



# ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 8

SEMARA-W1AEC

August 2010

## HC Restroom Progress



WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR?

Thanks to our "Clerk of the Works," Dave (K1JGV), we are close to having a working Handicap restroom. Handrails need to be installed, some rewiring done, and paneling (re-)applied.

At that point, we might have a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion. If we every have a person in need inside the clubhouse, we will be ready.



NEW FIXTURES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED  
— NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME YET —

**W**hat needs to be done next?

- A handicap-width side entrance door
- An automatic door operating system
- An external handicap ramp with porch and roof
- And anything else that we should have.

We don't have a firm idea about the cost of these next items. Be assured that we will not be skimping.

We will be looking for low maintenance solutions. It turns out that the present membership is aging too. We all may be in need of these new facilities.

The ramp and door will be of use not only by those in wheelchairs, but also by those using walkers and canes. It will be useful to those who need an easier way to get heavy things in and out of the clubhouse.

## ZERO BEAT

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Amateur Radio Association, Inc.54 Donald Street,  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748  
(508) 997-7070**EDITOR:** Bob Kelley—K1KVVE-mail: [editor\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:editor[at]semara[dot]org)**SEMARA:** <http://www.semara.org>E-mail: [wlaec\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:wlaec[at]semara[dot]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

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Website

Ben Jackson—N1WBV: facebook

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES***Activities*

Scott Szala—W1EV

*ARES/SKYWARN/RACES*

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

*QSL Manager*

Joe Nery—WA1ESO

*Radio Events*

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

*Tech Talk*

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

## It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV &lt;editor[at]semara[dot]org&gt;



That some folks seem to think we should pay others to do things that we don't do for ourselves. Like what? Like cut the grass, grade the driveway, etc. Are we too wealthy, or do we just wish we were?

It is too bad that our Building & Grounds co-Chairs have their own health issues. In the past, they could handle the job. Lately they have not been doing too well. Of course, they do need to ask others to pitch in and help out a bit. But. I think they are too shy, or embarrassed, to ask for help. So let's be pro-active and anticipate their situation before it becomes a crisis. Step up and volunteer—you can take out the trash, can't you?

This issue, I tried to pick issues that everyone has an interest in. If I have missed your favorite, just let me know.

A short list of articles I didn't properly include follows:

- Vanity Call Sign Fees to Decrease August 17 to \$13.30.
- Need to decide on which coax you need to buy? Here's a Transmission Line Loss Calculator:  
<http://www.kc7hxc.us/links/radio/Coax%20Calc/Coax%20Calculator.html>
- Rich (W2RG) sent in his June VHF QSO Party report:

"For the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, I made it out to Race Point and Marconi Beach on the Cape on Saturday and to the Fairhaven Town Beach on Sunday. Both were beautiful days to be operating as a rover.

"Six meters was alive on Saturday. In one and a half hours, I made 8 QSOs on 6m and 4 QSOs on 2m from Race Point. Six meters was open to the Gulf Coast and Midwest using just a 1/2-wave loop about 11 feet up on 6 m. Using just a 4-element beam at about 7 ft on 2 m, the longest path was to Camelback Mountain (W3CCX) in Pennsylvania. I worked only one more station each on 6 and 2 from Marconi Beach before nature drove me out — the insects were terrible!

"The low bands were quieter late Sunday morning at Fairhaven Beach, but in two hours I worked another 4 QSOs on 6 m and 4 on 2m. Add to that 8 QSO's on the bands from 432 through 10 GHz, and it was a good morning.

"My next similar roving outing will be the September VHF Party (11-12 Sep) when I'll be working as part of the K1WHS contest team. If you're interested in doing some real geek radio (50 MHz and Up – everything else is just DC!) and would like to join me in the rover van, just let me know by email."

~Rich (W2RG)

**POINT TO PONDER**

"There is always time for the important things.

—Alan Lakein

**HAMMIN' AROUND****Question\* T0C09**

How can you make sure your station stays in compliance with RF safety regulations?

