



ZERO BEAT

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



Volume 43, Issue 3

SEMARA-W1AEC

March 2007

The Other Shoe Drops

ARRL ON THE NEW AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE RULES

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 08, February 23, 2007

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees.

March *QST* includes an eight-page "tear out" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!". Download it yourself at <http://www.arrrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>. It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or as a result of the new rules. Among other things, it covers *mentoring* – or *Elmering* – newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using *Logbook of the World* (LoTW) and a "Welcome to the fascinating world of high frequency (HF) radio!" by **ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ**.

"The FCC's decision to eliminate the Morse code examination as a licensing requirement opens the door to HF for all amateur licensees," Sumner points out in his remarks. Sumner also addresses the topic in his "It Seems to Us" editorial in March *QST* (page 9).

"As these new HF operators join us on our favorite bands, we old timers need to set a good

example and to be patient, welcoming and positive," he writes. "Let's all remember how little we knew when we got started, and honor those who helped us along the way by doing the same for others."

The March *QST* special section includes a new ARRL band chart <http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>. (Page 8 of the **Welcome.pdf** document above.)

THE END OF MORSE CODE?



Listen to the segment that aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*, February 24, 2007:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7590438>

Since the FCC no longer requires Morse Code for amateur radio licenses, this seems to spell the end of using dots and dashes to spell out words over radio frequencies. But will the "*Tom Sawyer effect*" keep Morse Code alive?

What's your take on this?

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2007 SEMARA OFFICERS

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Bob Kelley - K1KVV

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Armand Augustine - W1BUG

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Bill Vincent - W1POW (2009)

Dave Dean - K1JGV (2010)

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Scholarship

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Technical

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ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo - KD1CY

New Building

Dave Dean-K1JGV

Radio Events

Ron Silva-WB1HGA

Repeater

Rick Cabral-W1RJC,

Dave Goldstein-W1DJG

Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

That Amateur Radio in general, and SEMARA in particular, have an opportunity to further the hobby of ham radio. With the new rule changes, there will be lots of new faces sporting callsigns – or hopeful ones aspiring to get one.

So what do you think you can do to further the cause? Can you be an *Elmer*? Are you someone who could share your love of ham radio with others? Do you just like to operate? Then how about showing the newcomers what a good operator does? Like to tinker? How about sharing some of your experience. What I am suggesting is that this is a good time to re-evaluate how we enjoy our hobby. Perhaps some of you might step forward to participate in a Tech Talk that we can invite newcomers to attend. Let's all think of ways to welcome newcomers into the fold?

Thinking about the number of members who recently joined that big radio club in the sky, it certainly can't hurt to bring some younger bodies into the fold. See the story about the repair of the heating duct-work on page 4. Young **Mike Miller**, a SEMARA member, was able to help his dad **Mike, N1ITQ**. I don't know about you, but I don't climb those towers as well as I used to. The same goes for ladders, too!

Really think about where we would like SEMARA to be in five years. What kind of club do you envision? What part are you willing to play to making it happen?

It is really up to you. You will make a difference in the life of the club. Let it be one that we can all be proud of. Remember to be positive when you meet a newcomer on the air or at the club – Elmer!?

TRIBUTE

There is a small tribute to **Bill Miller, K1IBR, SK** on SEMARA website at

<http://semara.org/k1ibr.html>.

73, *Tim - N1TI*

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G0B06 What is the threshold power used to determine if an RF environmental evaluation is required when the operation takes place in the 10-meter band?

- A. 50 watts PEP
- B. 100 watts PEP
- C. 225 watts PEP
- D. 500 watts PEP

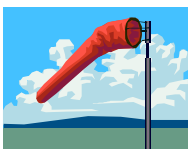
* 2004 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool (good thru 2008-06-30)

Answer on page 7



CLUB NOTES

March is supposed to be the month when the weather is windy but warmer. This is just the kind of inspiration I need to start thinking about feedlines, wires and antennas at my QTH.



Daylight savings time comes early this year, 2 AM Sunday March 11. Don't forget to 'spring ahead' or you will get to the Sunday morning ragchew early!



Three applications for life membership were ratified at the February 1, 2007 business meeting:

- Joe Hampson - KA1JFI;**
- Chris Washburn - W1EAV;**
- Leslie Dole - No Call.**

Welcome to the club!



Four candidates successfully passed exams at the VE session on February 3, 2007. They were:

- Keegan W. Lamp - Technician;**
- Robert J. Simcik, WX1DOG - General;**
- Sati P. Mitra, N1QYM - Extra;**
- and
- James B. Heim, K1GTO - Extra.**


Job well done!



SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, March 3, 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.

A NEW 10-METER SSB NET?

