



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 44 Issue 2

SEMARA-W1AEC

February 2008

Monthly EMass Section News Summary



First of all I want to announce who our new (ACC) Affiliated Club Coordinator is for Eastern Massachusetts. It is **Chris J. Smith, K1CJS**, of Fall River. He is a man who believes in supporting the operators and the clubs, and will assist our section's clubs and advise them on proper procedures. I am quite sure you all will be hearing from Chris!

Recently, I have noticed that clubs have been deleting CW from their exams because it is no longer a requirement. That might be a mistake. I have heard a lot of radio amateurs who prefer to take the CW test. It makes them feel prouder when taking it.

I also hope everyone had a good time on ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT, Jan 1, 2008. I still enjoy my J-38s and key collection from the years starting at 1936 to 2008.

Good luck to everyone on their upcoming projects for 2008.

We must try to be more informed on the issues surrounding license expiration traffic and Silent Keys. In some cases, this kind of traffic has been addressed to Silent Keys. Please try to keep on top of these issues at all clubs and organizations. Your awareness could save embarrassment for all concerned.

Check out the new winter schedule for W1AW on the ARRL Web site.

A great job by **Tom Frenaye, K1KI**, our ARRL New England Division Director at the New England Division Cabinet meeting on

Jan. 5, 08, in Springfield, MA.

GOOD AIR WAVES

There was a discussion about how to attract new amateur radio operators. Some suggestions follow.

1. Getting new amateur radio operators on the air quickly is a key to retention.
2. Use assigned Elmers. My thoughts are the same, but Elmers should leave the new radio amateurs to themselves after a short session, so the new operators won't resent the help. Loosen the ties!
3. Organizations should follow up with the new radio amateurs in your clubs to keep their interest high.
4. Some clubs offer free membership.
5. Keep abreast with ARRL, and new amateur lists are available.
6. Focus all your resources to new amateurs. Programs, building equipment, hands-on soldering and design for new modes and frequencies.
7. Build a larger base on growth among our youth. HQ supports programs, scholarships, etc. for school participation. Recruit teachers, state and local police, fire department, church groups, and nursing homes. Integrate everyone within the community.
8. Make a Club Primer available online or in PFD format.

Great input!

*73 de Art Greenberg, K1GBX
 Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager*

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 54 Donald Street,
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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 were all shocked to learn the **Norm Riley, W1ATI, SK** had died suddenly on New Years Day. His obituary is on page 6.

Have we every asked each other "*How did you get into ham radio?*" If we had the answer to this question, perhaps we could translate it into the present time and recreate the "magic" that brought you into the hobby.

Are you interested in taking the Extra Exam this summer? Well you can get a head start on the new question set. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of 741 questions and 12 graphics <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>> for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012.

I was disappointed that no one showed up for the Kids Day activity at the SEMARA clubhouse. This is the second time I was "stood up."

While it was no hardship for me, I wonder what it says about SEMARA. The bands were quite open with only the usual atmospheric noise and several stations calling "CQ Kids Day." Oh yes, this time you would have enjoyed coated popcorn (butter, cheese, or caramel)!



HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T1B09 What letters must be used for the first letter in US amateur call signs?

- A. K, N, U and W
- B. A, K, N and W
- C. A, B, C and D
- D. A, N, V and W

Question* T1B10 What numbers are used in US amateur call signs?

- A. Any two-digit number, 10 through 99
- B. Any two-digit number, 22 through 45
- C. A single digit, 1 though 9
- D. A single digit, 0 through 9

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



CLUB NOTES

February is the time for school vacations, Presidents Day, and - of course - Valentines Day.

What does that suggest to you? For me it suggests an opportunity to invite some young people over to experience Amateur Radio first hand. And when you think of Valentines Day, don't you think about sending a Greeting? So why not send your greeting via the National Traffic System? For the complete primer on NTS, look at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/docs/MPG104A.DOC>. You might even be able to use ARL SIXTY to cut down on the word count.

Continuing on in this vein, some questions. "To those that were once active, what kind of club activities might have maintained an interest and involvement in the club?" "To active members, what kind of activities do other clubs regularly have that you feel sparks real interest?" Your feedback is always welcomed.

No applications for life membership were received at the January 3, 2008 business meeting.

Four people passed their written exam given at the January 5, 2008 VE session.

Congratulations to:

David K. Hood - Technician, KB1PVD

Michael J. Dowd - Technician, KB1PVC

Welcome to the hobby!

