



# ZERO BEAT

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



Volume 43, Issue 5

SEMARA-W1AEC

May 2007

## 440 MHz Amateur Radio vs. USAF

By Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC

Communications as we know it on the 70 centimeter (440 MHz) amateur band are slowly changing in our region. For decades, the FCC has allocated the United States Air Force (USAF) as primary and amateur radio as secondary on this 420–450 MHz band. What this means is government related usage takes precedence over amateur use. In certain areas of the country, amateurs are restricted to no more than 50 watts output power in order to prevent interference to these primary users.

Locally, the 50 watt output power restriction is in place due to the Otis Air National Guard Base located within the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod. They operate a missile warning and space surveillance system called PAVE PAWS. PAVE is an Air Force program name, while PAWS stands for Phased Array Warning System. PAVE PAWS basically sends pulses across the entire band at thousands of watts through a special phased array antenna.

If you have ever operated on the 440 band locally and heard a lot of “snap, crackle and pops” on weaker signals (most notably on users operating through repeaters), chances are you were hearing the effects of PAVE PAWS transmis-



PAVE PAWS  
 RADAR SCREEN



NUCLEAR WARNING SYSTEM MAP

sions. The PAVE PAWS system at Otis AFB is one of only three in operation in the U.S., with the other two being Beale AFB, California, and Clear Air Force Station, Alaska. In each of the three locations, a 50 watt restriction on 440 is in place within a set mile radius of the AFB.

Up until the last few years, amateurs have successfully shared the 440 band with the USAF without much problem in New England. This began to change about 4 years ago however, when the USAF requested a ban on amateur use for a section of the 440 band. The New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC) was notified that hams in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island must discontinue using 439.150 – 441.250 MHz. A few links and repeaters were forced to change frequency and re-coordinate. This restriction was put in place by the request of the Millstone Hill Digisonde (radar system), which is owned and operated by the US Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, MA.

(Continued on page 4)

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### EDITOR

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Dave Goldstein-W1DJG

#### Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



## It seems to me ...

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

That we should have a good turn-out for the business meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The *New Building Committee* has promised to supply us with some hard numbers. At the last business meeting, the members approved money to have an outside evaluation of the condition of the present main building. I hope this will be available for the discussion. After all, wouldn't you like to think that there's something salvageable that a little work (and a little money) could take care of? I know I do!

Last month, the members voted to set aside the money necessary to take down and cart away the disintegrating Quonset hut that's given so many years of service. My experience with renovations has been that it would have been easier, and no more expensive, to start with a clean slate. I believe that's the case for the Quonset hut.

So, don't stay away if you can possibly make it! It will be an exciting time for everyone present – those who want to spend money and those who don't.

[Do you need a ride or some extra help to get there? I am sure you will get results with a request on

[discussion@semara.org](mailto:discussion@semara.org).]

Page 7 has a *2-m 300-ohm Twinlead J-Pole* design that **Bill Miller, K1IBR/SK**, had sent me to use as a **HOME BREW EXTRA**. This month seemed like a good time to use it. Do you have something you'd like to share? Send it along.

Two coupled events the first weekend in May are the new *NEAR-Fest* in Deerfield, NH, which replaced the discontinued *Hosstraders*, and the *New England QSO Party* that runs for 20-h and starts after the Fest closes. Now, how is that for cooperation?!

## POINT TO PONDER

"Where there is so much to be done  
... there must be something for me to do."

— Dorothea Dix

## HAMMIN' AROUND

**Question\* G1D09** If you are a Technician Class operator with a CSCE for General Class operator privileges, when must you add the identified "AG" after your call sign?

- Whenever you operate using your new frequency privileges
- Whenever you operate
- Whenever you operate using Technician frequency privileges
- A special identifier is not required as long as your General class license application has been filed with the FCC

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



# CLUB NOTES

**M**ay is the month for flowers following April showers. What have you been watering and now is ready to bloom?

In my case, I've been thinking about portable operation and wire antennas that are easy to put up (and take down) and don't perform worse than a dipole. So what about end-fed long wires or loops?

