



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 44, Issue 1

SEMARA-W1AEC

January 2008

2008 SEMARA Officers

SEMARA held the annual election of officers at the December 6, 2007 business meeting. There seemed to be a genuine interest in running for the advisory positions.

The President, Vice President and the Treasurer ran for re-election unopposed with an “eleventh hour” nomination for the unfilled Secretary’s position. In my view, it is always good thing to have more than one qualified candidate for each open position.

First ballot:

34 ballots cast, 18 votes are required for election.

Louie Mester, W1CH, reelected president with 31 votes.

Bob Kelley, K1KVV, reelected vice-president with 31 votes.

Tim Smith, N1TI, elected secretary with 21 votes.

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Second ballot:

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Dave Dean, K1JGV, elected to *BOD* with 20 votes.

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28 ballots cast for Board of Trustees, 15 votes are required for election.

Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, elected to the Board of Trustees with 17 votes

Let’s thank everyone who ran for office. Give your support to the new officers for 2008.

CHRISTMAS CLAMBAKE



Starting a new tradition, SEMARA held its Christmas Clambake on Saturday, December 8, 2007.

(K1JGV photo)

(Continued on page 6)

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

SEMARA: <http://www.semara.org>
E-mail: clubinfo@semara.org

EDITOR Bob Kelley - K1KVV
E-Mail: editor@semara.org

2007 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Louis Mester - W1CH

Vice President

Bob Kelley - K1KVV

Secretary

Tim Smith - N1TI

Treasurer

Mike McDonald - KB1NB

Board of Directors:

Gerry Bergeron - W1AFD

Dave Dean - K1JGV

Dave Goldstein - W1DJG

Trustees: (year term is up)

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

Mike Miller - N1ITQ (2009)

Charlie Days - WA1JFD (2010)

Tim Smith - N1TI (2011)

Henry Blanchett - W1GYL (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- W1RJC,

Dave Goldstein - W1DJG

Website

Tim Smith - N1TI



It seems to me ...

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

That we might have better luck reactivating Tech Talks if we held them other than in the evening. I don't know about you; but my evenings are crammed. And I'd enjoy having an excuse to get out during the day. Since some of you are still working days (not me), what do you think?

What topics would you like to have presented? How about "Everything You Want to Know About APRS But are Afraid to Ask?" If that's not it, then what would you like to hear about? Just tell me.

Kids Day January 6, 2008. Bring your young people down to the clubhouse at **1 PM** to join in on the fun. Remember that 20-meter propagation is finicky and is likely to be best when the sun is high in the sky. Kids are encouraged to do it all. They just need to come equipped with their *name, age* and *favorite color*. After that it's whatever they want to talk about ... *school, sports, video games*, you name it. I will coach them on how to make the contact without using any ham jargon — we will be making 'contacts, not 'QSOs,' etc. See you there with the kids!

What does SEMARA need to do to get the new Technicians on the bands? There are two phone nets every week: one on 6-meters at 50.200 MHz USB at 8:30 PM local time; and one on 10-meters at 28.490 MHz USB at 8:30 PM local time? The problem is none of the newly minted Technicians have been checking in. If they are out there and would like to join in, I invite them to let us know so we can work on getting them on the air. The same goes for a very slow CW net — I received no response from my previous query. Now that CW is not required, it can be "just for fun."



Again, I am asking all of you to pitch in and encourage these new hams to get involved in the things that are fun for you. Public service and emergency communications is a possibility too. It seems that lots of new hams were attracted such interests. I won't go through the whole catalog of amateur radio possibilities; but you can think of lots that I might miss. So make a resolution for 2008 to share the fun with the new, or want-to-be, hams. It'll make your day!


HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T1B08 Which of the following call signs is a valid US amateur call?

- A. UZ4FWD
- B. KBL7766
- C. KB3TMJ
- D. VE3TWJ

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



CLUB NOTES

January is the time of looking back and looking ahead. SEMARA's year has been marked by one successful and one kid-less Kids Day; we lost several club members (Bill Miller, K1IBR was the most active); the infamous oil spill, that promises to empty the club's coffers, has deferred indefinitely any plans for a new clubhouse; the venerable Quonset hut was razed and the radio equipment moved into the meeting hall. There have been loads of technological upgrades: new RFID keyless entry system, online clubhouse video monitoring of the meeting hall and the driveway, APRS system, and much, much more! We have a talented bunch of guys taking care of the place.

