



# ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 9

SEMARA-W1AEC

September 2010

## One Step Forward ...



**A**s you can see, the project is nearing completion.

It is hoped that it will be 'ready to use' for the September business meeting on September 2nd.

## ... and Two Back



**T**his maybe the last this for along time that the Sommer Log-Yagi beam will be atop the 85-foot tower. Unfortunately, Alf Sommer, W4/DJ2UT died last summer and no one has picked up his business. Seems like we may need to punt when we do the repairs. The good news is there are lots of hams out there who have similar antennas and may be willing to share what they know. Keep your fingers crossed.

**I** noticed some 'weather' damage to the W1AEC call sign letters.

Anyone have a jigsaw who knows how to use it? Perhaps we can 'spruce it up' before the winter does it in.



## ZERO BEAT

Published online monthly

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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: [w1aec \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:w1aec[at]semara[dot]org)**2010 SEMARA OFFICERS***President*

Louis Mester—W1CH

*Vice President*

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

*Secretary*

Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

*Treasurer*

Mike McDonald—KB1NB

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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 Moszczenski—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 <[editor \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:editor[at]semara[dot]org)>

That SEMARA has a lot going on – sort-of. The handicap bathroom is making slow but steady progress. With front door replaced to keep the elements out, we are poised to getting a handicapped accessible door installed on the clubhouse north side where the handicapped ramp is to go.

It's good to see so many members are into 900MHz. Perhaps that may become the new 2-meters for emergency communications. The planned coverage of the linked systems is impressive — linking Boston to the South Coast..

Speaking of impressive. Did you noticed the improved 2-meter coverage with the new, low-cost 2-m repeater antenna. Since it is only a single element, the pattern is omni-directional. Looks like we don't need to have a cardioid pattern after all.

With the Sommer Log-Yagi beam coming down for repair, we'll get a chance to use one of the other Yagi antennas stored on the property. I'm glad we will also have a dipole or two so we can work the WARC bands as well.

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to having another club cookout. Maybe we can wheedle the 'secret' recipe from Scott (W1EV) if he can't make the BBQ. While we are at it, isn't this about the right time to plan our Christmas Party? I don't know about you, but I miss the ones we had just a few years ago — especially the \$10-limit gift exchange. I got some good 'junque' that way. Who would like to play Santa and be in charge of the gift exchange?

What can you do to attract more people into amateur radio? How about a talk on some aspect of amateur radio? Like what? How about how to print a message so everyone can read it? Oh, your printing is fine you say? What about the problem characters: I 1 T O O and lower case i l o t? How about high speed printing of Es and Fs? Perhaps an evening of message passing will drive home the idea that printing, like the phonetic alphabet, can benefit from standardization. As Joan Rivers likes to say, "Let's talk!"

Now what was it I wanted not to forget to talk about? Oh don't let about it. I'll remember just as soon as this issue is put to bed. That's –30– for now.

**POINT TO PONDER**

"The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us."

~Bill Watterson, *Calvin and Hobbes*

**HAMMIN' AROUND****Question\* T9A07**

What is a good reason not to use a "rubber duck" antenna inside your car?

- A. Signals can be significantly weaker than when it is outside of the vehicle
- B. It might cause your radio to overheat
- C. The SWR might decrease, decreasing the signal strength
- D. All of these choices are correct

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

# Club Notes

**S**eptember marks the last of summer and the beginning of fall. The kids are back in school, the weather is just beautiful and the Labor Day holiday starts everything off.



It marks the passing of the relaxed life of vacations and the more stressful life of the fall.



See you at the other end of the month — relaxed and unfrazzled. What to do about it? Make the most of September! To quote Tim Gunn, “Make it work!”



**W**ith the pending antenna work on the 85-foot, perhaps we’ll get a pulley and rope rigged so we can put up a 160-m G5RV sloper.



The pulley mounted on the little monopole next to the tower would work for a vee. I know I’d love to try out an OCFD or two, just for the fun of it.

**D**id you know that there were no takers for the 7 August VE Session? Tell you what. I have copies of the Exam questions for Technician, General, and Extra Class licenses. If there is no one scheduled for a Tech Talk on the third Thursday of the month (Sep 16, next), let’s just go through the list—or hit just the interesting ones. At least, maybe we can encourage someone to show up on October 2.



**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, 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

This is a sort-of easy Sudoku puzzle to while away the time waiting on net control. (Solution on p. 8.)

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

**NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION**  
**October 2, 2010**  
**Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM**  
 Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHGuy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHGuy@earthlink.net)  
 508-991-6055

# Official Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2010



The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President Bob (K1KVV) at 7:10 PM with the salute to the flag. A moment of silence was held for the step mother of John (WA1LSH). The Roll was called with 19 members present.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as published in ZERO BEAT and as posted on the bulletin board. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer Mike (KB1NB) reported that the balance in all accounts is \$33,507.79. A motion was made and seconded to refer the report to audit. The members voted unanimously.

## STANDING COMMITTEE

### Buildings and Grounds

The handicap restroom is almost complete. The handicap rails still have to be purchased and installed. The previous money appropriation should handle the rails. The electrician should be in soon to finish the electrical work. The front door will also be replaced. An appropriation of \$300.00 was asked for to finish the both projects. A motion was made and seconded and voted unanimously.

### Scholarship Committee

Sonny (K1USW) reported that the letters will be going out next month for next years scholarship. A class will be given by several members for amateur license certification. There will be further information at a later date.

### Technical Committee

Dave (W1DJG) reported on the antenna removal. The cost will be \$400.00 for the crane and \$100.00 for a climber. This price will be times two for removal and replacement.