How about you? Do you have a favorite portable antenna? (See p 7)



**T**wo applications for life membership were approved at the April 4, 2007 business meeting:

- Davis C. Bruce, no call** and
- Keegan Lamp, KB1OLI.**  
*WELCOME TO THE CLUB!*



**F**ive candidates successfully passed exams at the VE session on April 7, 2007. They were:

- Elaine H. Thompson, no call - Technician;**
- Walter M. Newell, Jr., K1WMN - Extra;**
- Gerard A. Bergeron, W1AFD - General;**
- Margaret M. Parker, KC0VVD - General; and**
- Richard E. Parker, KC0VVC - General.**



*Job well done!*

**SEMARA VE SESSION**  
 Saturday, May 5, 2007  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Contact: Larry, AA1FS  
[LRHGuy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHGuy@earthlink.net)  
 508-991-6055





## LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

*Please support these local nets by checking in!*

**2-m Roundtable "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 USB Net** is held *Wednesdays* at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz. **Bob, N1HCW** (Acushnet) is net control. This informal net discusses everything from antennas to the weather as well as the recent band openings.

**10-m USB Net** is held *Tuesdays* at 8:30 p.m. on 28.490 MHz. **Bob, N1HCW** (Acushnet) is net control. This informal net welcomes everyone, especially those new to HF.

**3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net** is held *weekdays* from 7:30-8 a.m. Recent check-ins included **Whitey, K1VV** and **Randy, W1RTF**. All are welcome, especially those from outside the area.

## SUDOKU

**H**ere's something to keep you busy while waiting for the 10-m net to start. **Solution is on page 8.**

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

# AMATEUR NEWS

## HAMVENTION® 2007 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

<http://www.hamvention.org/07techexcell.htm>

The Dayton Hamvention 2007 Technical Excellence Award winner is David Cameron, VE7LTD. This award is given for the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of amateur radio. Cameron was instrumental in development of the software, hardware, and technology that permits repeaters worldwide to be linked together over the worldwide web through the Internet Radio Linking Project or IRLP.



DAVID CAMERON  
VE7LTD  
(UBC PHOTO)

His nominator noted that "His work literally transformed FM repeater communication from a local entity into a world-wide communication network that has been of immense value in emergencies and has helped unite the world's radio amateurs over the internet and radio."

Cameron was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. While attending the University of British Columbia (UBC), he joined the UBC Amateur Radio Society in 1993. David built his first repeater and computer-based controller in 1995. He took over maintenance of the UBC repeaters in 1996 and began instituting improvements to the operation.

The Internet Radio Linking Project was started in November of 1997 in an attempt to use the Internet to link radio systems across Canada. Due to numerous problems it was shut down in early 1998. Cameron set out to design a more robust system and chose Linux for the networking software. He designed an interface board to connect the radio to the computer, wrote and improved software and succeeded in creating nearly seamless radio link between two remote sites on the Internet. The IRLP system runs a large network of dedicated servers and nodes offering excellence in voice communications. IRLP and its derivatives have opened up a whole new world of communications in VHF/UHF repeaters with the power of the Internet.

~ Henry, WIGYL

(Continued from page 1)

The next round of changes followed in the summer of 2006 and remains on going. NESMC was notified of over a dozen 440 repeaters within an 80 mile radius of Otis AFB that is causing interference to their PAVE PAWS system. As of March 2007, the USAF has sent proof of the interference to the FCC, and it is expected that a decision will be made soon on what action will need to be taken.

Realistically, there are three possible decisions that the FCC may reach. In our favor, the FCC may allow the repeaters in the affected areas to remain on the air. Secondly, they may allow the repeaters to remain on the air, but be required to change frequency. Worst case scenario is that the FCC can order all the repeaters affected to cease and desist completely, forcing them to shut down and not operate anywhere on the 440 band.

All of these restrictions draw one question to the amateur community in New England. Why are amateur transmissions on 440 suddenly causing harmful interference to USAF stations that have peacefully co-existed with us for decades? In a search of the FCC web site, there appears to be no current information on this on going issue. Likewise, calls I made to Otis AFB has remained unanswered. We will just have to wait and see what the FCC's decision will be. Despite the hardship to amateurs, the fact remains that we are secondary operators on 440 and the FCC has every right to grant precedence to the USAF.