What's up for the new year? For starters, SEMARA will host **Kids Day** this **Sunday, January 6** at the clubhouse starting at **1 PM** local time. This is a great way to introduce young people to the fun a amateur radio!

Two applications for life membership were approved at the December 6, 2007 business meeting:

Scott Aguiar, KB1EJD (T), and

Dan Chase, KB1PFU (T).

Welcome to the club!

Two people passed their written exam given at the December 1, 2007 VE session.

Congratulations to:

Kirk Kolenbrauder — KB1POT-Extra

Donald E. Eastlake IV — KB1PQE-Technician

Welcome to the hobby!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, January 5, 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

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

- James Barrie

SUDOKU

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

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

Meeting Minutes

The **December 6, 2007** business meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the president **Louis Mester, W1CH**. The salute to the flag was followed by a roll call. A quorum of 36 members was present. Two guests, who were also applicants for membership, were in attendance.

Secretary's Report was accepted as published in the December *Zerobeat*.

Treasurer's Report (Mike McDonald, KB1NB): Club's financial accounts' balance is \$52,313.51 as of 30 November 2007. NETCOM's November rent and a replacement check for a returned September check were received in the non-contract amount of \$2420 (the September replacement check included \$10 for Webster Bank's returned check fee).

Major expenses for the month included: \$283 for a new egress type door and latch, \$395 for a RFID entry system, \$425 for property insurance, \$3000 to retain attorney Patrick Cook, and a \$10,000 payment to Frank Corp. toward oil spill cleanup expenses. All told, there was a negative cash flow in November of \$9,387. Mike explained that the attorney fee, approved by the BOD, was necessary to get an immediate opinion on how to handle a \$10,000 insurance check which was expiring before the December business meeting. (note: a motion had passed at the November meeting to seek legal counsel). **Mike Miller's, N1ITQ**, motion, to refer the treasurer's report to audit, passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Technical Committee (Tim Smith, N1TI): Security cameras are up and running. A weather station is in progress. Monitoring of the temperature at the club is now possible via the website.

Buildings & Grounds (Mike Miller, N1ITQ): Winter season is upon us and anyone interested in helping with snow removal is encouraged to contact Mike.

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

Special Committee Reports

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV [not present]): Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, reported a sell-out of tickets for the upcoming clambake.

ARES/Skywarn (Rob Macedo, KD1CY): A Skywarn F1 tornado certificate was earned representing the best showing to date. The regular ARES net continues on the Fairhaven repeater. Ham assistance during a Pacific north west storm with winds over

100 mph generated very good press for hams. A governor out there (unlike the past governor of Massachusetts) expressed praise and gratitude for Ham assistance.

Building/Renovation (Dave Dean, K1JGV): The new electrical panel is expected to be installed this month.

QSL's (John Nery, WA1ESO [not present]): no report

Website (Tim Smith, N1TI): Website is up to date with the exception of a couple of reports.

Events (Bob Kelley, K1KVV): Upcoming events are listed in *Zerobeat*.

Communications: None.

Ratification of New Members: Scott Aguiar, KB1EJD, and Dan Chase, KB1PFU, were ratified as new members.

President's Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Mike McDonald, KB1NB, moved to ratify retaining Patrick Cook as our club attorney. Motion passed.

Dave Goldstein, W1DJG, moved that the purchase of 3 cases of soda and 100 plates be authorized for the upcoming clambake. Motion passed.

For the Good of the Club: Joe Krinosky, N1IXC, reported that **Charlie Pellitier, KD1DA**, remains hospitalized and is now on dialysis in a semi-conscious state.