Michael J. Harwood - KB1 LVZ, General

Patrick A Luvara - N1JVV, Extra

Welcome to the HF bands!

NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

Saturday, February 2, 2008

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

"Dost thou love life?"

**Then do not squander time,
for that is the stuff life is made of."**

— Benjamin Franklin

SUDOKU

Here's something to keep you entertained while waiting for the net to start. **Solution is on page 6.**

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

Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 3, 2008 BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the president **Louis, W1CH**. The salute to the flag was followed by a roll call. A quorum of 18 members was present.

A **moment of silence** in remembrance of **Norm, W1ATI** was observed.

Secretary's Report was accepted as published in the January 2008 *Zero Beat* newsletter.

Treasurer's Report (Mike, KB1NB): Club's financial accounts' balance is \$53,847 as of 31 December 2007. Income for the month was \$1534 from Netcom. Expenses included \$675 Building and Grounds to complete the installation of the electrical panel and transfer switch; and \$188 power bill for 33 days usage. It was noted that this power usage period reflected mild weather conditions and that next month would reflect the colder conditions we are currently experiencing.

It was reported that Netcom was contacted to by SEMARA to resolve the outstanding issues and was initially met with a promise to comply by Netcom. After Netcom backed out, the matter was taken up by both attorneys from both parties resulting in a promise of 100% compliance by Netcom. All outstanding balances will be paid and surplus vehicles will be removed. Once the Verizon equipment (Netcom's customer) is installed, the security fence will be restored within 60 days.

A **motion** by **Armand, W1BUG**, referred the treasurer's report to audit and passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Technical Committee (Dave, W1DJG): Not much work has been required recently and everyone has been busy with the holidays and work events. **Tim, N1TI** added that the 2-meter transceiver for the "front" computer operating position has been checked out and ready for installation. The computer at the club station is ready for amateur radio software installation and asks that anyone installing programs to let the technical committee know. On the repeater side,

Dave, W1DJG reported that **Rick, W1RJC** has been busy with his new job and has not had the opportunity to address the new announcements for the repeater, but is still on the to-do list.

No reports from **Building and Grounds** and **Scholarship** committees

Special Committee Reports

No reports from **Activities, ARES/Skywarn, QSL** and **Communications** committees

Building/Renovation (Dave, K1JGV): The new 200 amp electrical panel and generator transfer switch installation has been completed.

Website (Tim, N1TI): Website is up to date with all 2007 content. Mailing list transition to Yahoo Groups will begin soon.

Events (Bob, K1KVV): Kids Day will be hosted at the club on Sunday (January 6, 2008).

President's Comments: Lou, W1CH expressed his gratitude to the outgoing club officers and welcomed the newly elected officers on board, wishing them a good year coming up.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

For the Good of the Club: Tim, N1TI reported that a new LaCrosse weather station has been purchased and donated to the club. When installed, weather conditions at the club (including indoor temperature) can be observed online and via APRS.

Dave Dean, K1JGV brought up the issue of remaining scrap metal from the hut demolition and suggested that a work party be organized to collect it and redeem at the scrap yard. Discussion regarding the old oil tank was deferred to a future meeting.

Tim, N1TI mentioned the issue of the clambake fire being left unattended and asked that during the next event that the fire is put down properly. (Fire was still active at 8PM with club unoccupied).

Chris, W1EAV offered a motion to **adjourn** which passed unanimously at 7:22 p.m.

