



ZERO BEAT

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



Volume 43, Issue 1

SEMARA-W1AEC

January 2007

Election Results

SEMARA held the annual election of officers at the December 7 business meeting. Following the "Meet the Candidates" by exactly one week, there seemed to be a genuine interest in running for the positions. Only the Vice President and the two Trustee positions ran unopposed. In my view, it is always a good thing to have more than one qualified candidate for each office.

The slate on the printed ballot was:

President – **Louis Mester - W1CH** and **Chris J. Smith - K1CJS**;

Vice President – **Bob Kelley - K1KVV**;

Secretary – **Armand Augustine - W1BUG** (**Jessica Kirkland - KB1JUW** was added as a write-in just before the vote);

Treasurer – **Mike Miller - N1ITQ** and **Mike McDonald - KB1NB**;

Board of Directors (3) – **Andy Reuter - WA1FNM**, **Marty Jordan - KA1YFV**, **John Carreiro - W1ZYV** (**Ed Duclos - WA1ZCB** was added just before the meeting began);

Trustee – **Dave Dean - K1JGV** (2010) and **Tim Smith - N1TI** (2011).

The election results were (44 ballots were cast) as follows.

PRESIDENT: Louis Mester - W1CH 24

Chris Smith - K1CJS 18

VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Kelley - K1KVV 42

SECRETARY: Armand Augustine - W1BUG 23
(write-in) Jessica Kirkland - KB1JUW 20

TREASURER: Mike Miller - N1ITQ 14

Mike McDonald - KB1NB 29

BOARD OF DIRECTORS(3):

Andy Reuter - WA1FNM 23

Marty Jordan - KA1YFV 31

Ed Duclos - WA1ZCB 25

John Carreiro - W1ZYV 28

TRUSTEE: (4 yr term) Dave Dean K1JGV 32,
(write-in) Tim Smith -N1TI 2

TRUSTEE: (5 yr term) Tim Smith - N1TI 39

Please join me in thanking everyone who ran for office. Pledge your support for their efforts on behalf of SEMARA in 2007.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANKS!

Thank you very much for including **Chris** and me in the November issue of *Zero Beat*. Much appreciated. One of my buddies is going to package the article up and give it to **Chris** for Christmas. He'll be pleased I am sure.

Chris started college this year and is studying Computer Science (more in the area of publications and web design). He had a good year although a reduced course load was necessary. His health has been quite good.

Christmas is almost upon us and the decorations are slowly being put in place. I have some suggestions from **Chris** that need some attention.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Hope to see you next summer.

Terry - VE2WTQ

ZERO BEAT

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Southeastern Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street,
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EDITOR

Bob Kelley - K1KVV
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2007 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Lou Mester - W1CH

Vice President

Bob Kelley - K1KVV

Secretary

Armand Augustine - W1BUG

Treasurer

Mike McDonald - KB1NB

Board of Directors:

Marty Jordan - KA1YFV

Ed Duclos - WA1ZCB

John Carreiro - W1ZYV

Trustees: (year term is up)

Bill Miller, Jr. - K1IBR (2007)-Ch

Larry Houbre, Jr. - AA1FS (2008)

Bill Vincent - W1POW (2009)

Dave Dean - K1JGV (2010)

Tim Smith - N1TI (2011)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds

Mike Miller -N1ITQ

Scholarship

Larry Houbre, Jr. - AA1FS

Technical

Tim Smith - N1TI - acting

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Scott Szala - W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo - KD1CY

New Building

Chris Smith -K1CJS

Radio Events

open

Repeater

open

Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

That we are right in the middle of some significant changes to Amateur Radio. First of all, as of December 15, the bands have been re-allocated to provide more room for voice. Next the FCC has announced the removal of Element 1, the Morse code test, as a requirement for any class of license. All we have to do is wait out the publication of this change in the federal register and, voila, 30 days later it goes into effect. Which date in February do you think it will be?

With the average age of our club members nearing retirement age, let's turn ourselves around and think 'young'! First of all, be sure to invite a youngster to SEMARA's *Kid's Day* on January 7 from 1:00 p.m. on. They will get a chance to call *CQ Kid's Day* and exchange their *name, age, location* and *favorite color* for starters. Some find that is all they can do the first time they are given the mike; others seem to take to doing a monolog like an old timer. The important thing is to give them the chance to get on the air and talk to other kids.