- By informing the FCC of any changes made in your station
- By re-evaluating the station whenever an item of equipment is changed
- By making sure your antennas have low SWR
- All of these choices are correct

\* 2014 Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool (good thru 2014-06-30) Answer on page 8.

# Club Notes



**A**ugust marks the last official month of summer. The kids will be going back to school, the weather is still warm and Labor Day is just around the corner.

So, what can we do with this month? Make the most of it!

## New Member

At the July 1, 2010 business meeting, there was one application for membership:

**Paul Sadeck (KA1IB)** from East Freetown.  
Paul is an Advanced class amateur.

*Welcome to the club!*

## 50/50 Raffle Results

The winner of \$16.00 was  
**Bill Vincent (W1POW)**  
He split \$32.00 with SEMARA

## Fairhaven Weather Net

Thanks to SEMARA for temporary housing, the Fairhaven Repeater Weather Net. It has now returned to the Fairhaven repeater, 145.490- (67.0 Hz) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 PM. Wednesday the net is on the Plymouth repeater, 146.685- (82.5 Hz).]



*You are invited to join in.*



**NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION**  
**August 7, 2010**  
**Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM**  
 Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHGuy\[at\]earthlink\[dot\]net](mailto:LRHGuy[at]earthlink[dot]net)  
 508-991-6055

**Club Numbers**  
 GPS Coordinates:  
**Lat. N 41° 36.795' Long. W 070° 56.550'**  
 Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: **FN41 mo**  
 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, usually on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**50.200 MHz (USB)** — Net is held *Wednesdays* at 8:30 p.m. **Dick, K1AHA (S. Dartmouth)** is net control.

**28.490 MHz (USB)** — Net is held *Tuesdays* at 8:30 p.m. **Dick, K1AHA (S. Dartmouth)** 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.nerepeaters.com/se.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 8 has the solution.)

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



# Official Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2010



The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Vice-President Bob Kelley (K1KVV) with the salute to the flag.

A moment of silence was held for Patrick Walsh, the son of John Walsh (WA1LSH), who passed away recently.

The roll was called with 22 members present and one guest.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as published in *ZERO BEAT* and posted on the board. Voted unanimously.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mike (KB1NB) reported that the treasury has a total of \$33,840.43 including all accounts. A motion was made and seconded to refer to audit. This motion was voted unanimously.

## STANDING COMMITTEE'S

### Buildings and Grounds

Dave (K1JGV) reported that the construction work on the Handicap restroom is coming along well. The new fixtures have been installed and inspected. The door needs to be hung and the painting and wall finishing needs to be completed. Handicap rails also have to be purchased and installed.

### Scholarship

Sonny (K1USW) spoke about classes for radio amateur licensing. Tony (NN1D) and Ben (N1WBV) will probably be giving the classes. A discussion on timing was the major issue.

### Technical Committee

Rick (W1RJC) reconfigured the wiring for IRLP and both repeaters are now IRLP capable. Two Cat-5 cables were run from the clubhouse to the repeater site by Tony (NN1D) and Marcel (W1MLD).

The Dartmouth Police receiver and the antenna will be installed by NETCOM in the next few weeks.

A 900 MHz radio has been mounted in the clubhouse.

Computer access can be implemented by obtaining a password thru the technical committee. There was some discussion about the computer and Rick answered the questions.

## ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

The hurricane drill will be held August 2, 2010 be-

tween 7 and 9 P.M. The ARES and RACES drills will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 and 8:30 respectively. Joe K (N1IXC) reported that the drill last month on our repeater went well and all were pleased.

## QSL

It was decided that John (WA1ESO) was the QSL Manager and he is asking where the software is for the electronic QSLs. The programs were deleted from the computers when they were replaced. No one seems to know where the software is. *This will be investigated.*

## Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) reported that there was some participation in Field Day. There are a number of contests going on this month, lots of CW. Much is listed in *ZERO BEAT*.

## Repeater

Rick (W1RJC) reported that the 900 repeater is now functioning and is tied into the NE repeater network on 900 MHz.