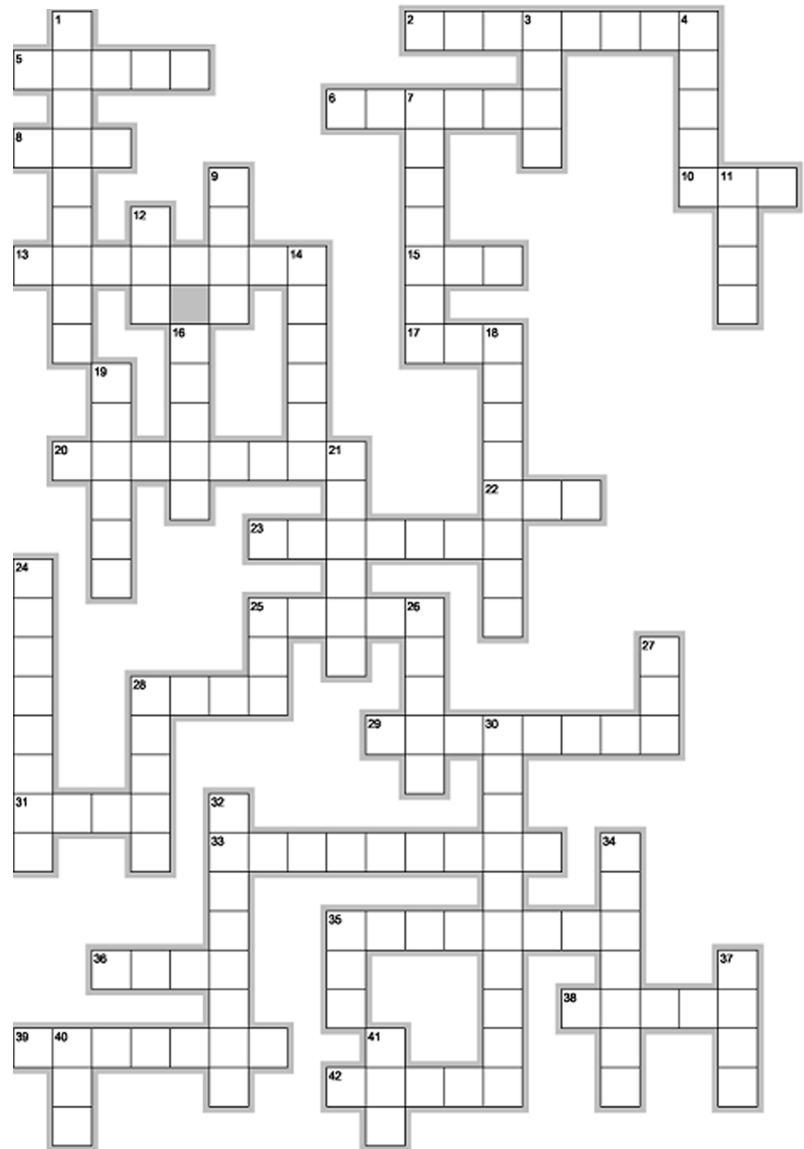
Respectfully submitted,

Tim Smith, N1TI Secretary

SEMARA NEWS

Across

2. A fun time each September
5. With a longwire you need one
6. Before you transmit, ____
8. A favorite pastime of WA1ZCB and K1KID
10. The Wednesday night net at 8:30PM is on what band?
13. Forced new 440 MHz repeater restrictions
15. If you are lucky, you can see and work this heavenly vehicle
17. Coordinated Universal Time
20. K1AHA likes to build these
22. The lower the better
23. Our repeater manufacturer
25. Memorial for Ken Dyer (callsign)
28. Responsible for SEMARA members weight gain (callsign)
29. Green DIY from Benton Harbor, MI
31. You find me easily with this mode
33. Listen on one band and transmit on another
35. Best antenna orientation for FM
36. We are an affiliate club of the ____
38. If you missed kids day you also missed free ____
39. Find me if you can
40. One of SEMARA's least favorite substances
42. 555



EclipseCrossword.com

Solution on page 6.

Down

1. This net is active on 14.325 during the summer months
3. Few clubs have this
4. Volunteers gather regularly to administer these
7. Banned from the clubhouse
9. Hiram Percy Maxim callsign
11. For repeaters only
12. The Tuesday night net at 8:30PM is on what band?
14. Our organization
16. Iambic ____
18. Business meetings are held on the first what?
19. The rubber hits this before your arrive to the club
21. Free coffee and donuts on this day
24. When your BFO no longer makes a sound
25. Standard time station callsign
26. After you check into this 7:00pm net, one must put these critters away
27. It came down on July 23, 2007 - RIP!
28. SEMARA founder callsign
30. Emitter-Base-Collector device
32. Fun to do from your rig or computer
34. Maker of the famous 75S3
35. We used to use crystals until this came along
37. one volt times one amp
40. One of SEMARA's least favorite substances
41. Popular monthly electronics flea

FEB VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30AM 2 Feb

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 21 Feb

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 18 Feb

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 9 Feb

Jack Garforth-K1IG
K1IG@verizon.net
 401-683-2250

Providence, RI — 7:00PM 14 Feb

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

Slatersville, RI — 9:00AM none

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

NE FLEA MARKETS

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

2 Feb WinterFest 2008 Chelsea, ME
 Bill — 207-623-9075

16 Feb Flea Market Marlborough, MA
 David — 508-357-2272 x 1 (before 9 PM)

23 Feb Vermont State Convention Milton, VT
 Mitch — 802-879-6589

SOME FEB CONTESTS

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

Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party: 0001Z Feb 2 - 1759Z Feb 3. See www.ten-ten.org

