



ZERO BEAT

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



Volume 43, Issue 11

SEMARA-W1AEC

November 2007

BBQ Chicken Feast



THE "CREW" DOING THE HONORS

SEMARA enjoyed their first BBQ feast since the oil spill incident. Even the restricted parking caused by the heaps of bottle-filled soil (from the former Dartmouth dump that was on the site) didn't keep anyone away.



THE FEAST BEGINS ...

A hush fell across the hall as everyone dug into the food. Each person was given a half chicken, fully covered with the 'secret' glaze that **Scott, W1EV** always uses. This was complemented by a sumptuous antipasto salad plus rice pudding and brownies.



CONVERSATION BEFORE THE FEAST

The crowd relaxed in the clubhouse and enjoyed a little small talk before the food arrived.



SECONDS ANYONE?

Don, N1PMB took some home for the unfortunate ones who couldn't make it. **Great job, Scott!**

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**Southeastern Massachusetts
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**
 54 Donald Street,
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 (508) 997-7070

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2007 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Louis Mester - W1CH

Vice President

Bob Kelley - K1KVV

Secretary

Rick Cabral - W1RJ

Treasurer

Mike McDonald - KB1NB

Board of Directors:

Marty Jordan - KA1YFV

Ed Duclos - WA1ZCB

John Carreiro - W1ZYV

Trustees: (year term is up)

Larry Houbre, Jr. - AA1FS (2008)-Ch

Mike Miller - N1ITQ (2009)

Charlie Days - WA1JFD (2010)

Tim Smith - N1TI (2011)

Ed Duclos - WA1ZCB (2012)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds

Mike Miller - N1ITQ

Scholarship

Larry Houbre, Jr. - AA1FS

Technical

Dave Goldstein - W1DJG

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Scott Szala - W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo - KD1CY

New Building/Renovation

Dave Dean - K1JGV

QSL Manager

John Nery - WA1ESO

Radio Events

Bob Kelley - K1KVV

Repeater

Rick Cabral- W1RJ,

Dave Goldstein - W1DJG

Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



It seems to me ...

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

That lots of good things are happening around the clubhouse. According to **Dave, K1JGV**, *Renovation Committee* chair: "The conditions outside on our property are far less than desirable, but are being dealt with. The town is even in the process of improving the drainage on Donald St. [see photos on page 8] and the road is being re-graded and resurfaced. Hopefully, next year we can improve the *curb appeal* of the building and grounds. Our heating problem has been solved with electric baseboard heaters." Work is progressing with upgrading the electric service panel, replacing some baseboards, painting and reinstalling the old heating vents. The ducts have been plugged but retained in case of any future air conditioning. The side door needs to be reversed to meet the present fire code. Security issues are being addressed through the new RFID entry system and the internet-based inside and outside camera systems.

Everyone really enjoyed the SEMARA BBQ Chicken Feast! That's one thing we can all agree upon. **Scott, W1EV** and his crew really know how to serve up a great feast for the members. It was a fine way to get everyone together. Judging by the animated conversations, the YLs really enjoyed meeting their counterparts at the luncheon.

I am told that lots of clubs are launching General upgrade classes. How long has it been since SEMARA had them? And the interest in Public Service seems to be the draw for new hams. Maybe we should think about offering some low-pressure activities to satisfy that desire. Most of the drills and other simulated tests lately have been focused on the greater Boston area. Surely, the south coast area has as great a need for skilled emergency response operators as anywhere else. What do you think you would like to do about it?



HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* E1E02 What is a space station in the amateur-satellite service?

- An amateur station located more than 50 km above the Earth's surface
- An amateur station designed for communications with other amateur stations by means of Earth satellites
- An amateur station that transmits communications to initiate, modify or terminate functions of an Earth station
- An amateur station designed for communications with other amateur stations by reflecting signals off objects in space

* 2006 Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool (good thru 2010-06-30) **Answer on page 7**



CLUB NOTES

November is the time of changes here in southern New England. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on the first Sunday of the month at 2 a.m.



Since the Red Sox won the World Series in just four games, I can now start to do other things with my evenings. Like, finally getting around to 'winterizing' my antennas and the coax lead-ins. No use contributing towards global warming and my heating bills.



Did you see the new SEMARA-CAM on our website, semara.org? Check out the animated photo show put together by **Tim, N1TI** for our latest BBQ. At the tail end he has put the inside camera log for the duration of the set-up, chow-down, clean-up, and lights-out. What an intriguing record!



Two people passed the Technician exam given at the October 6, 2007 VE session.