Considering that all licensed hams can operate SSB in the 28.300 - 28.500 MHz segment, I'd like to propose that SEMARA sponsor a **10-m Net** on **28.490 MHz USB**. That will put it close enough to the General segment starting at 28.500 MHz to attract browsers to the net frequency.

Someone has volunteered to act as net control. All we need to do is pick the time and the day.

What day and time works for you? Let me know so we can launch the **10-m Net** in March.

Bob-K1KVV

SUDOKU

Here's something to keep you busy while waiting for the net to start. **Solution is on page 7.**

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

SEMARA NEWS

DUCTWORK WORK

With two mikes you get stereo. With three Mikes who knows what can be accomplished. On Saturday, February 10, **Mike Miller, N1ITQ**, **Mike Miller** the younger (no call sign yet), and **Mike McDonald, KB1NB**, got together to address the heating system's cold air return under the clubhouse.

The unsupported ducts that are supposed to carry pre-heated air from the clubhouse to the furnace had a bad habit of falling from their connections and winding up on the crawl space's sand floor. As a result, the open duct drew in completely unheated air to be brought up to high heat levels while warm air in the clubhouse was, presumably, being pushed out through the cracks. Very inefficient.



TOP-LEFT: THE ENERGY THIEF

TOP-RIGHT: MIKE, N1ITQ, SIZING THE SOLUTION

BOTTOM-LEFT: GETTING THE DUCTS ALL IN A ROW

BOTTOM-RIGHT: THE ENERGY THIEF CONTAINED

But, with Mike Miller the elder taking the lead, Mike the younger acting as inspector, retriever of the elusive screws from the crawlspace sand and chief of cleanup, and Mike McDonald writing the SEMARA check at the supply house, the job was accomplished in short order. Well, not exactly short, about twice as long as estimated, but still less than a day. The ducts are now captivated at their ends and supported in the middle. The club should see lower heating bills as a result of the repair and the treasurer will have to write out fewer checks to the oil company. (OK, so I had an ulterior motive.)

Thanks to **N1ITQ**, our Grounds and Buildings chairman and his son, **Mike**.

Mike, KB1NB

WORK PARTY

In anticipation of the hut removal this year, I would like to organize a work party to dispose of all unnecessary junk and store a dozen or so worthwhile items from the hut in the storage facility.

This, of course, excludes the radio room at the present time.

This can be done any time this spring with an anticipated removal of the hut in the summer, providing we can get through all the permits, preparations, and unforeseen obstacles after we get the approval by the membership.

In ham radio...73, Dave KIJGV

HOSSTRADERS, SK

It's a sad day for Amateur Radio flea markets. The largest show in New England has come to an official end. *Hosstraders* will be no more. Go to the official *Hosstraders* web page <http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/> for the full announcement.

If you even went, this might be a good time to take a moment and send the organizers a message thanking them for over 30 years of dedicated service to ham radio.

POINTS TO PONDER

“Life is short, and it's up to you to make it sweet.”

~Sarah Louise (Sadie) Delany (1889-1999)

“It is better to be looked over than to be overlooked.”

~Mae West (1892-1980)

“If life is a bowl of cherries — what am I doing in the pits?”

~Erma Bombeck (1927-1996)



MEETING MINUTES



February 1, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Moment of Silence in memory of **Robert Kish-KA1YON**, and **Richard Houghton-WA1CXG** who became SK's this month.

Roll Call – 31 voting members present.

Secretary's Report was accepted as posted on the web site unanimously.

BOD Meeting minutes accepted as posted on the web site unanimously.

Treasurers' Report was read and referred to audit by **John-W1ZYV** and passed unanimously.

Technical Committee – **Tim-N1TI** reported a planning stage pin code system for EchoLink and IRLP.

Interference issues should and will be focused on in a much more aggressive manner.

Persistent use of the club computer for navigating undesirable sites and some downloading of material from these places. As recent as last Saturday at 8:30 AM, someone used the repeater for this activity. There is just one more step to pinpoint and expose the offending member. Self-policing would be the better solution.

Building and Grounds – **Mike-N1ITQ** reported everything is going well. Oil tank was filled and additive was introduced to retard moisture inside the tank. This additive will be used every other tankful for the cold months.

Mike also asked if anyone knew exactly what part was deteriorated on the cold return ductwork. Some explained, and he said that he would investigate the junction and measure the piece needed and repair it. **Bob-WX1DOG** offered to help him locate and pickup the part needed.

New Building Committee – no one in attendance.

Communications – **Bob-K1KVV** read a Planning Board Hearing Notice inviting us to attend a meeting for someone trying to obtain a variance from the town to build a house on property at 49 Donald St., which is classified wetlands. The club will not involve itself in this proceeding.

