



ZERO BEAT

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



Volume 43, Issue 2

SEMARA-W1AEC

February 2007

Kid's Day 2007



THE KID'S DAY 2007 PARTICIPANTS

FRONT ROW (L-R): BOB KELLEY, K1KVV - CONTROL OPERATOR; CUB SCOUTS BRAD PLISSEY, NATE PLISSEY, KYLE ST. ONGE, AND MIKEY MILLER - SEMARA MEMBER

BACK ROW (L-R): DOUG PLISSEY - WEBLOS LEADER, FREETOWN PACK 64; AND MIKE MILLER - N1ITQ

Everyone gathered in the Radio room shortly after 1300 UTC, 1:00 p.m. local time. **Bob Kelley, K1KVV** prepared a script for the youngsters to help them with calling CQ KIDS DAY and passing the required contact information: NAME, AGE, TOWN they lived in and favorite COLOR. Suggested topics for later rounds were: name of SCHOOL, grade in school, BEST SUBJECT, HOBBIES, siblings and anything else they wanted to talk about.

Kyle St. Onge was the only one who wanted to take the mike. He answered a CQ KIDS DAY from **KC6SLA** and spoke with *Connor*. Later **Brad Plissey** wanted to try it but the band conditions had deteriorated.

Kid's Day Certificates were given to commemorate the occasion. They left at 4 o'clock with a smile on their faces. We hope they will come back for the next Kid's Day on June 16, 2007.

ZERO BEAT

Published online monthly by the
Southeastern Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street,
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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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 - W1ZVY

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Scott Szala - W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo - KD1CY

New Building

Chris Smith - K1CJS

Radio Events

Ron Silvia - WB1HGA

Repeater

Rick Cabral - W1RJC &

Dave Goldstein - W1DJG

Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



It seems to me ...

de *Bob* - K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

That SEMARA is a typical 'volunteer' organization. Everyone who is a member chose to be a member, they 'volunteered.' Well, it seems that volunteers are the same everywhere, no matter what kind of organization it is.

Most are very enthusiastic when they first join; they want to get involved in all sorts of things, start all kinds of new activities, and so forth. For some reason, most volunteers have a change of heart, some sooner, some later. Some become content with following someone else's lead. Some drop out of the parade and become spectators.

Don't fall into the trap of worrying about what they ought to be doing. You can get yourself into a real pickle doing that. So how do you survive belonging to a 'volunteer' organization? My strategy is to pick something that I think is worthwhile to do and start doing it. As they say in the service, "It is easier to apologize than it is to get permission."

Just look around you, what really needs to be done? What kinds of activities do you think SEMARA should be doing? Well ... do it! And feel good about yourself! Who knows, someone might even notice and give you a pat on the back – but don't count on it. You should be doing these things for yourself – and you know how good a job you did without anyone else telling you!

On a different subject, it seems that **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, is going through a rough time right now. He's been in the hospital since the holidays. He could get discouraged – but you can help bring some light into his life. Just send your QSL card to **Bill Miller, Room 5026, Charlton Mem. Hosp., 363 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA 02720**.

POINT TO PONDER

"Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

[I have changed the layout of Zero Beat. What do you think?]

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G2C06 During a disaster in the US, what frequencies may be used to obtain assistance?

- A. Only frequencies in the 80-meter band
- B. Only frequencies in the 40-meter band
- C. Any frequency
- D. Any United Nations approved frequency

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

Answer on page 8



CLUB NOTES

February always was one of my favorite months when I was a kid – school vacation the week between the two presidents’ birthdays, Lincoln on the 12th and Washington on the 22nd. That also meant that I was spared the trials of Valentines Day – you know all the card exchanges and the candy stuff. I used to avoid it; but now it would be kind of nice to be part of all that activity once again.



Not your cup of tea? Then take a look at the contest page and see if there’s anything you like. There are *Sprints*, short 4-hr contests, *Round-ups* and *QSO Parties*, about 12-hr long, and a 24-hr *CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest*. Still don’t see what you like? Then try the ARRL’s contest website (URL on the last page.)



Want to be the first to take advantage of the new, no-code licenses? Plymouth is holding their VE session on the 24th, the day after the code is dropped.



Three candidates successfully passed their written exams at the VE session on January 6. They were:

- Robert A. Stanton - Technician**
- Sati P. Mitra, N1QYM**
- General and
- David M. Cronin, KB1NZT**
- Extra.



Job well done!

SK announcements for **Dick-WA1CXG** and **Bob Kish, KA1YON** on page 6.



LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net or the “Camel Net” is on the air 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 meets on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB. **Bob, N1HCW** in Acushnet acts as net control. This net is very informal and discusses everything from antennas to the weather as well as the recent band openings. All those with 6-meter capabilities are invited to check in.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net meets weekdays from 7:30-8 a.m. All are welcome, especially those from outside the area. Most recent out-of-town check-ins include **Steve, KB1GVT** from Maine (after some antenna work and when his work schedule allows) and **Randy, W1RTF** from Maryland.

SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, February 3, 2007
10:30 a.m.

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



SUDOKU

Here’s something to keep you occupied while listening for that rare one. **Solution on page 7.**

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



MEETING MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING RECAP

January 4, 2007

Louie-WICH called to order at 7:00 PM

Salute to the flag

35 members in attendance—1 guest

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made to accept the report as written in the Zero Beat. An amendment was added to the report and it was accepted unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

The year ending report was read by *Scot-WIEV*. It was accepted as read unanimously.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds:

Mike-NITQ reported everything was fine.

Scott-WIEV reported that arrangements had been made for snow plowing this winter.

Scholarship:

(No Chairman)

Nothing was reported.

Technical:

Tim-NITI—Internet is up and running.

Telephone service scheduled to be installed Jan 8.

IRLP and ECHO LINK on line but some intermittent computer problems. They will be corrected soon.

Web Site being updated and some new features showing up slowly.

Scanning Zero Beat archives advancing smoothly; look for them online soon.

Polyphasers were bought and installed by Bill Miller-K1IBR, and a new cat5 cable was installed.

“Bell's and whistles” will be returning to the repeater soon.

Activities:

Scot-WIEV

Nothing to report

ARES/Skywarn:

Rob-KDICY

Monday, April 30, the P3 Hunter Hurricane Aircraft will be coming to RI. Some help is needed for communications.

Arthur Greenberg-K1GBX is the new section manager for the ARRL.

Next ARES drill will be late February or early March.

An ARRL division cabinet meeting will be held at the Sheraton Framingham.

Radio Events:

(No Chairman)

Nothing to report.

New Building Committee:

Chris-K1CJS—Absent

Communications:

Application from Joe Hampson was tabled because a check was not enclosed.

Resignation from *Arthur Arruda-WAIGOV*, was accepted by a majority vote.

Old Business:

Henry-WIGYL motioned to not accept a resignation by Rick-W1RJ. After discussion the motion carried 27 to 4.

New Business:

John-W1HIQ moved to prohibit any organization account being opened in an individual's name.

Motion passed unanimously.

Henry-WIGYL motioned to make the photocopy machine available to all the membership.

Motion carried 32 to 3.

Mike-KBINB motioned to ratify the carry-over motion list.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mike-KBINB motioned to move some funds into a high-yield account.

Motion passed 33 to 1.

Dave-K1JGV questioned if the “New Building Committee” was still existed. Most believed it was, but not active at this time. It was noted that no resignation had been received.

Ron-WB1HGA motioned that the “Bill Miller Sign” at the end of the driveway be removed and replaced with a sign honoring Alan Cooper as the founder of the club.

Mike-KBINB motioned to table until a future meeting to investigate other options.

Motion passed unanimously.

Good of the Club:

John-W1ZYV brought attention to the fact that the club had subsidized \$18 per member for the Christmas party. He questioned the frugality of the club spending that much per member.

Bob-K1KVV announced that “KID'S DAY” would be held Sunday, and asked members to bring kids they know down to join in the fun.

Mike-KBINB spoke about having the Southeastern New England School of Law read over our constitution to see if there are any parts that could be improved upon,

Mike-KBINB cautioned all committee members to get purchases authorized by their chairman before buying.

(Continued on page 5)

SEMARA News

(Business Meeting Minutes – Continued from page 4)

Dave-KIJGV motioned to adjourn at 8:55 PM

Motion passed unanimously

Respectively Submitted,

Armand Augustine-Secretary

Note: A full copy of the minutes can be read or downloaded from the SEMARA Website. A full copy will be also posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse.

SEMARA BOD MEETING RECAP

January 13, 2007

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM.

Members present 6 4 observers

.....

A meeting agenda was presented to the members by the president, Louis-WICH

1. Book Audit Mandatory, By-laws article IV
2. Appointment of a 3 person nominating committee (mandatory, By-laws article VI
3. Fix a procedure to handle resignations
4. Building inspection
5. Club cleaning arrangements
6. Shingling the North side of the building
7. Keeper of the keys
8. Changing the repeater building door lock
9. Keycard reader program access
10. Instituting a sign-in sheet at meetings
11. SEMARA policy on food subsidies
12. Dues
13. Discuss capping membership
14. Business Meeting etiquette
15. New Member orientation policy
16. Sale of old duplexers
17. Keys for Technical committee members
18. Make a Business meeting sequence of event sheet to post

Treasurer's Books Audit -- The BOD will recommend that an outside auditor be hired to audit the books.

Nominating Committee -- The BOD will recommend that the 3 member nominating committee be filled immediately, so that unfilled chairs are filled in a timely manner.