Congratulations to:

Dean G. Chouinard — KB1PKJ

Bonnie J. Brault — KB1PNK

Welcome to the hobby!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, November 3, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Contact: Larry, AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055



LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Everybody, check in to these local nets!

2-m Roundtable "Camel" Net is held *every evening* at 7 p.m. on the SEMARA Repeater, **WIAEC**, 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.

10-m USB Net is held *Tuesdays* at 8:30 p.m. on 28.490 MHz. **Bob, N1HCW** (Acushnet) is net control.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net is held *weekdays* from 7:30-8 a.m. Eastern.

POINT TO PONDER

"I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart."

- e e cummings (1894-1962)

SUDOKU

Here's something to keep you busy while waiting for good propagation. Solution is on page 6.

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



MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 4, 2007

The October 4, 2007 business meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by the president **Louis D. Mester, W1CH**. The salute to the flag was followed by a roll call. A quorum of 27 members was present. No guests were in attendance.

Secretary's Report (Richard J. Cabral, W1RJJC): Armand F. Augustine, W1BUG, moved to accept the minutes of the September meeting as presented in October's *Zero Beat*. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Michael J. McDonald, Jr., KB1NB): \$896 has been paid to install the new heating system. \$1,000 was spent in taxes. \$310 was spent on tax preparation. \$597 was spent for new security camera. Current balance is \$63,849. **Armand Augustine, W1BUG's** motion to refer the report to audit passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Technical Committee (David J. Goldstein, W1DJG): Tim, N1TI reports that cards and fobs for the new club lock system are still on back order; however, he does have 10 available to members if they need one.

Buildings & Grounds (Mike Miller, N1ITQ, [not present]): Rubbish pile from the old hut seems to be growing with outside garbage. Please do not dump on club property. The trash has been taken care of by Mike since he took over buildings and grounds. The town of Dartmouth is not providing trash pickup at the club.

Scholarship (Larry Houbre, AA1FS [not present]): no report.

Special Committee Reports

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV [not present]): no report.

ARES/SKYWARN (Rob Macedo, KD1CY): September has been fairly quiet. The Red Cross requested help with an upcoming test on October 27th at 9:00am. The event will serve as the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for 2007. December 1st will be SKYWARN recognition day. Rob will be at NWS Taunton for this event.

Building/Renovation (David G. Dean, K1JGV): Dave reports that the heating elements have been installed and phase one of the project is complete. It was noted to be careful not to bang chairs or furniture up against the heating units. The electrical work including the panel to support the heating system will be completed next.

QSLs (John C. Nery, WA1ESO [not present]): no report.

Repeater: Richard J. Cabral, W1RJJC, announced that the IRLP and EchoLink node has been installed on the repeater 2 weeks ago. In the upcoming 2 months, the autopatch is planned to be restored along with a new 440 MHz remote base using the UHF antenna on the top of the tower that was formally in use by Rick's 440 re-

peater. We will be able to link to the MMRA network for the monthly ARES net as well as other uses by club members. This activity is not restricted by PAVE PAWS at this time.

Website (Timothy R. Smith, N1TD): He reports that he is a little behind, but an update will be processed soon.

Communications: Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB reports that a Chicken BBQ is planned for Sunday, October 27th. W1EV will be planning the event as he has in the past. Tickets will be on sale for \$8 each.

Ratification of New Members: No applications received this month.

President's Comments: none.

Old Business: Michael J. McDonald, Jr., KB1NB, reported that the oil spill cleanup is continuing, but is temporarily on hold. We are waiting for a permit to continue with the demolition of the furnace/boiler room. Since it was built before 1981, it needs to be inspected for asbestos. A bill exists with a current balance due of \$24,000 from Frank Corp. We know that our insurance policy will at least cover up to \$10,000.

New Business: David G. Dean, K1JGV, motion to invert the side door of the clubhouse (so that it opens toward the outside) to comply with the current fire code. Motion amended by **Michael J. McDonald, Jr. KB1NB**, to add that cost is not to exceed \$500. Motion and its amendment passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Club: Charles A. Days, WA1JFD inquired if the clubhouse is up for rental for special functions. It was noted that past policy allowed for each member to use the facilities for a special event free once each year, as long as club officers were notified in advance for liability and scheduling.

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJJC inquired about **Charles W Pelletier, Jr., KD1DA's** health. He is still in the hospital, but out of ICU. Rick recommended that we send a get well card to him on behalf of the club. Rick will bring a card for all to sign on Sunday.