We don't have to stop there either. Is there a Radio Club at your local Junior High School? Maybe a group of you could help support one of the teachers get a club started. What better way to get to know someone from another country. It's a great way to learn geography! You get the idea. We can do more than just sitting on our frequencies – we can help to get youngsters into the hobby and into the Amateur radio Service.

So what do you say? Will I see you at the clubhouse with a youngster on Kid's Day?

POINT TO PONDER

“There is so much to be done ... there must be something for me to do.”

~ Dorothea Dix

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G4C05 If your third-floor amateur station has a ground wire running 33 feet down to ground rod, why might you get an RF burn if you touch the front panel of your HF transceiver?

- Because the ground rod is not making good contact with moist ground
- Because the transceiver's heat-sensing circuit is not working to start the cooling fan
- Because of a bad antenna connection, allowing the RF energy to take an easier path out of the transceiver through you
- Because the ground wire is a resonant length on several HF bands and acts more like an antenna than an RF ground connection

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

Answer on page 7



MEETING MINUTES



The **December 7, 2006** Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Vice President, **David Goldstein-W1DJG**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call. A 50 members were present.

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

Treasurer's Report (Scott Szala-W1EV)– Absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds (Mike Miller-N1ITQ)–

Mike is looking for someone who has a plow in preparation for the snowy season. Exit lights have been repaired.

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

Technical (Tim Smith-N1TI acting)– Tim explained about the 'discussion' setup on the internet. He asks for help with this to keep it running. The alarm for loss of electricity has been connected to repeater. Wiring done by **Bill-K1IBR**, programming by **Tim-N1TI**.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website (Rick Cabral-W1RJG)– Nothing to report.

Activities (Scott Szala-W1EV)– Bill Miller has the tickets for the Xmas Party

ARES/SKYWARN (Rob Macedo-KD1CY)– Rob thanks all who participated in a successful SET and declared it was a good practice event. He also thanks those who assisted during the recent storms over the area.

Radio Events (Ron Silva-WB1HGA)– Ron announced that next month's Kid's Day will be organized by **Bob Kelley-K1KVV**.

Ron then announced his resignation from two committees: "During the last few years I have enjoyed chairing the Radio Activities committee. When this started, Hardly anyone was participating together making useful our radio room. We have successfully organize Kid's Day, some sprint contests and for the first time in many years, an almost 24 hour Field Day, and received certificates from other activities on the air. When the record keeping of QSLs appeared to be non-existent, I began to organize a system that resulted in electronic logging. Then proceeded to enter all QSLs the club received from 1960's to current year. As a result, we are now into the new millennium of logging. Plans to set up Log of The World, was the next phase.

Today I announce my resignation from these two positions, because someone thinks I am incompetent, based on his remarks made at the last club meeting. I will go where I am wanted."

New Building (Chris Smith-K1CJS)– Nothing.

COMMUNICATIONS (Dave Goldstein-W1DJG)– The Secretary read two letters of resignation; they are from **Rick Cabral-W1RJG**, and **Chris Washburn-W1EAV**. There were no other letters received. There was a *motion** **passed** to accept the two resignations.

RATIFICATIONS*– Three applications for life membership were received. They were voted on individually. *Motions** **passed** for **Paul Charboneau-W6BZH**, and **Keith Donton, no call**.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (vacant)– none.

OLD BUSINESS– None.

NEW BUSINESS–

*Motion** **passed** to accept the gift of Kenwood TK862 radio ser 00401203 from **Rick Cabral-W1RJG**, and to have the Secretary send a letter of acknowledgement and thanking him for generous donation.

*Motion** **passed** to buy polyphasers for protection from electrical storms.

*Motion** **passed** to obtain Verizon business phone service with long distance

*Motion** **passed** to obtain Comcast business service for internet access

*Motion** **passed** to waive reading of proposed amendments. After discussion, *motion** defeated to amend Constitution and By-Laws.

*Motion** **passed** "Whereas the Board of Directors has acted outside the scope of its responsibilities, and, Whereas the Board of Directors has exceeded its established authority of only making recommendations to the membership, and, Whereas the Board of Directors had no document withstanding before it to discuss, and, Whereas no resignation has been tendered in accordance with SEMARA's Constitution and By-Laws, then let it be known that Mr. **Carl Bredberg-K1KID**, continues to be a SEMARA member of good standing."