Related links of interest:

Pave Paws:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PAVE\\_PAWS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PAVE_PAWS)

NESMC: <http://www.nesmc.org>

FCC: <http://www.fcc.gov>





# SEMARA NEWS



## DEDICATION OF MILLER HALL

JUST A FEW OF THE FOLKS WHO ENJOYED THE "VENUS DI MILO" SOUP AND THE "BEAST ROAST" THAT ACCOMPANIED THE DEDICATION OF THE MEETING HALL.

SCOTT, W1EV, DID THE HONORS WITH MORE THAN A DOZEN OF BILL'S (K1IBR, SK) FAMILY PRESENT.

## NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

*ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, April 4, 2007, by Ward Silver NOAX*

Mark KD4D points to an excellent introductory-level Contesting FAQ at [http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting\\_faq.html](http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html) just right for newcomers to HF contesting.

Mark N7MQ recommends the introduction to contesting by Mark ON4WW at <http://www.on4ww.be> - click Operating Guide on first page of site. This should also point out just how "world-wide" the HF contesting community can be!

[http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting\\_faq.html](http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html)

<http://www.on4ww.be/operatingPracticeEnglish.html>

## LOG BOOK OF THE WORLD

John, WA1ESO, has put the software and on the club machines, with the permission of the Technical Committee.

## NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY

*Contest period?* We set it up to start at 4 PM on Saturday to avoid a conflict with the big *Hosstraders* hamfest which ended by mid-day on Saturday. We wanted a 20-hour event so that's how it ended up. With the new *NEAR-fest* following in the footsteps of *Hosstraders* it didn't seem like a good time to make a change. Many people (me included) went to *Hosstraders* and then head out for a mobile effort in the *NEQP*. That's what I plan to do this year with the new *NEAR-fest*: <http://www.near-fest.com/>

Hope to hear you in this year's *NEQP*!

-- Tom/KIKI



# MEETING MINUTES

## April Business Meeting -- April 5, 2007

Meeting called to order by **Louie-W1CH** at 7:00 PM.

A roll call of members present showed 28 members and 1 guest present.

**Secretaries Report:** accepted as posted on the web-site.

**Treasurer's Report:** the report was read. *Motion to refer to audit. Passed unanimously.*

### Standing Committees

**Technical Committee: Dave-W1DJG** reported that station-logging system is up and running. Work on the antennas will commence as soon as weather permits. The vertical antenna needs repair, as does the 80-m antenna leg. The broken keyer could be auctioned at the end of the next meeting. He would check out anything that needed attention

**Building and Grounds: Mike-N1ITQ** reported that the club should realize noticeable savings in heating costs; the vents and ductwork are repaired and the heat to the hut is shut off. Thanks for doing the work in emptying the hut and setting up the station in the main hall.

**Scholarship Committee:** No report.

### Special Committees

**ARES/Skywarn: Rob-KD1CY** reported that the P3 Hurricane Hunter aircraft would be at Quonset Point, in N. Kingstown, RI on Monday, April 30 from 3–6 PM. There will be a Special Event station on air. The next ARES exercise is to take place on the first Monday in June, between 7:00 and 9:00pm.

**Communications: None**

**Ratification of New Applicants:** 2 applications were received.

**Davis C. Bruce (no call)**

**Keegan Lamp- KB1OLI**

Motion to accept both and passed unanimously.

**Presidents Comments: Louie-W1CH** asked for a round of applause for the job that was done by the members who cleaned out the hut and transferred contents to the storage trailer. Members of the “*New Building Committee*” and others did it. The radio station was moved to the main hall as a temporary arrangement. *Thank You* to all that assisted.

### Old Business

A notice about auctioning the broken keyer will be made via the reflector.

**John-WA1ESO** reported that it would cost \$350-\$500 to get an evaluation of the condition of the main building by a Mass Licensed contractor. Mo-

tion that the club hires the contractor at \$350 to inspect the building and give us a written report on its condition. After some discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. The report will be presented at the next meeting.

**New Building Committee: Dave-K1JGV** estimated costs of the removal of the hut, and also removal of the total structure. For total removal of the hut and permits needed: approximately \$3400; a contractor will knock down and remove the debris from the property for \$2500, the rest is for fees, and environmental inspections. For the total demolition of the buildings standing is about \$9300. There will be a complete proposal for membership approval in May.

