



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 5

SEMARA-W1AEC

May 2010

Antenna Antics



1



2



3



4

G5RV Going Up

1. Marty, KA1YFV, and Joe K, N1IXC, holding on to the ladder line.
2. Dave, W1DJG, captured by the wild ladder line.
3. Joe K, N1IXC, running with the G5RV rope.
4. Joe K, N1IXC, holding on as the balun goes to the top of the pole.
5. Second location for the G5RV—relocated by Marty, KA1YFV, and Dick, K1AHA, to get a better coverage.



5

(Continued on page 6)

ZERO BEAT

Published online monthly
 ©2010 Southeastern Massachusetts
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 54 Donald Street,
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748
 (508) 997-7070

EDITOR: Bob Kelley—K1KVV
 E-mail: editor@semara.org
SEMARA: <http://www.semara.org>
 E-mail: clubinfo@semara.org

2010 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Louis Mester—W1CH
Vice President
 Bob Kelley—K1KVV
Secretary Marcel Dumont—W1MLD
Treasurer
 Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC
 Brad Paiva—W1BEP
 John Walsh—WA1LSH

Trustees: (year term is up)

Charlie Days—WA1JFD (2010) chair
 Tim Smith—N1TI (2011)
 Henry Blanchett—W1GYL (2012)
 John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013)
 Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds
 Dave Dean—K1JGV
 Marty Jordan—KA1YFV

Scholarship

Sonny Eddleston—K1USW – chair
 Chuck Moszczanski—KB1FRL
 Alan Dulong—WB1FQP
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Technical/Repeater/Website

Dave Goldstein—W1DJG: Tech
 Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Repeater
 Ben Jackson—N1WBV: Web

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Scott Szala—W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

QSL Manager

vacant

Radio Events

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

Tech Talk

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV <editor@semara.org>



that SEMARA is poised to move into high gear. We actually restored our HF capability thanks to G5RV antenna donated by **Dave, W1DJG**, and installed by a cast of ‘thousands’ - see if you can identify any of them in the photos included in this issue. Maybe that means we can anticipate some activity for Field Day 2010. I for one am looking forward to cooking over charcoal that goes along operating in shifts. See you on the last full weekend in June. I can bring the charcoal; who will bring the drinks, rolls and the rest? Let’s start a sign-up sheet so we don’t end up with lots of hot-dogs and no mustard and relish.

“ In March, the FCC released a NPRM that proposes to amend the Part 97 rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. *[Such operations are currently not permitted.]*

On April 22, a summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register and the FCC is seeking comments on it **filed on or before May 24, 2010**. Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 5 of the NPRM: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf.” *Abstracted from ARRL Bulletin 14 - April 26, 2010*

A related issue: agencies using Amateur Radio Operators (and our spectrum) for communications that should be conducted on their FCC assigned frequencies. The problem is the precedent of using our spectrum as an excuse to gobble up amateur spectrum. As usual, we are caught between a rock and a hard place: use it or lose it—but don’t abuse it. A case in point was a recent request by a RI agency to have hams assess the flood damage for them in the state. There is no problem with hams driving around and observing. The problem is it is ‘easier’ to use hams who provide their own equipment (and gas) while we willingly put our Amateur Radio Service at risk. Note the survey was not an emergency that could not be accomplished any other way.

POINT TO PONDER

“Little strokes fell great oaks.”

~ Benjamin Franklin

HAMMIN’ AROUND

Question* E1B01 Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?

- An amateur station transmission made at random without the proper call sign identification
- A signal transmitted in a way that prevents its detection by any station other than the intended recipient
- Any transmitted bogus signal that interferes with another licensed radio station
- An emission outside its necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted

* 2008 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool (good thru 2012-06-30)

Answer on page 6

Club Notes

May is a busy month. Since it is supposed to bring flowers, it follows that it will also bring tall grass to be cut, etc.



This year Mothers Day comes early as usual. It is interesting that this holiday was a result of mothers objecting to sending their sons off to war to be maimed or killed. [I wonder when it was transformed into a merchandizing holiday?]