Resignation Procedures -- The BOD will recommend that the membership adopt a resignation procedure that it will move forward at the next business meeting. The details of this proposal are available on the website, and also posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse.

Building Inspection -- The BOD will recommend that a licensed MA building inspection service company inspect the main meeting hall building. This will provide a guideline of the work that will be needed to bring the building to a safe, structurally sound condition.

Club Cleaning -- The BOD will recommend that the club try to seek a volunteer that would be willing to be responsible for the cleanliness of the club. If one is not forthcoming, it will recommend that the services be contracted, with members having first choice through a bidding procedure. The specific work expected can be read online in the full minutes of this meeting, or the posted minutes on the bulletin board.

Shingling -- The board would like to see the north side of the building shingled before the cold winter sets in. A work group will be sought to accomplish this under the direction of Building and Grounds committee.

Keeper of the Keys -- The BOD will recommend to the membership that they delegate the position of *Keeper of the Keys* to the Treasurer. It was noted that he also has responsibility of the card keys, and also should maintain the mechanical keys as well. The responsibility of re-keying and installing new locks as needed, will remain with the Building and Grounds Committee. The Treasurer will also have the access and the knowledge of programming the key cards.

Repeater Site Door Lock -- The BOD will recommend to the membership that the door lock system at the repeater site be replaced to a much more secure "dead bolt" type.

Key Card Reader Program Access -- This subject was covered under the keeper of the keys recommendation (see above).

Sign in Sheets -- The BOD also agrees that sign in sheets be used to be able to calculate members present easier. With these numbers, majorities would be easier to calculate. This could mean a better flow of the progress of the meeting.

Food Subsidization -- The BOD agrees that food subsidizing is a nice perk for the membership, al-

(Continued on page 6)

SEMARA News

(BoD Meeting Recap—Continued from page 5)

though costly. It will be recommended by the board that the prices set for tickets be made closer to the break-even point. This action would still keep the prices a bargain, and not hinder the quality and quantity of the food offered.

Dues -- The feasibility of dues was discussed at length. It was noted that changes requiring Constitutional changes be avoided at this time. There may be other ways to help raising revenue. Some of these methods will be discussed at future meetings. The BOD will seek no action on this matter at this time.

Capping Membership -- The matter was brought up. It was noted that this action would require further study. The BOD agreed to not recommend any action on this issue at this time.

Meeting Etiquette -- The Board discussed the unruly conduct at recent meetings. They agreed that this behavior would not be acceptable. The board will ask the membership cooperate with meeting rules for the good of all.

New Member Orientation -- An orientation program for new members was discussed. It was noted that it could be a voluntary program, or even a mandatory program that must be attended before new members could begin to operate the radios in the radio room. They could be taught how to operate radios, on air etiquette, logging procedures, amplifier loading, and antenna switching with swr checking. This could be mandatory for operating in the radio room. Individual senior operators could conduct this by appointment or informal gathering. The BOD will recommend that the membership bring this up for discussion to explore the many possibilities that a program like this could provide.

Sale of Old Duplexers -- The pending sale of the old duplexers has fallen through. The BOD will recommend that the membership set a price on the duplexers, and also what method of advertising should be used.

Keys for Technical Committee Members -- The subject was discussed, and the BOD agreed that the 2 members of the Technical sub-committee be assigned a key to the repeater site. These two individuals are the administrators of the repeater and also have the responsibility of maintaining the repeater site. They will be the ones doing the physical hands on work on the system. No other members of this committee will be assigned keys to this door.

Meeting Sequence Sheet -- A sheet with the se-

quence of business that the meeting follows will be posted at conspicuous places around the building. This sheet should help members to know when their motions, comments can be inserted into the meeting. This knowledge should help maintain an orderly flow of business during the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 12:10 PM

Respectively Submitted,

Armand Augustine, Secretary

RICHARD D. HOUGHTON, WA1CXG,SK

Richard D. Houghton, WA1CXG of Dartmouth died at his daughter's home on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007 at the age of 87. He was formerly employed as a repairman/installer for New England Telephone Company, and later AT&T, for over 40 years. He was a member of the East Fairhaven Improvement Association and a long time member of SEMARA.



WA1CXG

He is survived by his daughter and her husband, a sister, two grandchildren, a great-grandson and many nieces and nephews.

Our heart felt sympathy go out to his family.

May you rest in peace, Richard.



BOB KISH, KA1YON, SK

Bob Kish, KA1YON of Wareham died suddenly at home on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007 at the age of 55. He had been a fireman and was disabled for several years. He enjoyed listening to his scanner, CB and Amateur radios.



He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Our heart felt sympathy go out to his family.

May you rest in peace, Bob.