GOOD OF THE CLUB–

I have enjoyed my tenure as your club Secretary for three terms. I liked the filing, recording, and maintaining of records as well as being the custodian of



CLUB NOTES

January is named after the Roman god Janus who could look into the future and the past at the same time. What do you expect Janus to see at 54 Donald Street?

For one thing, I'm a terrible fortune teller. I can't predict the future worth a (deleted)! But I can be a pretty good follower. So, tell me, what's your idea about how we can ensure SEMARA's future?



Two applications for life membership were ratified at the December 7, 2006 business meeting:

Paul Charboneau, W6BZH,
and **Keith Donton,** no call.



Welcome to the club!

Three candidates successfully passed their Technician written exams at the VE session on November 4. They were:

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD

Marc C. Dumont, KB1ODE
and

James G. Barrett, KB1ODG.

On December 2,

Douglas E. Johnson, W1RDJ
passed the General written exam.

Job well done!



SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, January 6, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Contact: Larry, AA1FS
LRHguy@earthlink.net
508-991-6055



LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable 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 is held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB. **Bob, NIHCW** 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 is held weekdays from 7:30-8 a.m. All are welcome, especially those from outside the area.

RAG CHEW BRAIN TEASER

Consider two capacitors of capacitance C each, one is charged to a voltage V and the other is uncharged. The stored energy in a capacitor is

$$1/2*(C*V^2).$$

Now connect the two capacitors together. The charge divides equally between the two and therefore there is a voltage V/2 across each. The total stored energy is now $2*\{1/2*(C*[V/2]^2)\}$ or $1/4*(C*V^2)$.

What happened to the other half of the initial stored energy? No, I'm not going to tell you the answer. Let's discuss it at the next time we meet.

SUDOKU

Here's something more challenging to keep you occupied while listening for that rare one. Solution is on page 5.

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

Amateur Radio News

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Rob Macedo-KD1CY
ARES SKYWARN Coordinator

It was another active year for ARES, RACES and SKYWARN. We conducted another successful Emergency Communications Workshop in Walpole, MA in early April 2006. In addition, weeknight workshops were held once per week for a period of 6-8 weeks in both Taunton, MA and Falmouth, MA that targeted specific emergency communication teams in those regions. We thank those who attended and assisted in these workshops.

The most significant ARES/RACES response in recent memory was during the May Floods of 2006 in Northeast Massachusetts. Terry Stader-KA8SCP, Region One RACES Radio Officer, and a team of roughly a dozen Amateurs, manned the Region One MEMA Headquarters in Tewksbury for 5 days assisting with communications, not just via Amateur Radio, but with other means of communications for MEMA. Eastern Massachusetts ARES supported SKYWARN operations by providing several hundred reports of flooding, rainfall and significant impact to life and property. The American Red Cross of Mass. Bay and Northeast Massachusetts utilized about two dozen Amateurs over a period of three days for damage assessment and relief. This was a tremendous job by those involved in these efforts.

Through the efforts of Phil McNamara-N1XTB and contributions from all of you, we now have an Eastern Massachusetts ARES online registration form and database. This allows us to know who is available for emergency communications when required. This system will be used for many years.

This year brought a tremendous amount of severe thunderstorm activity to the region with the highest number of severe reports received in over 10 years. Reports from SKYWARN spotters resulted in timely warnings being issued for an area, along with a much better understanding of what was happening at the ground, resulting in the protection of life and property. Several exercises and other smaller events were completed in 2006. These included the annual WX4NHC Communications Test, the Simulated Emergency Test and the MEMA yearly hurricane exercise. The Monthly ARES and RACES nets continued on a regular basis.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in 2006 and we look forward to working with all of you in 2007.

QRPPP TRANSMITTER



The photo shows the TTL xtal oscillator that was heard in upstate NY by K2MUB, NJ by WB2MAI and in SE Mass by K1VV along with several others.

This type of oscillator was used in most computers during the late 80's and early 90's as their clock oscillator. Input power is approx 50mW (.0085ma from 6VDC) I'd guess the output to be somewhere about 30mW or so.

The antenna was connected directly to the output pin through the BNC connector and adapter and key in series with the batteries.

Thanks to those that strained their ears to hear my QRPPP transmitter.

73, Don-K1DC

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

SEMARA News

FROM THE WEBMASTER

The web site has gone thru several changes in the last month and several more are planned for the coming months. The goal is to make SEMARA.ORG a dynamic web site in the sense it will be the "go-to" place for announcements, links and current information about the club. Look for fresh content from committee, officers and individual members. As your new webmaster I'm open to ideas, critique and contributed content. It's your web site!