There was a change made to the PL on this repeater. It is now 67.0 Hz and the other Dartmouth repeater is the same.

Jeff (N1ZZN) and Steve "HO" (KA1HO) along with Rick (W1RJC) will have a programming party to program anyone's radio that has to be configured or reconfigured. This will take place on Sunday morning at 11:00 AM on July 11th.

The 900 repeater is IRLP 8884 and the NE reflector node is 9125, PL tone 67.0 Hz. "Hear clear" is disabled.

It was recommended to send Jeff and "HO" a letter thanking them for configuring this repeater.

The repeater committee suggests that we add a remote base radio to link to the MMRA so that we can hold the ARES net on 147.000. It would also allow linking to 220 and 440 repeaters. *This will be talked about later.*

## Website

Rick (W1RJC) reported that the website has been worked on and the theme was changed to make it more user friendly.

It was suggested that the club look into the possibility of getting a PAYPAL account so that new applicants could apply and pay over the internet.

(Continued on page 7)

# SEMARA News

## Sunday Morning



**JOE K (N1IXC)**  
ENJOYING THE 'COMMODIOUS' ACCOMMODATIONS  
TO CATCH UP ON THE LATEST NEWS  
REMOVED FROM THE FORMER LADIES ROOM



## IRLP Protocol

On occasion, I notice that stations are not following proper operating procedure when using the IRLP node on 147.000 & 145.490. In most cases, it is not properly identifying yourself when accessing the link (and any control codes).

*Here are some basic guidelines:*

### BEFORE USE

Always listen for 30 seconds to make sure that the repeater is not in use. If clear, proceed by keying your microphone and announcing:

**“(your call sign) CONTROL”**

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Notice Anything Missing?

**A**s you may have heard, the 147.000 repeater had been experiencing sporadic crackling noises on weaker signals over the past year. It was determined that the cause of this problem was not in the repeater itself, but in the antenna. This is no surprise, we had this same issue almost 5 years ago.

The repeater antenna was a commercial grade Super Stationmaster. It is built to withstand the toughest conditions. It comes with a price tag of over \$1,000. We originally installed this antenna model in 1999, when the current 180 foot tower was built. Unfortunately, that antenna had to be replaced in 2006 because of the same crackling problem. Faced with replacing the antenna once again, it appears that the average life span of this antenna is only about 5 years, not 15-20 as advertised.

A recommendation was made by Tony (NN1D) to purchase a consumer grade Tram 1481 (a Diamond X-500 equivalent), a \$100 antenna. One has been in use on Tony's 146.805 repeater for a few years with good results. SEMARA purchased this same antenna and NETCOM swapped antennas on Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

The end result? A very clean sounding repeater with improved coverage! Dave (W1DJG) is now able to hold the repeater until the end of MA Rte. 24 in Canton at the I-93 split.

The current plan is to use this antenna until any future issues arise. If we have to replace this antenna once per year after a harsh NE winter, the cost is still half of the cost of replacing a \$1,000 antenna every five years.

*Originally posted by  
Rick (W1RJC)  
on semara.org*



# More SEMARA News

## Raining on a Parade\*

I'm sure you have heard the expression "raining on a parade." What it means is that someone has mostly negative or uncomplimentary things to say about someone else's idea or event. After all, no one enjoys going to a parade and then having a rain-storm come up so that everyone gets soaked and the parade is ruined, right? When someone disrupts an activity for someone else, whether by simply proselytizing against it and saying negative things or by actually getting in the way of that activity, that is "raining on the parade."

I was tuning the HF bands, listening for potential contacts, as were many other people during last weekend's Field Day event. While my interest lies mainly in the social aspects of the contest rather than the point score, I do still enjoy listening around the bands to find out who is making contacts and what the HF propagation conditions are like. I ran across an unfortunate QSO – if you can even call it that – around 14.270 MHz. There seemed to be some kind of argument or perhaps even a monologue going on about one guy suing another guy, and then there was a CQ for a "no contest contest" during which the caller went on and on without much listening time and sparse identification. It didn't take long to figure out that he hated Field Day and was not shy about letting everyone else know his opinion.