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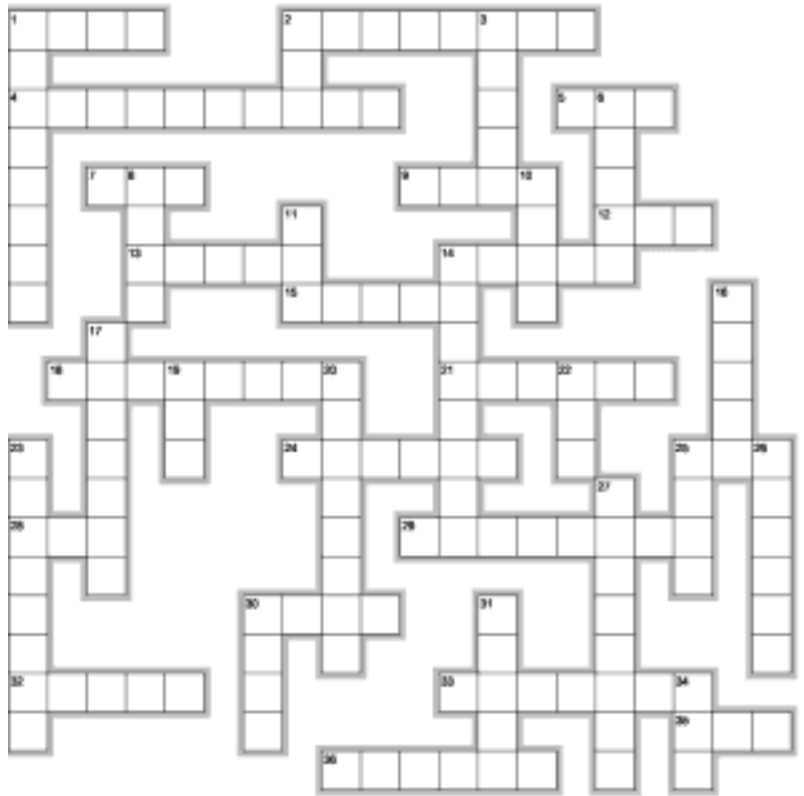
(Minutes continued on page 5)

SEMARA NEWS

Across

1. You find me easily with this mode
2. Green DIY from Benton Harbor, MI
3. Iambic
4. Emitter-Base-Collector
5. The lower the better
7. Callsign for atomic time
9. We are an affiliate club of the...
12. The Wednesday night net at 830PM is on what meter band?
13. 555
14. You need one with a longwire
15. If you missed kids day you also missed free...
18. When your BFO no longer makes a sound...
21. ... before your transmit
24. Free coffee and donuts on this day
25. If you are lucky, you can see and work this heavenly vehicle
28. We used to have to use crystals until these came along
29. Best antenna orientation for 2-m FM
30. Hiram Percy Maxim callsign
32. A memorial for Ken Dyer
33. Banned from the clubhouse
35. Popular monthly electronics flea
36. The rubber hits this before your arrive at the club

Tim - N1TI



EclipseCrossword.com

Solution on page 6.

Down

1. K1AHA likes to build these
2. It came down on July 23, 2007 - RIP!
6. SEMARA founder callsign
8. one volt times one ampere
10. Few clubs have this
11. A favorite pastime of WA1ZCB and K1KID
14. A fun time each September
16. Volunteers gather regularly to administer these
17. Our repeater
19. One of SEMARA's least favorite substances
20. Business meetings are the first what?
22. The Tuesday night net at 830PM is on what meter band?
23. Forced new 440 MHz repeater restrictions
25. For repeaters only
26. Our organization
27. Fun to do from your rig or computer
30. Responsible for SEMARA members' weight gain (callsign)
31. After you check into this net, one must put these critters away
34. Coordinated Universal Time

(Minutes continued from page 4)

25 votes.

Second ballot: 26 valid ballots cast for BOD, 14 required for election.

Dave Dean, K1JGV, elected to BOD with 20 votes.

No candidate for Board of Trustees received a majority on the first ballot.

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Henry Blanchett, W1GYL, elected to the Board of Trustees with 17 votes.