If you would like to track the changes made to the web site, just go to the home page and click on "Website Changelog". This will give you a listing in reverse chronological order of the changes and additions to the website, including minor adjustments.

One new section is the AUDIO PROGRAMMING page inspired by the work of one of our own club members, **Bob Zeida-NIBLF**. This section includes digest readings of popular amateur radio publications, primarily for the amateur with reading disabilities. Go to the main page and you will see a menu item to the left with the new page link. Keep in mind that the audio files start at 20 MBytes and go up in size, so broadband is a must.

As the web site continues it's metamorphosis, the overall goal is to keep it simple and avoid time consuming multimedia, to insure fast loading pages and minimize the number of plug-ins required to view the site. However as we enter 2007, we also realize that internet pipes are getting bigger and cheaper as time goes by. A recent poll I did a few months ago revealed that a majority of users now have broadband access with very few having restricted dialup. With that in mind we may consider a "rich content" section later that will include the fancy stuff along with multimedia. (We're already headed there with Bob's audio recordings online).

A new links section was also introduced with an initial set of links. As this page grows, it will be organized by topic and special interest. If you have favorite radio, scanner, SWL or computer related sites that you would like to see there, please send the URL to web@semara.org.

Visit SEMARA.ORG frequently to look for announcements and instructions. A direct email off-list will also be coming soon with details.

I trust that you enjoyed the holidays. I wish prosperity, health, happiness and good DX in 2007!

73, **Tim Smith-NITI**, webmaster

(Continued from page 3)

such important documents as membership applications and resignations, the By-Laws, Constitution and other legal documents. Beginning early this year, a chain of events causing much disharmony and dissention among members, have dampen my enthusiasm for this office. It saddens me to see such a display of insults towards members and officers, the making of false statements, distortion of facts and half-truths, and childish nonsense portrayed by those same few individuals. This act in itself has demoralized the membership, weaken it's leadership capabilities and caused a lost of a talent pool that would have benefited the club for years to come. I see a cancer eating away at the very core and foundation of this club. It must be removed. If it is not removed soon, more dissention and suffering will be had. You must remove the cancer. I'd like to thank all who voted and supported my tenure as Secretary. Thank you, **Ron-WB1HGA**."

ELECTION RESULTS (44 ballots were cast)

PRESIDENT: Lou Mester-W1CH 24

Chris Smith-K1CJS 18

VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Kelley-K1KVV 42

SECRETARY: Armand Augustine-WB1BUG 23

(write-in) Jessica Kirkland-KB1JUW 20

TREASURER: Mike Miller-N1ITQ 14

Mike McDonald-KB1NB 29

BOARD OF DIRECTORS(3):

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Marty Johnson-KA1YFV 31

Ed Duclos-WA1ZCB 25

John Carreiro-W1ZYV 28

TRUSTEE: (4 yr term) Dave Dean-K1JGV 32,

(write-in) Tim Smith-N1TI 2

TRUSTEE: (5 yr term) Tim Smith-N1TI 39

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by **Ron Silvia-WB1HGA**, Secretary



JANUARY VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m. 6 Jan

Larry Houbre-AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055

Braintree, MA 13 Jan

William Needham-K1WN

K1WN@aol.com

781-843-4000

Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m. none

Lou Harris-N1UEC

N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org

508-668-0858

Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m. 15 Jan

Skip Denault-KB1CNB

skip@NewTestamentSchool.org

774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m. 13 Jan

Ben Fleck-W2LYE

BenFleck@cape.com

508-540-2583

Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m. 11 Jan

Lou Mester-W1CH

W1CH@cox.net

401-263-6045

Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m. 27 Jan

Robert Jones-WB1P

WB1P@arrl.net

401-333-4787

JAN. SEMARA EVENTS

4--Business Meeting – 7 p.m.

6--VE session – 10:30 a.m.

11--Ragchew – 6:30 p.m.

18--Fox Hunt / Tech Talk or ? – 7 p.m.

25--Ragchew – 6:30 p.m.

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

Check out the Local Club Activities on p 8.