Ratification of new Members – 3 applicants

Joseph Hampson KA1JFI

Christopher Washburn W1EAV

Leslie Dole No Call

Motion made by **Don-N1PMB** to vote for all three on one vote and all were affirmed unanimously.

Presidents Comments – **Lou-W1CH** spoke of how all meetings will be conducted in an orderly fashion. He promised that all meetings would be openly conducted, with BOD meetings being conducted in the same manner. There will be no nefarious action tolerated.

ARES/SKYWARN – **Rob-KD1CY** reported that the monthly RACES net will be Monday 02/05/07 at 7:00PM at the Acushnet EMA. 147.135 will be the frequency.

Eastern ARES will follow at 8:00PM the same evening.

A MARS drill will be held Saturday 02/24/07. 9:00AM—1:00PM.

Saturday 02/24/07 a section communication test will be held on repeaters and simplex frequencies. HF frequencies will also be tested.

He also gave a summary of the ARRL Division Cabinet Meeting held in Framingham, MA.

Old Business:

Tim-N1TI made a motion to withdraw from the table the motion concerning the replacement of the vandalized sign. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Bob-WX1DOG questioned the safety of the outside oil tank and our liability if vandalized or ruptured. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Dave-K1JGV questioned again if the *New Building Committee* was without a chair, and expressed a desire to preside over it. He said that he tried to contact the former chair of the committee, and found that e-mails bounced and phone was discontinued. The president appointed him the chair of the *New Building Committee*.

Don-N1PMB made a motion that would replace the "Bill Miller sign" that was stolen from the driveway. After some discussion, a modification that would add a "Private Way" sign below was agreed to and the motion passed unanimously.

John-WA1ESO, who has been filling in managing the QSL cards, notified the membership that they were out of cards. He offered to check around and report back next month with the estimates and samples. **Louis-W1CH** asked him if he would like to be the *QSL manager* and he answered yes. He was appointed the QSL manager.

Tim-N1TI suggested that someone contact **Ed-WA1ZCB** about the club getting involved with

(Continued on page 6)



MEETING MINUTES



Silent Keys

(Continued from page 5)

APRS. He also made a motion that would rescind the earlier motion to sell the old duplexers, stating that if in fact we involve ourselves with APRS, the old duplexers could be retuned and used, therefore saving the expense of new ones. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike-KB1NB asked for approval of his motion that would establish a \$50 petty cash account that would enable him to buy small incidental items needed to run his office. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendations of the Board of Directors meeting of January 13, 2007 were read and introduced for approval by the membership. See the BOD minutes of that meeting for full explanations of the recommendations brought forward.

1. Mandatory Book Audit: no action taken.
2. Appointing 3 Member Nominating Committee: passed unanimously.
3. Procedure to handle resignations: no action taken.
4. Building Inspection: passed 29-2.
5. Club Cleaning Arrangements: passed unanimously.
6. Shingling North Side of Building: no action taken.
7. Keeper of the Keys: passed unanimously.
8. Change Repeater Site Door Lock: passed unanimously.
9. Sign-In Sheet: passed unanimously.
10. Food Subsidization: passed unanimously.
11. New Member Orientation: no action taken.
12. Sale of Old Duplexers: made moot by earlier motion.

Tim-N1TI announced in lieu of the "Tech Talk" this month, he has scheduled a "Foxhunt" for February 15th at 7:00PM.

Mike-N1ITQ asked the membership for an ovation for **Bob-K1KVV** acknowledging the effort and time invested to ensure a successful "Kid's Day". It was noted that all who were in attendance enjoyed it.

Dave-K1JGV made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed overwhelmingly without discussion. Adjournment was at 8:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted, **Armand F Augustine-WIBUG**, Secretary

WILLIAM MACY MILLER, JR. K1IBR, SK

William Macy Miller Jr., K1IBR died at Charlton Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, February 5th, 2007 at the age of 64. He was born in New Bedford and lived in North Dartmouth most of his life.



K1IBR

In the 1960's, Bill worked at Kennedy Space Center in Florida on the Apollo program and received an award from NASA for a computer test system he designed. In 1995 he retired from Commonwealth Electric. Bill published several electronic design articles professional journals. Bill joined SEMARA in 1958 and served in many positions over the years, including president, editor of Zero Beat, keeper of the keys, and the technical committee.

He is survived by his father, his daughter, Renee Camille of Yarmouth Port; two sons, William of Dartmouth and Eric of Dartmouth; three sisters, Susan Smith of Westport, Dorothy Grosswendt of South Dartmouth, and Margery Miller of New Bedford.

Our heart felt sympathy go out to his family.

May you rest in peace, Bill.