Tim Smith's, N1TI, motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonald, KB1NB, acting secretary



More SEMARA News

LOCAL APRS ACTIVITY

APRS is on the rise here on the southcoast. I have been in and out of the hobby since it's inception but was originally inspired by it's creator, **Bob Bruninga, WB4APR** after attending one of his lectures in Dayton back in the 90's. Back then it was an expensive hobby, when slow responding GPS's cost \$1,000 or more, plus the cost of a TNC and radio dedicated to the task of tracking. The technology has come a long way over the years resulting in a significant reduction in cost and improved simplicity. One of the biggest improvements over the past few years is the development of graphical front ends that are available on the Internet, which make APRS accessible by anyone. Not only can you see position reporting data, but other information such as live weather stations, bulletins, and ham to ham messaging. APRS is far beyond the scope of what you can read here, so a good place to start is the internet APRS wiki page at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic Position Reporting System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Position_Reporting_System). From here you will find explanation of common terms and links to other resources.

A SEMARA webpage related APRS activities is in the works. Meanwhile try the following:

W1CH's Big truck <http://aprs.fi/?call=w1ch-14>

W2DAN's Sprint/Nextel truck <http://aprs.fi/?call=w2dan-9>

W1DJG's WBZ trek <http://aprs.fi/?call=w1djg-8>

N1TI's truck <http://aprs.fi/?call=n1ti-8>

73 de Tim, N1TI

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

(Clambake continued from page 1)

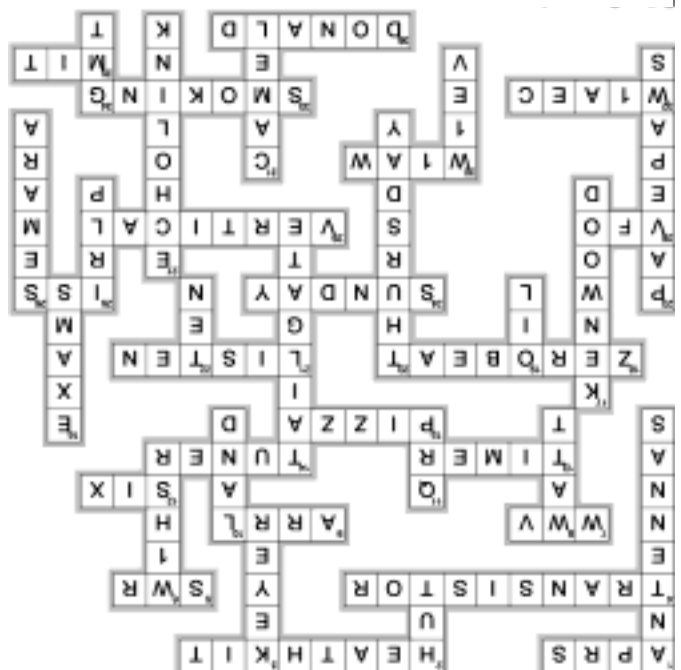
Boy ! If anybody deserves a round of applause it certainly is Scott (W1EV) and his boys after today's clambake. It was the best clambake I have had from that group to date. The chowder was excellent, the clams were clean, just the right size, and very easy to peel. Man! I can't wait for the next one. Thank you Scott and the boys and also for the bonus of getting rid of a lot of wood from the hut. Also thanks to all the guys that pitched in breaking up that wood and throwing it in the fire. If I had my health I would have been right there with ya.

73 all and Thanks again, Sonny W1ESG

I have to add to Sonny's applause. It was the first clambake I've ever attended in the winter and must say that I was very pleased. Absolutely no sand or grit and very sweet tasting. I didn't miss the corn on the cob either. Great job by Scott and gang...

Tim, N1TI

I WANTED TO THANK SCOTT AND HIS CREW FOR A GREAT JOB ON THE CLAM. THE CLAMS WERE VERY CLEAN AND EASY TO PEEL. GREAT JOB TO SCOTT & HIS CREW FOR DOING IT. 73 FROM W1DBX-LARRY



JAN VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30AM 5 Jan

Larry Houbre-AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055

Braintree, MA — 8:45AM none

William Needham-K1WN

K1WN@aol.com

781-843-4000

Canton, MA — 7:30PM 17 Jan

Lou Harris-N1UEC

N1UEC@Norwood-ARC.org

508-668-0858

Cranston, RI — 9:00AM none

Ken Carr-KB1AWV

KB1AWV@arrl.net

401-828-1665

Fall River, MA — 7:00PM ? 21 Jan ?