### New Business

**Mike-N1ITQ** made a *motion* that **\$3500 be allocated from the treasury for the removal and disposal of the hut.** After much discussion, the **motion passed with 4 against.**

**Mike-N1ITQ** made a *motion* for the club to assign **1 person (new building committee chairman) to be the spokesman for the club at the Town Hall.** The motion also included a provision that any other member so doing should be reprimanded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### For the Good of the Club

**Bill-WA1FYF** noted that the by-laws as they have been rewritten over time are not the ones that the state has on file. They have the original copy of the by-laws submitted in 1977. He cautioned that some of our procedures being used might not be acceptable according to the documents that are filed with the state authorities.

**Mike-N1ITQ** stated that there would be a gigantic scout weekend held at Ft. Taber Park on Columbus Day weekend. He asked if the club would be willing to setup a station there so that the scouts would be able to work on their communication badges.

There was no action taken.

### Nominations for Board of Trustee Vacancy

**John-WA1ESO** nominated by **Louie-W1CH**

Nominations will be accepted up until the May meeting. Notice will be given on the Reflector.

### Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectively Submitted

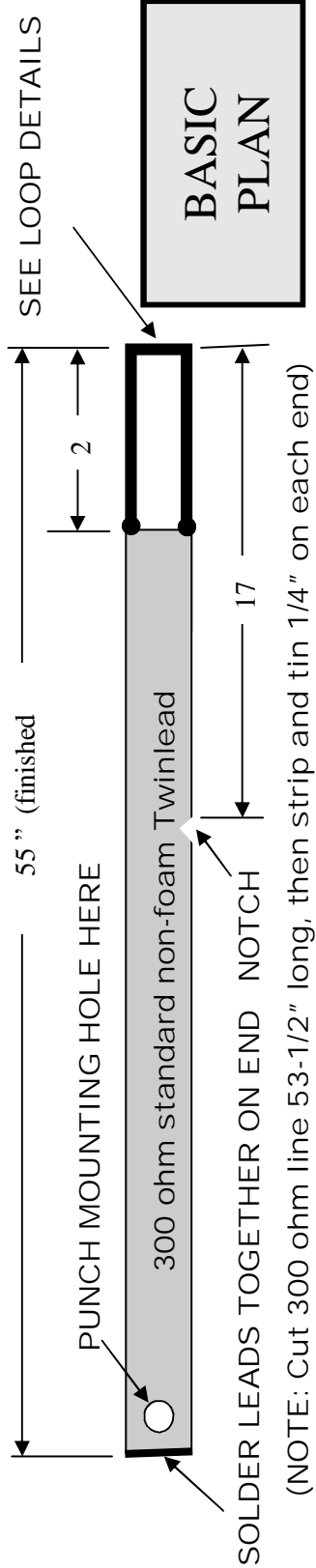
*Armand Augustine, WIBUG, Secretary*



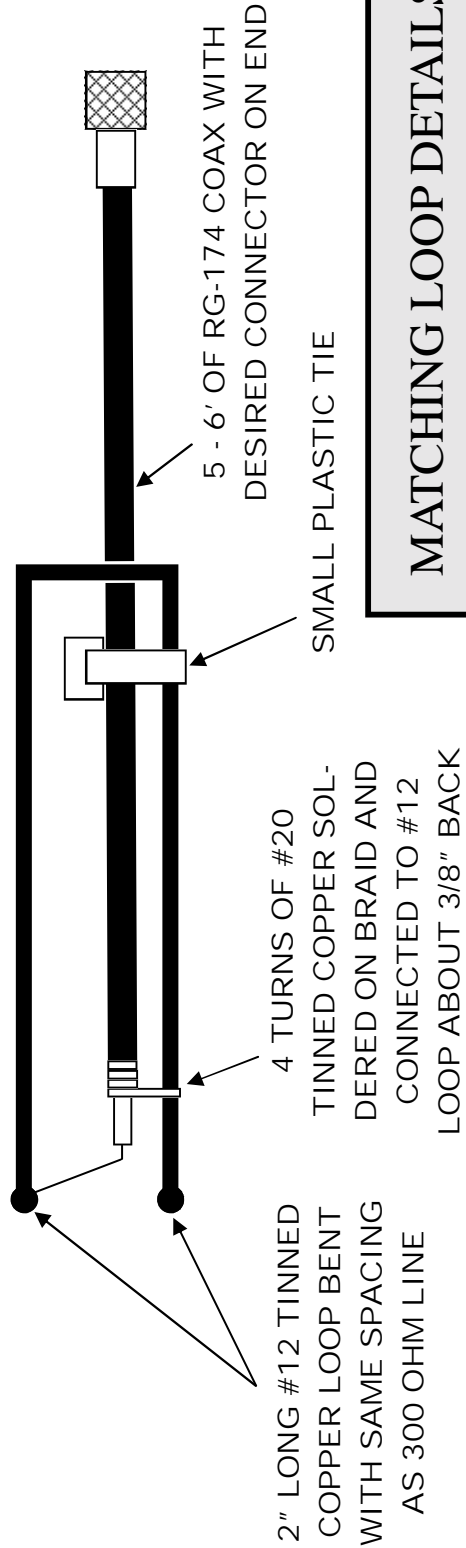
# Homebrew Extra

## TWO METER 300 OHM TWINLEAD J-POLE ANTENNA

Bill Miller, K1IBR August 2003



ASSEMBLE LOOP AND COAX FIRST, AND SOLDER TO 300 OHM LINE. THEN NOTCH THE 300 OHM LINE CENTER A 5" PIECE OF HEAT SHRINK TUBING OVER THE MATCHING LOOP



## MAY VE SESSIONS

*Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.*

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

- SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m.      5 May  
 Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
 508-991-6055
  
- Braintree, MA — 8:45 a.m.              12 May  
 William Needham-K1WN  
[K1WN@aol.com](mailto:K1WN@aol.com)  
 781-843-4000
  
- Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.                  none  