In appreciation for all that our military do and have done for us, remember to participate in the **Armed Forces Communications Test** on May 8, celebrate **Armed Forces Day** on May 15 and **Memorial Day** on May 31. It is the least we can do.



When you think about it, May is the month to remind us of how lucky we are to be protected by so many people.



So, let's remember the fun time we had last year and anticipate the good times to come — break out the BBQ and your portable rig for outdoors activity. It's about time we showed off our hobby.



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

June 5, 2010

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS

LRHguy@earthlink.net

508-991-6055



Club Numbers

GPS Coordinates:

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

Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: **FN41mo**

For FISTS Sprints: FISTS #10555

LOCAL NETS

Everyone is welcome to check in!

147.000+ (PL 67.0 Hz) (FM) — “Camel” Net Roundtable is operating irregularly at 7 p.m. on the SEMARA Repeater. **Bob, N1VUG** (Fairhaven) usually opens the net on Mondays and Wednesdays. See if you can add to the fun on the air —*bring some trivia questions* and see if anyone can be stumped.

50.200 MHz (USB) — Net is held *Wednesdays* at 8:30 p.m. **Bob, N1HCW** (Acushnet) is net control.

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

3862 kHz (LSB) — SEMARA Morning Net is held *weekdays* from 7:30-8 a.m. ET.

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

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

144 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/2m.htm>)

222 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/222.htm>)

440 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/440.htm>)

902 (<http://www.nerepeaters.com/902.htm>)

Sudoku

Here's an easy Sudoku puzzle to ponder while waiting on net control. (**Page 6 has the solution.**)

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

Official Meeting Minutes



April 1, 2010

The President, **Louie (W1CH)** called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with the salute to the Flag. The roll was called with 26 members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading and accept the report as posted on the bulletin board and in the ZERO BEAT. The members voted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no report due to the treasurer's absence.

STANDING COMMITTEE'S

Buildings and Grounds

Dave (K1JGV) reported that the cost to redo the women's room to a handicap restroom would be \$950.00 for the plumbing. Enlarging the room would be additional. There is a problem in that the Dartmouth Building Department is requiring architect plans and stamp. Hopefully we can work out the problem and expense.

Dave also explained that we need to setup a crew for scraping and painting the trim on the building. We would like to do this when the weather breaks in the near future.

Scholarship Committee

Sonny (K1USW) reported that the committee has picked a winner for the scholarship. She is a Senior at New Bedford High School. Sonny read the letter that he sent to the winner and we should expect her to come the May meeting to read her essay for wanting the scholarship. She will also accept the \$500.00 reward at that time.

Technical Committee

Dave (W1DJG) reported that this winter has been a tough time for our equipment. The antennas on the 85 foot tower need to be taken down and rebuilt.

Also, the two meter repeater antenna appears to have a water issue and is causing crunchy noise. The antenna has been tested and the problem confirmed. This antenna must be repaired before June 1st so that it may be used for the RACES net.

Rick (W1RJG) reported that the 900 MHZ repeater controller will be installed and the IRLP will also be installed soon. The components have been received.

Website

Rick (W1RJG) reported has been partially installed and should be up and running in the next few weeks. It will be easy to log in and we should be able to add content to the site.

SKYWARN, ARES, RACES

Ed (KA1RSY) reported that RACES 2a will be using the 2 meter repeater for the State emergency communications. This is a great honor for the club. It will take the place of the Taunton repeater.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) reported that there are several contests going on for the month of April. Some of these are listed in ZERO BEAT. FARA has announced a simplex-only QSO party on 2 meters on May 30th, 7:30 AM to 9:00 PM.

Old Business

Bob (K1KVV) wanted to acknowledge the fact that the new curtains have been installed by CC Krinosky, wife of **Joe K (N1IXC)** and wanted to thank her for the nice gift.