Timothy R. Smith, N1TI advised everyone who obtained a new FOB or key card tonight to please try it and make sure it works on your way out. Tim also mentioned that the Nutmeg fleamarket in Wallingford, CT is this coming weekend.

Donald T. Manley, N1PMB announced that the Mt. Tom fleamarket is this Saturday at 10am in Agawam, MA.

Timothy R. Smith, N1TI mentioned that we need members for the Nominating Committee for the upcoming 2008 elections. **Armand F. Augustine, W1BUG** and **Christopher W. Washburn, W1EAV** joined the committee.

Robert D. Macedo, Jr., motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, **Richard J. Cabral**, Secretary

SEMARA NEWS

SEMARA-CAM



TIM, N1TI AND DAVE, W1DJG AT WORK

By now most of you have probably tried out the new technology that has been installed at the club. **Tim, N1TI** and **Dave, W1DJG** put up two internet cameras: one inside the hall and one just outside the door. You can access them by visiting:

<http://www.semara.org/semaracam.htm>.

While the inside camera in the clubhouse can be viewed using either Firefox or Explorer, the outside camera can only be seen with Explorer. The frame rate for both cameras is 1-2 frames per second.

Be sure that when you try to view the cameras that your browsers are up to date and that you have the latest Java loaded.

To load Java (a safe install), visit java.com and follow the links to the download and installation areas.



DAVE, W1DJG DOING THE INSTALL

FREE FREE FREE

Mosley TS33 HF Tri-bander — Multi-band Vertical — Cushcraft 2 meter beam (not sure of element count) — a Ham-M rotator with controller — all associated cables for hook up.

Free to anyone that can remove from a 30' telephone pole. A cherry-picker was used to install it several years ago and would need to be considered for take-down. Anyone interested must take all (the pole stays).

Contact **Norm, W1ATI** at **508-997-0981**. You can also find Norm each evening on the 7:00 p.m. 2-meter net on the Dartmouth, MA repeater [147.000 (+0.6), PL 67.0 Hz].

FORT TABER RADIO OPERATION

Fort Tabor was the location of the Fall Camporee for Cachalot District of the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America. There were several events for the Scouts to participate in during the weekend. One of those was a Ham Radio demonstration was operated on Saturday. The operations were from 9:00 till 5:00 on Saturday. **Rob Macedo, KD1CY** and I were there for the entire event. **Tony Duarte, N1XRS; Ed Caron, KA1RSY** and **Dave Goldstein, W1DJG** were able to stop by for a while.

Approximately 75 scouts were exposed to ham radio. Of those, there are probably 3 or 4 who will pursue their license. **Rob Macedo** ran the HF band on an Icom-706 using a power supply. A new Icom ATAS-25 antenna was tested and seemed to work OK. Band conditions were not favorable for many contacts. We also used 2-meters with a Ringo Ranger mounted on a PVC pole. Fort Tabor is an excellent place to operate — provided you are shielded from the wind off the water! The weather was very comfortable for a day outside.

One of the scouts brought along the call sign and frequency to contact his grandfather in England. Unfortunately, conditions did not allow for a contact. It was a thrill for all to see the attempt! Some were amazed that we even had the capability. This same Scout is going to get his ham radio license. He contacted 2 Eagle Scouts who were on the air and is a natural. He introduced his mother to us on Saturday and then found me to introduce his father and 2 brothers. It would be great if the whole family were to get involved.

(Continued on page 6)

More SEMARA NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Some contacts were made via the 145.49 Fairhaven repeater using IRLP. There was a contact with **Jim Palmer, KB1KQW** who was using his Venture Crew call sign out of Peabody, MA. The Scouts were impressed that they could talk to an Eagle Scout as well as a Crew Leader. We also contacted **Mike Ledger N1YLQ** in Daytona Beach another Eagle Scout. The Scouts that participated asked questions about Jim and Mike's Scouting activities as well as their Eagle Projects.

Some of our time was spent reviewing the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge. I followed-up on the interest on Sunday by conducting a 4-hour session with 10 Scouts on the badge. I have since continued to follow-up with these Scouts so they can earn the badge and have several of the group that are interested in getting their license as well.

As all ham radio operators are well aware, it is the youth that will continue our hobby into the future. With all the other challenges and activities that compete with Ham Radio, to see this much interest is heart-warming. Our goal was to help the Scouts get a taste of Ham Radio. Scouting is about developing our youth into good citizens with morals and strong ethics. These are definite traits that we would like to see in our future for Ham Radio as well.

Should anyone have any questions or wish to assist in future events or activities relating to the Radio Merit Badge or Scouting, please contact me directly at n1vuf@yahoo.com.