 Lou Harris-N1UEC  
[N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org](mailto:N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org)  
 508-668-0858
  
- Cranston, RI — 9:00 a.m.                  none  
 Ken Carr-KB1AWV  
[KB1AWV@arrl.net](mailto:KB1AWV@arrl.net)  
 401-828-1665
  
- Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.              21 May  
 Skip Denault-KB1CNB  
[skip@NewTestamentSchool.org](mailto:skip@NewTestamentSchool.org)  
 774-644-3469
  
- Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m.              12 May  
 Ben Fleck-W2LYE  
[BenFleck@cape.com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)  
 508-540-2583
  
- Middletown, RI — 9:00 a.m.              none  
 Jack Garforth-K1IG  
[K1IG@verizon.net](mailto:K1IG@verizon.net)  
 401-683-2250
  
- Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m.              10 May  
 Lou Mester-W1CH  
[W1CH@cox.net](mailto:W1CH@cox.net)  
 401-263-6045
  
- Slatersville, RI — 9:00 a.m.              19 May  
 Robert Jones-WB1P  
[WB1P@arrl.net](mailto:WB1P@arrl.net)  
 401-333-4787

## MAY NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

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

- 4-5 New England Amateur Radio Fest Deerfield, NH  
 Mike — 978-250-1235
  
- 20 Flea @ MIT                                  Cambridge, MA  
 Nick — 617-253-3776
  
- 26 Hartford Hamfest                          Vernon, CT  
 Natchaug Amateur Radio Club  
 Wayne — 860-487-1921

## SOME MAY CONTESTS

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

**North American High Speed Meteor Scatter Contest** – FSK441 or JT6M, from *1300Z May 5-1500Z May 7*, coinciding with the *eta-Aquarids* meteor shower. Bands: 50, 144, 222, 432, via meteor scatter. Info: [www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm](http://www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm).

**New England QSO Party** – CW/Phone, *2000Z May 5-0500Z May 6* and *1300Z-2400Z May 6*. Freq (MHz): CW - 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040; SSB - 3.850, 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380. Info: [www.negp.org](http://www.negp.org).