Amateur Radio News

FROM THE FEDERAL REGISTER

Amateur Service Rules

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission amends its Amateur Radio Service rules to *remove the requirement that an individual must pass a Morse code telegraphy examination* to qualify for a General Class or an Amateur Extra Class amateur radio service operator license. The Commission also *revises the frequency segment of the 80 meter amateur service High Frequency (HF) band on which amateur stations are authorized to be automatically controlled when transmitting RTTY and data emission types*, and it make other conforming amendments to the amateur service rules.

DATE: *Effective February 23, 2007.*

Sec. 97.221 Automatically controlled digital station.

* * * * *

(b) A station may be **automatically controlled while transmitting a RTTY or data emission** on the 6 m or shorter wavelength bands, and on the **28.120-28.189 MHz, 24.925-24.930 MHz, 21.090-21.100 MHz, 18.105-18.110 MHz, 14.0950-14.0995 MHz, 14.1005-14.112 MHz, 10.140-10.150 MHz, 7.100-7.105 MHz, or 3.585-3.600 MHz** segments.

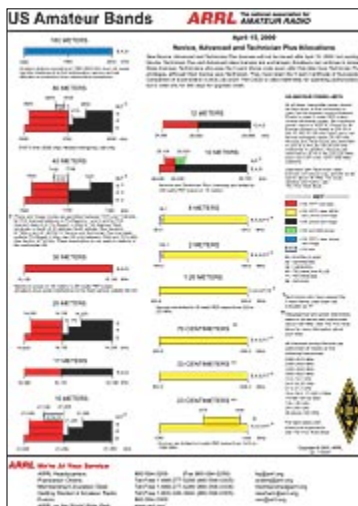
HOW IT WILL WORK

On or after the effective date of the new rules, February 23, 2007, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for a higher license class will be able to redeem it for an upgrade. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 (General) could apply at a VEC exam session, pay the application fee – which most VECs charge – and receive an instant upgrade. A CSCE is good only for 365 days from the date of issuance. *Candidates for General or Amateur Extra between now and the effective date of the new rules still must have Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) credit to obtain new privileges, however.*

The new rules also mean that all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will gain HF privileges identical to those of current Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees without having to apply for an upgrade. Novices and Technicians with Element 1 credit have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. *Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code test should *not* operate on any HF bands until the Morse requirement is officially deleted.*

NEW BAND PLAN

Effective Dec. 15, 2006



Download your own PDF color copy from <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>.

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

SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

FEBRUARY VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m. 3 Feb

Larry Houbre-AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055

Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m. 19 Feb

Skip Denault-KB1CNB

skip@NewTestamentSchool.org

774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m. 10 Feb

Ben Fleck-W2LYE

BenFleck@cape.com

508-540-2583

Middletown, RI — 9:00 a.m. 10 Feb

Jack Garforth-K1IG

K1IG@verizon.net

401-683-2250

Plymouth, MA — 9:00 A.M. 24 Feb

Russel Appleyard-WA2MHY

RussAppleyard@att.net

598-746-9240

Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m. 8 Feb

Lou Mester-W1CH

W1CH@cox.net

401-263-6045

SOME FEB. CONTESTS

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

North American Sprint – SSB, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from **0000Z-0400Z Feb 4**. Frequencies (MHz): 3.850, 7.225, 14.275, work stations once per band. For more information: www.ncjweb.com.

QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint, sponsored by the QRP ARCI from **2000Z-2359Z Feb 4**. Frequencies (MHz): 3.865, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385. For more information: www.qrparci.org.

North American Sprint – CW, from **0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11** (see Feb 4). Frequencies (MHz): 3.540, 7.040, 14.040.

School Club Roundup – all modes, **1300Z Feb 12-2400Z Feb 16** (see Jan *QST*, p 50)

FISTS CW Winter Sprint – CW, sponsored by FISTS International CW Club from **1700Z until 2100Z Feb 10**. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.FISTS.org.

North American QSO Party-RTTY, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from **1800Z Feb 24-0600Z Feb 25**. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For information: www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php.

CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest, **0000Z Feb 24-2400Z Feb 25** (see Jan *QST*, p 98).

FEB. SEMARA EVENTS

1--Business Meeting – 7 p.m.

3—VE session – 10:30 a.m.

8—Ragchew – 6:30 p.m

15—Fox Hunt / Tech Talk or ? – 7 p.m.

22—Ragchew – 6:30 p.m

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

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

24 Feb Chelsea, ME

Augusta ARA Bill-207-623-9075

C. When normal communications are not available and the immediate safety of human life or protection of property is involved, all of the normal rules for an amateur station may be broken in order to obtain assistance. This means that any method of communication, on any frequency, and at any power output, may be used to communicate and resolve the emergency. It doesn't matter if the distress is personal to the station, or a general disaster. Just be sure you have a real emergency!