2007 NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

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

17 Feb Marlborough, MA

Algonquin ARC David-508-357-2272, ext 1#

24 Feb Milton, VT

VT State Convention Mike-802-879-6589

17 Mar Pomfret, CT

Eastern CT ARA Paul-860-928-2456

18 Mar Henniker, NH

Contoocook Valley RC Jim-603-428-7436

SOME JAN. CONTESTS

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

Kid's Day – Phone, sponsored by the ARRL and the Boring Amateur Radio Club, **1800Z to 2400Z Jan 7** (see Dec 2006 QST, p 45).

North American QSO Party – CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal, **1800Z Jan 13-0600Z Jan 14**.

Winter Field Day – all modes, sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR), **local noon Jan 13 to local noon Jan 14**.

Midwinter Contest – CW/SSB, sponsored by the Dutch YL Committee, CW from **1400Z-1800Z Jan 13**, SSB from **1000Z-1400Z Jan 14**.

070 PSKFest – PSK31, sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS) from **0000Z-2400Z Jan 13**. **ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes** – **1900Z Jan 20-0400Z Jan 22** (see Dec 2006 QST, p 98).

International United Teenager Contest – CW/SSB, sponsored by Radio-TLUM Ukraine, **0600Z-1400Z Jan 20** for operators under 18 years of age.

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest – CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine from **0000Z Jan 27-2359Z Jan 28** (Phone is Feb 24-25).

D. The purpose of the ground wire is to make sure that all unwanted signals are shorted to ground instead of being radiated. If the ground wire is long enough to be resonant on one or more bands, however, it can bring some of the radio signal energy into the station and put RF voltages on your equipment chassis..

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	W1SMA	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	WA1OCA	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

* IRLP-4347 & E-Link-44347 (internet being restored)

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	W1SMA*	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 -	DPL 244	W1WNS	W. Bridgewater

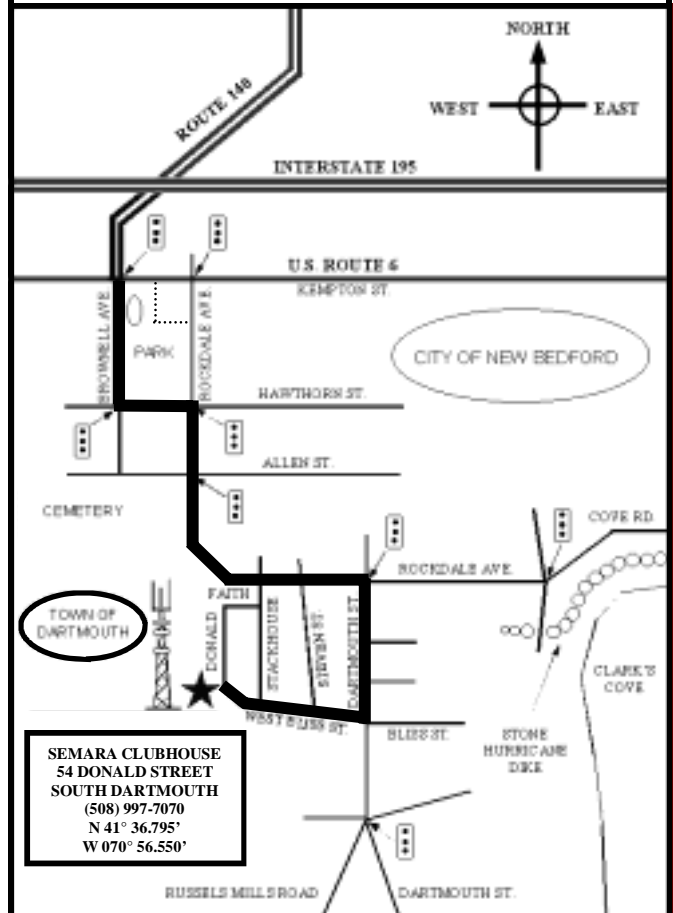
³IRLP-4259 & E-Link-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & E-Link-55920; ⁵ Cape Net
* OFF THE AIR

FISTS CW no.10555

Grid Coordinates:
FN41mo

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

Directions to SEMARA



SOME LOCAL CLUB ACITIVITIES

NOT-SO-EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST 6 AM T & TH

The Symposium

851 Mount Pleasant Street

New Bedford

CLUB COFFEE MEET 1 PM WEEKDAYS

Boston Coffee & Bagel

122 Allen Street (corner of Dartmouth Street)

New Bedford

11:30 AM FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Meet at SEMARA clubhouse at 11:15 a.m. to determine which local restaurant is to be honored by