443.850+	141.3	AA1PL	Exeter, RI
444.200+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250+	141.3 <sup>5</sup>	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.350+	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550+	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.025 -	77.0 <sup>4</sup>	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
449.275 -	DPL 244	W1WNS	W. Bridgewater

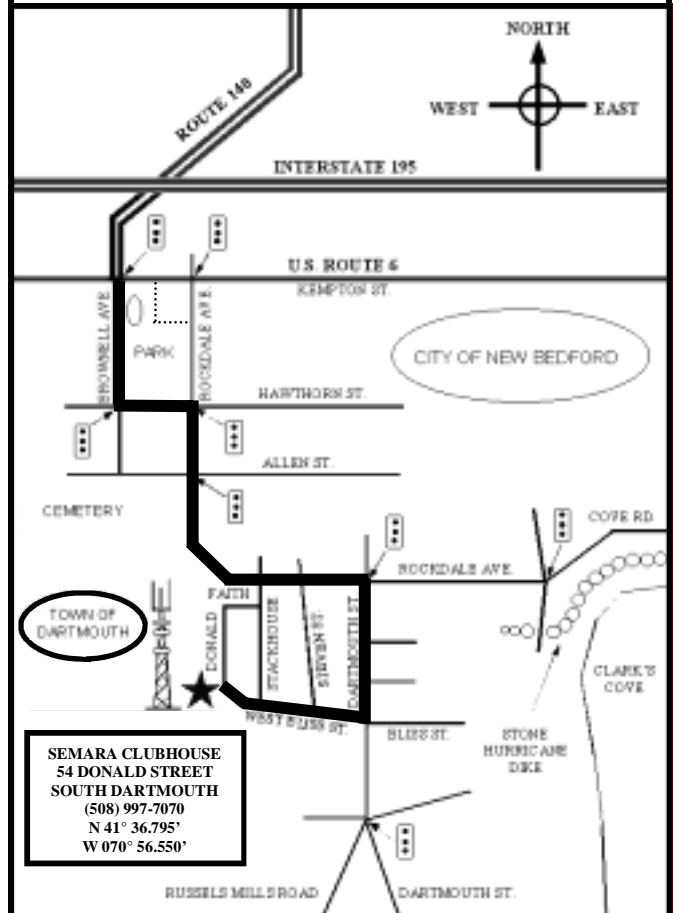
<sup>3</sup>IRLP-4259 & E-Link-4259; <sup>4</sup>IRLP-5920 & E-Link-55920; <sup>5</sup> Cape Net

**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 —

**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+ —

**Sun** - 9 p. m. - ARRL News  
 followed by Amateur Audio News