Skip Denault-KB1CNB

skip@NewTestamentSchool.org

774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA — 9:00AM none

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 none

Lou Mester-W1CH

W1CH@cox.net

401-263-6045

Slatersville, RI — 9:00AM 26 Jan

Robert Jones-WB1P

WB1P@arrl.net

401-333-4787

NE FLEA MARKETS

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

Nothing scheduled for January

SOME JAN CONTESTS

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

ARRL Straight Key Night - See www.arrl.org/contests/rules.

SEMARA ACTIVITY

Kids Day - Phone from 1800Z to 2400Z Jan 6, See www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html. *This "contest-lite" event is perfect for pre-teens. They really enjoy talking to other kids. Take advantage of the post-holiday "glow" and get a kid on the air!*

SEMARA ACTIVITY

DARC 10-meter Contest - CW/SSB from 0900Z-1059Z Jan 13. Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-28.700 MHz, See www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm.

070 PSKFest - from 0000Z-2359Z Jan 12. Frequencies: 80-10 m. See www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html.

International United Teenager Contest - CW/SSB from 0600Z-1400Z Jan 19, for operators under 18 years of age. Bands: 80-10 meters. See www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/17.html (click "translate to English").

UBA Contest - Phone from 1300Z Jan 26-1300Z Jan 27. Bands: 80-10-meters. For more information and a list of EU entities: www.uba.be.

YLISSB QSO Party - SSB from 0000Z Jan 26-2359Z Jan 27. Bands: 160-10 meters. See www.ylssystem.org.

Classic Exchange - CW, from 1400Z Jan 26-0800Z Jan 27. Freq. (Mc): CW 1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.135, 28.050, 50.100, 144.100. See www.gslasti.com/CX. *If you haven't fired up that tube rig in a while, this is a great excuse to blow the dust off, reform the electrolytics, and give it a spin!*

C. Valid US amateur calls must begin with AA-
AT, K, N or W.

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

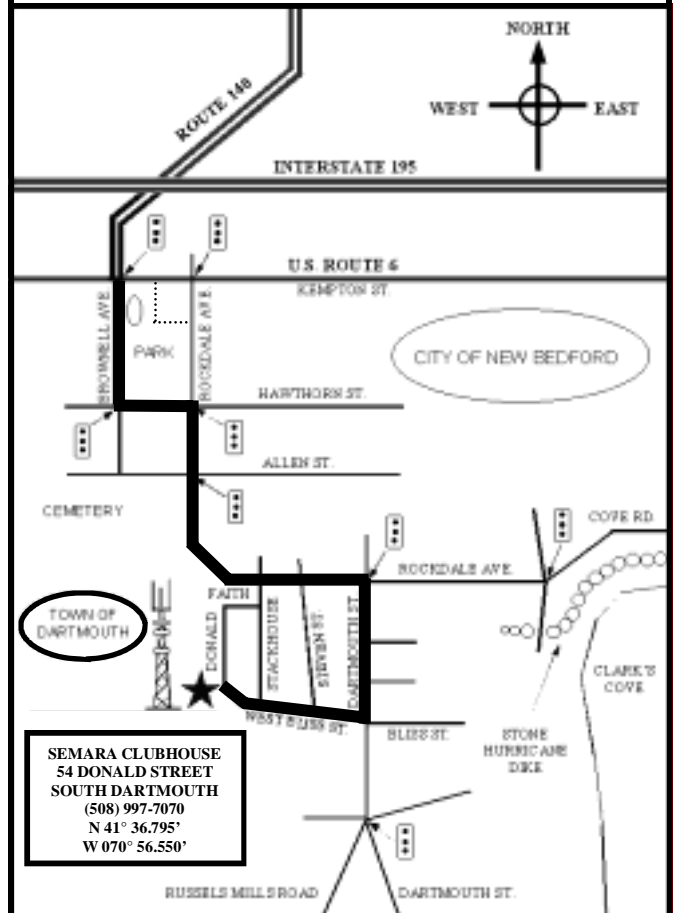
Check <http://www.nerepeaters.com/se.htm#440>

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

West End Grill

1000 Rockdale Avenue, 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