Of course anyone is entitled to an opinion and the regulations say that you only need to identify your station at the end of the series of transmissions and once every 10 minutes. While making domestic contacts, there is actually no requirement to identify your station right away. The thing I find disturbing is that it seems so confrontational to behave in this ungentlemanly manner. Field Day is a popular operating activity, and this really amounts to "raining on the parade." Why not just let people enjoy the contest during this one weekend out of the year and let it go at that? Or, if one really wanted to operate without competition from contesters, one could just as easily get on one of the bands that is not used in the contest.

Most of the amateur radio operators one meets either in person or on the air are really friendly, but a single loudmouth can give our service a bad name.

My advice? Wise old Elmer says:

- Always identify your transmissions.

- Be polite while sharing the bands.
- Welcome those who are new to operating, and be patient with them when they make mistakes.
- Be thoughtful and kind to others.
- Respect the fact that other operators may have different operating goals, and give them their time and space on the bands to pursue them.

For Handiham World, I'm...

Patrick Tice  
wa0tda@arrl.net

\* Originally appeared in Handiham World Weekly E-Letter for Wednesday, 30 June 2010

[ I included this article because it is important to remember that sometime the individual who does the "raining" may be having serious problems of their own and uses this behavior to deal with it. I personally have observed this phenomenon in persons who died shortly thereafter. So, let's give these individuals some space – they may not be with us much longer. Editor]

(IRLP continued from page 5)

NEVER key your mike and enter a node number without FIRST IDENTIFYING YOUR STATION.

### CONNECTING

Connect to IRLP Enter: [4 digit node number]

Connect to EchoLink Enter: Star (\*) + [node number]

After connecting to a node, always listen again for 30 seconds to make sure a QSO on the remote end is not already in progress before announcing your presence. Sometimes when a transmission is in progress on the remote end, it may take up to 10 seconds for the audio to begin. If you were to immediately key your mike and announce "*(your call sign) listening,*" you can actually interrupt a QSO in progress.

### AFTER USE

When done with the link, key your mike and enter "73." Then wait for the disconnect message to complete, before keying your mike and announcing

"*(your call sign) CLEAR*"

### Notes

After use, be sure you **FIRST** disconnect and then let the disconnect message play **BEFORE** your fi-

(IRLP continued on page 7)



# More SEMARA News

(Minutes continued from page 4)

*This suggestion will be brought up later.*

## Application for membership

There was one application for membership from **Paul Sadeck (KA1IB)** of 90 Dr. Braley Rd., East Freetown. Paul is an Advanced class amateur. A motion was made and seconded to accept the application. It was voted unanimously to make Paul Sadeck a life member.

## Old Business

Chris (W1EAV) asked that he be reimbursed \$25.00 for the 900 Radio, which was approved several months ago. The motion was made and *tabled until next month* so that a receipt may be turned in to the treasurer.

## New Business

Rick (W1RJC) has checked and it is still legal to use 440 MHz. Rick has a Motorola GM300 that he will donate and we could use to link MMRA. After some discussion a motion was made to accept this radio. If it does not work out, the club will give Rick the first option to purchase it for \$1.00. Voted unanimously.

Ben (N1WBV) made a motion to *get rid of the computers* after the tech Committee sanitizes and audits all computer equipment in the clubhouse and storage trailer. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Rick (W1RJC) made a motion and was seconded to set up a PAYPAL account and checked by the treasurer. A discussion was held and after discussing various issues it was decided to vote against the motion and *it failed*. One in favor the balance against.

## Good of the Club

Eric (N1WCO) suggested that we need a Flea Market chairman.

Ben (N1WBV) notified the members that we received a *certificate for first place* in Eastern Massachusetts Section Multi Operator class for last year. Ben also thanked those who participated in this years Field Day.

Rick (W1RJC) *will purchase* distilled water for the batteries, which are low.