73 de *Brad Anselmo, N1VUF*

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

SEMARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

13 October 2007

Meeting called to order at 09:55 am

Directors present: 5 Observers: 4

W1CH, Louis Mester, president

K1KVV, Robert Kelley, vice president

KB1NB, Michael McDonald, treasurer

W1ZYV, John Carreiro, BOD member

KA1YFV, Marty Jordan, BOD member

In light of the burdensome expenses associated with the oil spill cleanup the idea of a member maintenance fee was discussed. Such a fee would generate funds but may create a problem by not being paid by all members. Appropriate actions against such members may be that they be deemed to be 'not in good standing', that they lose key card privileges, and that they lose event access. The fee could be announced by e-mail, reflector, and Zerobeat. The motion to be made at a business meeting by John, **W1ZYV**, will describe this as a 'maintenance assessment'.

John, **W1ZYV**, proposed resurrecting the volunteer sign-up list to encourage more member participation and to take care of some of the small jobs around the club.

Mike, **KB1NB**, proposed recommending to members that the club proceed with legal action against **NETCOM** if they do not respond adequately to a recent certified letter enumerating contract violations.

A cursory audit was performed showing that recent treasurer reports agreed with bank statements. A more detailed audit will be performed by John, **W1ZYV**, and Bob, **K1KVV**, with other board members attending as desired.

Paul Rollinson, **KE1LI**, has requested, by e-mail, 200 feet of 1-5/8 inch hardline cable for personal use. Because of the increased price of scrap copper the board recommends that our previous sale price of \$1 per foot be increased to \$2 per foot to discourage purchases with the intent to scrap for profit. A receipt that specifies 'personal use/not for resale' will be required. Louie, **W1CH**, will contact **KE1LI**.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McDonald, **KB1NB**, acting secretary

NOV VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30AM 3 Nov

Larry Houbre-AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055

Braintree, MA — 8:45AM 10 Nov

William Needham-K1WN

K1WN@aol.com

781-843-4000

Canton, MA — 7:30PM 8 Nov

Lou Harris-N1UEC

N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org

508-668-0858

Cranston, RI — 9:00AM 24 Nov

Ken Carr-KB1AWV

KB1AWV@arrl.net

401-828-1665

Fall River, MA — 7:00PM 19 Nov

Skip Denault-KB1CNB

skip@NewTestamentSchool.org

774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA — 9:00AM 10 Nov

Ben Fleck-W2LYE

BenFleck@cape.com

508-540-2583

Middletown, RI — 9:00AM none

Jack Garforth-K1IG

K1IG@verizon.net

401-683-2250

Providence, RI — 7:00PM 8 Nov

Lou Mester-W1CH

W1CH@cox.net

401-263-6045

Slatersville, RI — 9:00AM none

Robert Jones-WB1P

WB1P@arrl.net

401-333-4787

A. An amateur station located more than 50 km (30 mi) above the Earth's surface.

NE FLEA MARKETS

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

3 Nov : IRS Flea Market Londonderry, NH
Interstate Rptr Gayle — 603-421-0940

10 Nov : FARA Fest Buzzards Bay, MA
Falmouth ARA Ralph — 508-548-0422

SOME NOV CONTESTS

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

Ukrainian DX Contest - CW/SSB: 1200Z Nov 3-1200Z Nov 4. 160-10 meters. See: www.ucc.zp.ua.

IPA Contest - CW: 0600Z-1000Z and 1400Z-1800Z Nov 3, Phone: 0600Z-1000Z and 1400Z-1800Z Nov 4. 80-10 meters. See: www.ipa-rc.de.

Radio Club of America QSO Party - SSB/AM: 1700Z Nov 3-0500Z Nov 4. See web for band schedule. See: www.radioclubofamerica.org.

DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona" - RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover: 1100Z-1700Z Nov 4. 28.050-28.150. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fed.htm.

Kentucky QSO Party - CW/Phone: 1400Z Nov 10-0600Z Nov 11. 160-10 meters. See: wkdx.com/page2.html.

Japan International DX Contest - Phone: 0700Z Nov 10-1300Z Nov 11. See: jidx.org.

CQ WE (Western Electric) - CW/Phone/Digital: 1900Z Nov 10-0500Z Nov 12. 160 meters-70 cm. See: cqwe.cboh.org.

ARRL November Sweepstakes - Phone: 2100Z Nov 17-0300Z Nov 19. See: arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/novss.html.

LZ DX Contest - CW/SSB: 1200Z Nov 17-1200Z Nov 18. 80-10-meters. See: www.qsl.net/lz1fw/contest.