New Business

Marcel (W1MLD) read a letter that we received from the Dartmouth Police Department requesting the placement of a receiving antenna at the top of the tower in our space. There was considerable discussion and a motion was made and seconded to allow the antenna with several stipulations. Those will be approved by the BOD prior to sending the approval letter. The vote of the members was 23 for, 3 opposed. Motion passed.

Rick (W1RJG) brought up a request from Fairhaven EMA for a utility pole to be donated to them for mounting antennas. We do have several spare utility poles and a motion was made and seconded to donate one pole to the Fairhaven EMA. The members voted unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Motion voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Marcel Dumont (W1MLD)



SEMARA News



BOD MEETING

April 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by the President, **Louie (W1CH)**.

Those present were **Louie (W1CH)**, **Bob (K1KVV)**, **Marcel (W1MLD)**, **Mike (KB1NB)**, **Joe K (N1IXC)**, **Dave (K1JGV)**, **Dick (K1AHA)**.

Bob (K1KVV) asked the Treasurer if there has been a settlement on the oil spill situation. **Mike (KB1NB)** said that we did get a settlement and the amount was not to be disclosed. This was resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. The treasurer was under a court secrecy order. We will now be able to payoff the Frank Corp. bill and the Attorney and have some leftover. Mike was thanked by the BOD for all the work that he did in this process.

Marcel (W1MLD) read a letter that is to be sent to the Dartmouth Police Dept. for the antenna. It was suggested to include Netcom in the signature. This will be done. Also change the letter to read antenna not to break the top of the tower.

Bob (K1KVV) brought up the question of amateurs volunteering for Government agency work. Be careful on using ham bands. There is a fine line.

Bob (K1KVV) also suggested that we maybe look into another assessment. There was some discussion and there was no decision.

The second thing was to rewrite the Constitution and reinstate the dues. We have to decide which kind of club we want to be and what do we do to head in that direction. There was some discussion as to the pros and cons of this subject. This should be brought up to the membership.

We also need leadership to head up various committee's. We should also focus on some tech talks of interest to the members.

The subjects to be addressed in order of priority are antennas, dues and events.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcel Dumont (W1MLD)

REMINDER

Make the first Monday of the month, "Emergency Communications Night." Check into your local RACES Net and then check into the 8:30 PM ARES Net on the MMRA Repeater System.

Starting June first, the SEMARA repeater will replace the Taunton repeater, providing local coverage. For frequencies that will be linked into the ARES Net on the MMRA Network through Hub 1, see the MMRA website.

<http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/map.html>

If the Echo-IRLP node on the MMRA hub is available, we will link that to the New England Reflector system on IRLP 9123/Echolink Conference *NEW-ENG* Node: 9123.

We look forward to your participation and remember, we are always looking for Net Controls to run the ARES Net.

We always have several announcements for the net and we look forward to everyone's participation.

Updates will be posted via email and on the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Web Site at

<http://ares.ema.arrrl.org>

Thanks for your continued support of ARES!

Rob (KD1CY)

Letter to the Editor

A short time ago I got the application in for the handicap permit and just today I have the permit in my hot little hand.

I was so excited that I yanked the old wall out at the club in a few hours and will follow along with pushing the job along. The application was \$25.00 and the permit was \$75.00. I paid it and will hit SEMARA for it.

I can give an overall estimate for the rest room of \$1800.00 at this time. It breaks down for: plumber \$950.00, Dave Dean.....\$0.00. Add the handicap door and other goodies such as rails, hardware, paint and some minor electrical along with Murphy, we will see \$1500 minimum.

Marty (KA1YFV) and **Dick (K1AHA)** moved the G5RV as a temporary fix at the club. The paint project (and others) will kick off in a few weeks. All ahead full.

73, Dave K1JGV

More SEMARA News

Norman L. Benoit, WA1KDT (SK)



Norman L. Benoit, WA1KDT, 75, of Fairhaven, MA, passed on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. He joined SEMARA in 1998.

He was the Godfather of Patricia Days, wife of Charlie, WA1JFD. We send our sympathy to his family for their loss.