KEN GILLUM, W1QJR, SK

Kenneth F. Gillum, W1QJR, of Fairhaven died Saturday, February 3, 2007 unexpectedly at St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford at the age of 85. He joined SEMARA in 1984. He was born in New Bedford, grew up in the city and had lived in Fairhaven since 1949.

Ken served in the Coast Guard during WWII. In 1986, he retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber where he was a Maintenance Engineer for 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey Gillum; a son, Dana Gillum of S. Dartmouth; a daughter, Jan St. Germain of New Bedford; a brother, Warren Gillum of Jacksonville, FL.

Our heart felt sympathy go out to his family.

May you rest in peace, Ken.

MARCH VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m. 3 Mar

Larry Houbre-AA1FS
LRHguy@earthlink.net
 508-991-6055

Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m. 10 Mar

William Needham-K1WN
K1WN@aol.com
 781-843-4000

Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m. 15 Mar

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

Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m. 19 Mar

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

Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m. 10 Mar

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

Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m. 8 Mar

Lou Mester-W1CH
W1CH@cox.net
 401-263-6045

Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m. 31 Mar

Robert Jones-WB1P
WB1P@arrl.net
 401-333-4787

MARCH NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

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

17 Mar Pomfret, CT

Eastern CT ARA Paul-860-928-2456

18 Mar Henniker, NH

2007 CVRC Hamfest Jim-603-428-7436

30-31 Mar Lewiston, ME

Androscoggin ARC Ivan-207-784-0350

31 Mar Londonderry, NH

Interstate Repeater Soc. Gayle-781-598-1442

SOME MARCH CONTESTS

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

10-10 Mobile Contest - all modes - from **0000Z-2359Z Mar 17**. Freq.: 10 meters only. > www.ten-ten.org.

CLARA and Family 2007 HF Contest - Phone/CW, sponsor: Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association from **0000Z-2400Z Mar 13** and **0000Z-2400Z Mar 17**. Freq. (MHz): **CW** - 14.033, 21.033, 7.033, 3.688; **Phone** - 28.300, 21.255, 14.120, 14.285, 7.033, 7.200, 3.750, 3.900. > www.clara.comm.sfu.ca/events.html.

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

MAR. 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.
- 29—*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.

A. On the 10-m band, you can transmit with up to 50 W PEP without being required to perform RF Environmental Evaluation.

SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

See <http://www.semara.org/repeaters.htm>

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	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
147.120+	173.8	K1WEW	Portsmouth, 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

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

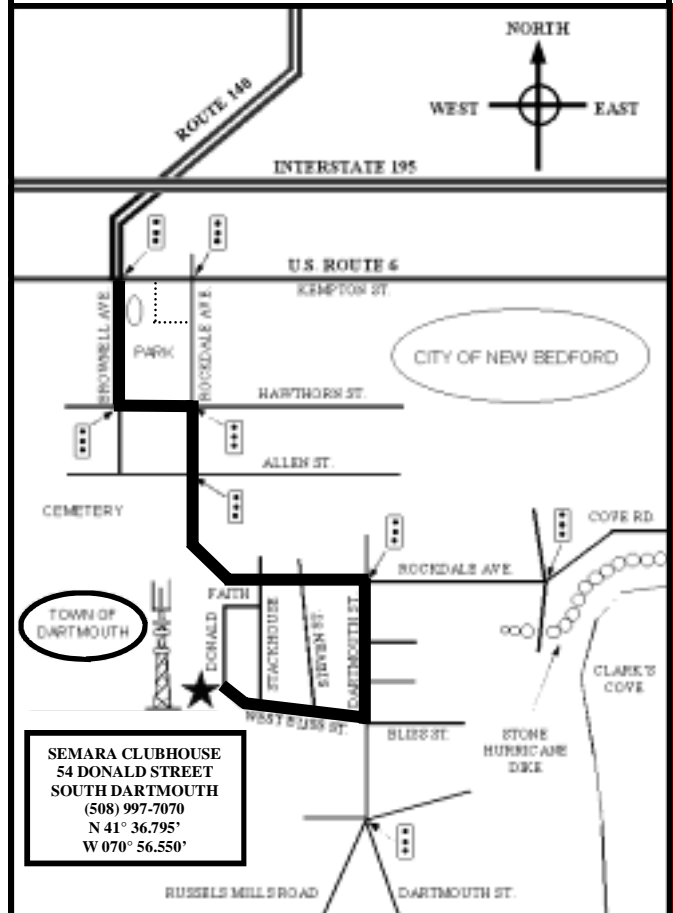
³IRLP-4259 & E-Link-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & E-Link-55920; ⁵ Cape Net
* OFF THE AIR

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 our presence.