Delaware QSO Party: 1700Z Feb 2 - 0500Z Feb 3 and 1300Z Feb 3 - 0100Z Feb 4. See www.fsarc.org

Vermont QSO Party: 0000Z Feb 2 - 2400Z Feb 3. See www.qsl.net/w1bd

New Hampshire QSO Party: 0001Z Feb 9 - 0001Z Feb 10. See www.w1fz.org

Louisiana QSO Party: 1500Z Feb 9 - 0300Z Feb 10. See laqso.w5yl.org

Northern New York QSO Party: 0000Z Feb 9 - 2359Z Feb 10. See www.nnyara.org

British Columbia QSO Challenge: 1600Z Feb 9 - 0359Z Feb 10. See www.deltaamateurradio.com

OMISS QSO Party: 1500Z Feb 9 - 1500Z Feb 10. See www.omiss.net

FM Simplex Contest: 10-440, 1 PM - 4 PM CST Feb 10. See www.w9rh.org

ARRL DX Contest: 0000Z Feb 16 - 2400Z Feb 17. See www.arrl.org/contest

AM QSO Party: 80-20, 0000Z Feb 16 - 0000Z Feb 17. See www.antiquewireless.org

UBA Contest: 1300Z Feb 23 - 1300Z Feb 24. See www.uba.be

REF Contest: 0600Z Feb 23 - 1800Z Feb 24. See www.ref-union.org/concours

Mississippi QSO Party: 1500Z Feb 23 - 0300Z Feb 24. See www.arrl.org/contest

North American QSO Party: 1800Z Feb 23 - 0600Z Feb 24. See www.ncjweb.com

North Carolina QSO Party: 1700Z Feb 24 - 0300Z Feb 25. See www.w4nc.com

B. T1B09: Letters A, K, N and W must be used for the first letter in US amateur call signs.
 D. T1B10: A single digit, 0 through 9, number I used in US amateur call signs.



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>

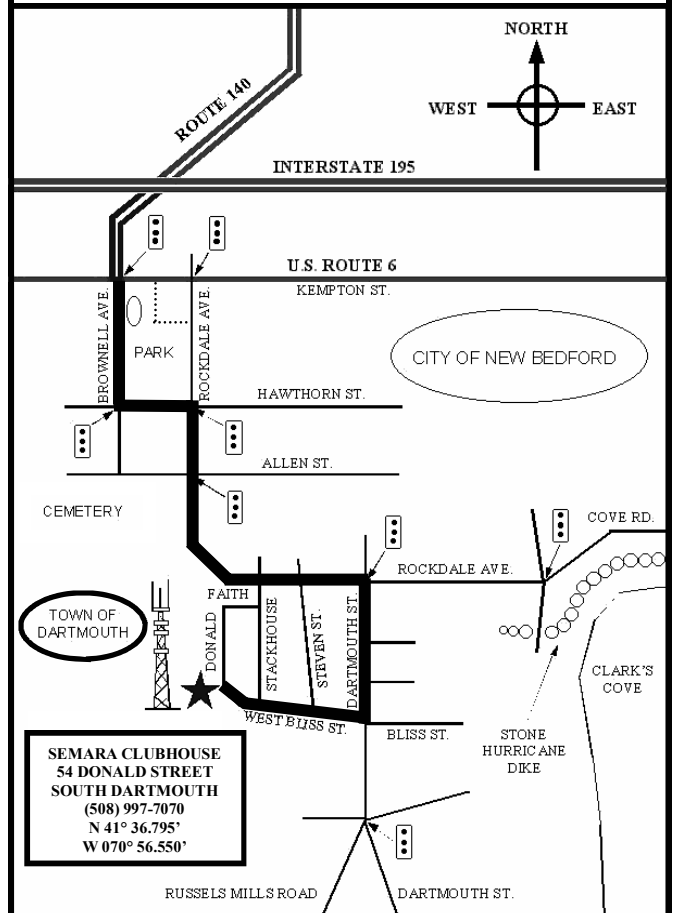
FISTS CW no.10555

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