Brad (W1BEP) wanted to thank the Tech committee for the work they have done with setting up and configuring the 900 repeater.

Joe (N1IXC) asked if the radios have been removed from the trailer? The answer was that it will be done next weekend.

## Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:25 PM, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted

**Marcel Dumont (W1MLD)**



(IRLP continued from page 6)

nal station ID. This an IRLP guideline mainly to ease congestion on a busy reflector. If every station said something like “*(call sign) disconnecting*” and then pressed “73,” other repeaters connected to the reflector would hear people announcing their call sign through the reflector all day as people come and go.

In any case, you **MUST ID AFTER DISCONNECTING**. What has been heard lately is stations disconnecting from nodes and **NOT ID-ing**, which is also illegal if it was your last transmission (you must legally ID at the end of each communication and at least every ten minutes during a communication per FCC Part §97.119. It also lets any control operators listening know that the control code being entered is by a valid ham and was not malicious.

Control operators have the ability to remotely link and de-link via a web interface. This is especially true for 145.490 for SKYWARN purposes. In the case that someone links using the web interface, you may not hear someone ID-ing, since no one is making a transmission over the air with DTMF to establish the link.

In summary, when entering control codes over the air, always... **ID ID ID!**

Thank you and enjoy!

**Rick, W1RJC**



**Some Contests**

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

- Aug 7 0001Z - Aug 8 2359Z-28 Phone  
**10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party**  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)
- Aug 7, 1800Z - Aug 8, 1800Z-432+ all-modes  
**ARRL UHF Contest**  
[arrl.org/contests](http://arrl.org/contests)
- Aug 7, 1800Z - Aug 8, 0600Z-1.8-28 CW  
**North American QSO Party**  
[ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)
- Aug 14, 0000Z - Aug 15, 2359Z-3.5-28 CW  
**Worked All Europe**  
[www.waedc.de](http://www.waedc.de)
- Aug 15, 1800Z - Aug 15, 2359Z-3.5-28 50 Phone  
**ARRL Rookie Roundup**  
[arrl.org/contests](http://arrl.org/contests)
- Aug 21, 0800Z - Aug 22, 0800Z-1.8-28 Phone-CW  
**Russian District Award Contest**  
[rdaward.org/rdac1.htm](http://rdaward.org/rdac1.htm)
- Aug 21, 1800Z - Aug 22, 0600Z-1.8-28 50,144  
**Phone North American QSO Party**  
[ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)
- Aug 28, 0400Z - Aug 29 1359Z-3.5-28 144,440  
**Phone-CW ALARA Contest**  
[alara.org.au](http://alara.org.au)

**Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND**

*How can you make sure your station stays in compliance with RF safety regulations? B. By re-evaluating the station whenever an item of equipment is changed*

**Answer: Sudoku 1**

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

**VE SESSIONS**

*Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.*  
<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

- SEMARA – 10:30 AM** **Aug 7th**  
Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
508-991-6055
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM** **Aug 16th**  
Skip Denault-KB1CNB  
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](http://skip[at]newtestamentschool[dot]org)  
774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM** **Aug 14th**  
W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE  
[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](http://BenFleck[at]cape[dot]com)  
508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00 PM** **Aug 13th**  
Louis Mester-W1CH  
[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH[at]arrl[dot]net)  
401-263-6045

**Coming FLEAS & FESTS**

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

- Aug 14 Gales Ferry CT - RASON**  
Chip N1MIE 860-376-0888
- Aug 14 Swanton VT - StAARC**  
Arn N1ARN 802-309-0666
- Aug 14 St Albans ME - PARC**  
George WA1JMM 207-441-6112
- Aug 15 Cambridge, MA - FLEA at MIT**  
Nick [www.swapfest.us](http://www.swapfest.us) 617-253-3776
- Aug 22 Adams MA - NoBarc**  
Tim KE3HT 413-822-7075
- Aug 27-29 Boxboro MA - FEMARA  
NE Convention**  
Mike K1TWF 978-250-1235



**ALL-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES**

**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