May he rest in peace.



THIS IS WHAT THE SEMARA ESTATE LOOKS LIKE FROM ABOUT 500'



OUR FREE-WHEELING SOMMERS LOG-YAGI ANTENNA ON THE 80' TOWER

(Continued from page 1)

Aerial view courtesy of Joe K, N1IXC.

The Log-Yagi antenna suffered from a hard winter. The beam support line broke, some elements were bent, and the antenna is now free-wheeling—breaking the hard-line.

Answer: Sudoku 50

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

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?
D. An emission outside its necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted.



OUR 3 TOWER-TOP ANTENNAS:
(L-R) 902 MHz REPEATER, 2-M
APRS & 222 MHz TRI-BANDED (IN
THE BACK), AND 2-M REPEATER
CARDIOD ANTENNA WITH REFLECTOR



VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>**SEMARA – 10:30AM** **June 5th**

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

Braintree, MA – 9:00AM **May 8th**

William Needham-K1WN **no walk-ins**
K1WN@aol.com
 781-845-4400

Canton, MA – 7:30 PM **May 20th**

Lou Harris-N1UEC
n1uec@n1uec.org
 508-333-5714

Cranston, RI – 9:15 AM **June 6th**

Ken Carr-KB1AWV **pre-register**
kb1awv@yahoo.com
 401-828-1665

Falmouth, MA – 9:00AM **May 8th**

W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
BenFleck@cape.com
 508-540-2583

Fall River, MA – 7:00PM **May 17th**

Skip Denauly-KB1CNB
skip@newtestamentschool.org
 774-644-3469

Middletown, RI – 9:00AM **June 12th**

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

Providence, RI – 7:00PM **May 13th**

Louis Mester-W1CH
W1CH@arrrl.net
 401-263-6045

Slatersville, RI – 9:00AM **May 22nd**

Robert E. Jones-WB1P
WB1P@arrrl.net
 401-333-4787

S. Yarmouth, MA – 10:00AM **June 5th**

Celeste Marie Dean-W1CMD **no walk-ins**
W1CMD@comcast.net

W. Warwick, RI – 7:00PM **May 26th**

Thomas F. Senerichia-WA1VAY
WA1VAY@juno.com
 401-265-9968

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

<http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests/search>

- 8 May Rensselaer, NY—EGARA Hamfest**
 Thomas-KC2FCP 518-272-1494
- 16 May Cambridge, MA — FLEA at MIT**
 Nick 617-253-3776
- 22 May Goshen, CT—SoBARC Hamfest**
 Lee-K1LEE 860-435-0051
- 29 May Vernon, CT—NARC Hamfest**
 Wayne-N1GUS 860-487-1921

Some Contests

<http://www.arrrl.org/contest-coral-calendar>**Armed Forces Communications Test**

May 8, 1200Z - May 9, 2400Z

Phone-Digital www.netcom.army.mil/mars**Portuguese Navy Days**

Phone-CW: May 8, 1500Z - May 9, 1500Z

Digital: May 15, 0800Z - May 15, 1500Z

www.nra.pt**His Majesty King of Spain Contest**

May 15, 1200Z - May 16, 1200Z

CW www.ure.es**All America Contest**

May 15, 1500Z - May 16, 2359Z

CW www.powerline.com.br/cw/jf/eng4.htm**CQ WW WPX Contest**CW www.cqwpw.com

May 29, 0000Z - May 30, 2400Z

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint

May 30, 8 PM - May 30, Midnight

CW www.qrparci.org**MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint**

May 31, 2300Z - Jun 1, 0300Z

CW www.miqrp.org

ALL-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

**AT THE CLUBHOUSE
BUSINESS MEETING**

7 PM First Thursday of the month

SUNDAY RAGCHEW

7-11 AM SUN

MOST-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM FRIDAYS* **Meet at the clubhouse at 11:15 AM**

Each week we decide which local restaurant is to have the honor of our presence.

* *Call on the repeater if you are going to be late.*