**Portuguese Navy Day** – CW/SSB/PSK31, sponsored by the Portuguese Navy Radio Amateurs from *1500Z May 5-1500Z May 6 (CW/SSB)* and *1500Z-2100Z May 5 (PSK31)*. Bands: 80-10 m (CW/SSB) and 20-10 m (PSK31). Info: [www.nra.pt/php/bdContestRules.php?lang=en](http://www.nra.pt/php/bdContestRules.php?lang=en).

**Armed Forces Amateur/Military Crossband Communications Test** – from *1200Z May 12-2400Z May 13*. Complete information: [www.netcom.army.mil/mars](http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars).

A. When you qualify for a higher license, you may begin using your new frequency privileges immediately. Until your General class license appears in the FCC database, you must identify yourself with the special identifier, /AG, which you give after your call sign.

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



# 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
<b>144</b>			
145.110 -	67.0	KB1BWN	New Bedford
145.130 -	151.4	WF1A	W Greenwich, RI
145.150 -	123.0	WA1DGW	Fall River
145.450 -	100.0	W1SYE	Portsmouth, RI
145.490 -	67.0 <sup>1</sup>	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	<b>Dartmouth</b>
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
147.315+	67.0	WG1U	Plymouth
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

### 440

441.350+	103.5	KA1RCI	Providence, RI
442.200+	88.5	KE1AK	Fall River
442.350+	67.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.950+	82.5 <sup>5</sup>	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450+	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500+	141.3 <sup>5</sup>	K1PBO	Dennis
443.750+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
443.800+	88.5 <sup>3</sup>	W1SMA*	Dartmouth
443.850+	141.3	AA1PL	Exeter, RI
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
449.175 -	100	N1RMH	Plymouth
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  
\* OFF THE AIR

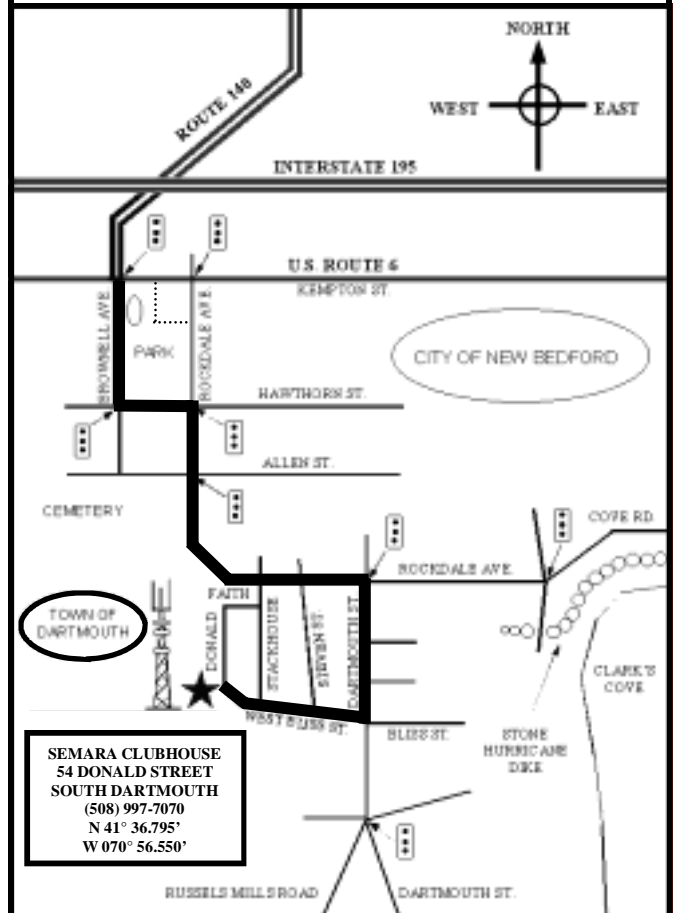
**FISTS CW no.10555**

Grid Coordinates: **FN41mo**

GPS Coordinates:

Lat. N 41° 36.795' Long. W 070° 56.550'

## Directions to SEMARA



**Business Meeting:** 7 PM first Thursday of month

**Ragchew at the clubhouse:** 7-11 AM Sundays

### MOST-OF-THE-TIME ACITIVITIES

**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

**LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM FRIDAY**

**Meet at the clubhouse at 11:15 AM** to decide which local restaurant is to have the honor of our presence that week