PSK63 QSO Party - sponsored by the European PSK Club from 0000Z to 2400Z Nov 18. Bands: 160-10 meters. See: www.eu.srars.org.

CQ WW DX Contest - CW, from 0000Z Nov 24 to 2400Z Nov 25. See: cqww.com.

Some SEMARA Photos



DRAIN INSTALLATION - STEP 1



DRAIN INSTALLATION - STEP 2



WILLIAM M. MILLER, JR. WAY



REMOVING THE BLACK TOP



SEMARA'S ALL DIRT LOOK



DONALD AND BLISS LEVELED DIRT

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	
145.110 -	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 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
147.315+	67.0	WG1U	Plymouth
147.330+	131.8 ²	W1AQ	E. Prov., RI
147.345+	88.5	KB1QL	W Tisbury

* IRLP-4347 & E-Link-44347

¹IRLP-4617 & E-Link-4611; ²173.8 required to use IRLP-4907

		222	
223.760 -		K1KYI	Scituate, RI
223.780 -	88.5	N1PYN	Brockton
223.820 -	67.0	N1JBC	Newport, RI
223.900 -		KA1ABI	Coventry, RI
223.920 -		KA1LMX	Warwick, RI
223.960 -	127.3	KA1RCI	Johnston, RI
223.980 -		W1OP	Johnston, RI
224.040 -	67.0	KA1RCI	Lincoln, RI
224.060 -	103.5	N1ZZN	Norwell
224.200 -	100.0	KA1MYV	Lincoln, RI
224.320 -	118.8	W1ZSA	Walpole
224.400 -	103.5	N1KUG	Quincy
224.560 -	100.0	KA1NXS	Exeter, RI
224.620 -	88.5	N1TVZ	Attleboro
224.660 -		W1KG	Medway
224.760 -		KA1SOO	W Warwick, RI
224.920 -	67.0	N1JBC	N. Prov., RI
224.960 -	88.5	W1VET	Warwick, RI

440

Check <http://www.nerepeaters.com/se.htm#440>

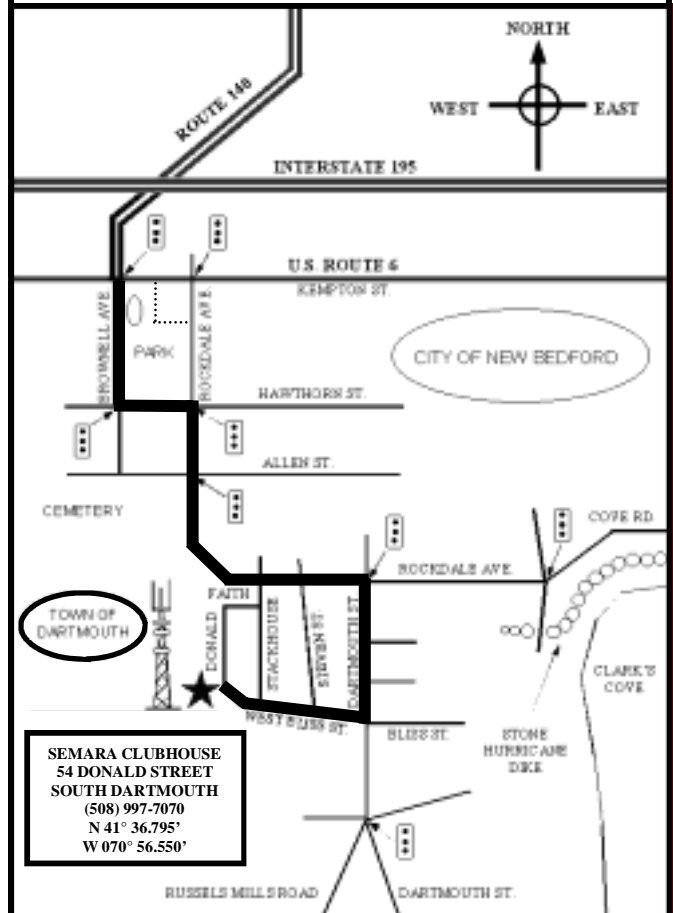
FISTS CW no.10555

Grid Coordinates: **FN41mo**

GPS Coordinates:

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

Directions to SEMARA



BUSINESS MEETING: 7 PM FIRST THURSDAYS
RAGCHEW AT THE CLUBHOUSE: 7-11 AM SUN

— **MOST-OF-THE-TIME ACITIVITIES** —

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST: 6 AM TU & 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 FRIDAYS

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