The new 2 meter antenna has better coverage than the station master and has been working very well.

Dave (W1DJG) will make the arrangement to get the crane and climber.

### Repeater

Rick (W1RJC) reported that the new controller for the 900 repeater is in and will be installed within the next few weeks. The link radio will also be installed within that time period.

The ARES and RACES drills went very well and

our repeater and new antenna is doing a great job. The computers will be sanitized and discarded.

### Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) reported that many events are listed in the "ZERO BEAT"

### Tech Talks

Eric (N1WCO) reported that he has one booking for November 18, 2010, a woman speaking on the Marconi Station. We need to have a good audience. It should be advertised well.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and seconded to approve \$1,200.00 for the removal and reinstalling of the log periodic antenna on the 85-foot tower. The motion was approved unanimously. This will be done soon.

## GOOD OF THE CLUB

Eric (N1WCO) suggested that we look into the Flea Market issue. After some discussion it was decided to defer it to next year seeing as we have missed all of the advertising deadlines.

Dave (K1JGV) said he had someone willing to cleanup the front gardens and would like \$20.00 per week. The person has already done some work and would like to be paid for that work. The treasurer requested an invoice for that work. There was some discussion and it was suggested to take the money from the monthly allotment for Buildings and Grounds.

Rick (W1RJC) made a suggestion to get a dumpster so that we can cleanout the storage trailer and either sell or dump the useless material in the trailer. It was suggested to get prices and possibly sell the metal parts.

Marcel (W1MLD) reported that an unsigned, typed 2 or 3 page letter was sent to various departments in the Town of Dartmouth. This letter stated that "there were many illegal repairs and installations done in and around the clubhouse and they were done without permits." The fact is that we do have all the permits as required. This letter was written by a member who should be reprimanded.

### Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. This was voted unanimously at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcel Dumont (W1MLD) Secretary

# SEMARA News

## BOD Meeting

July 31, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the President, Louis (W1CH), at 10:10 AM. Those present were Louis (W1CH), Marcel (W1MLD), Bob (K1KVV), Brad (W1BEP), Joe (N1IXC).

The first subject was the Sommer Log-Yagi antenna that needs to be removed and repaired. Marcel (W1MLD) reported that Dave (W1DJG) has received a quote from Allen Costello and "Hudon" to bring in a crane for removal and come back at a latter date to reinstall. The cost would be \$500.00 each trip. After some discussion, the *BOD will recommend this to the members.*

It will also recommend that the antenna and rotor be repaired or replaced. The BOD voted unanimously to *recommend this to the membership.*

Bob brought up the subject of Tech Talks. We should have these talks every third Thursday. There are a number of subjects that could be talked about. Digital, 900 MHz, antennas, PSK, HF, and various other subjects. We should probably get Eric an assistant to help him out. *This will be recommended to the members.* The thing that should be addressed is attendance at these talks.

It was suggested by Louis (W1CH) to have a chicken dinner soon. We will *check with Armand (W1BUG)* to contact someone that could do it for us.

Joe (N1IXC) brought up the fact that there was someone causing interference and blocking the signal during the "RACES" drill on our repeater. He suggested that if it happens again, we try to locate the intruder to take appropriate action.

Joe (N1IXC) also reported that a member sent a letter to the Town of Dartmouth Building Department about his objection to the Handicap rest room. It is not known for certain but there is some evidence of who it is. Proof will be forthcoming. This is not the objective of good members and should not be allowed. This sub-

ject will be addressed at a future business meeting.

It was suggested by several members to keep the radios removed from the trailer and set them up as part of the radio room area. We could then have several stations that could operate individually. This could also give members access to different equipment and techniques.

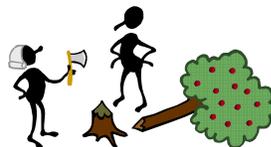
*The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcel Dumont, Sec. (W1MLD)



## Weep for the Willow

**W**e had a little wind storm on Tuesday, August 24; but it was big enough to topple the large willow on the east property line with Little Peoples College.



Luckily, when it fell, it just missed the shed. (picture on p.1.)

By the time I got there just after lunch on Thursday, August 26, this picture shows all that was left of the tree.



# More SEMARA News

## Fun Day At State Forest Freetown ,MA.

Here is the info on *Fun Day in the Forest*. I will bring my camper there on the morning of Sept 26, 2010 at about 9:30 AM so we can set up, under my awning. I can produce about 2500 watts with my inverter for AC. I also have 5 Deep Cycle Batteries.



I have a 2 meter-440 antenna on the camper. I will need a long wire for my 746 pro and maybe some other equipment anyone can think of - probably a lot of connectors and cables.

I hope we have a lot of help to promote the club.

Comments to: bradsaf [at] Verizon [dot] net.

**Brad (WIBEP)**

So Brad, what happened? Inquiring hams want to know. When will you be doing this again? Maybe you can get more folks to pitch in.

## FCC to Allow Government Drills\*

To all radio amateurs

### FCC to Allow Government Drills Without a Waiver as of September 3

In July, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O) that amended Part 97 – more specifically Section 97.113 – stating that government entities sponsoring disaster and emergency drills will no longer need to apply for a waiver to hold these drills.

Additionally, employees who wish to participate in non-government-sponsored drills and exercises may do so under certain conditions.

Part 97 is the portion of the Commission's rules that govern the Amateur Radio Service. In the August 4th edition of the Federal Register, the FCC issued a summary of the R&O entitled Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Amateur Radio Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills – noting that the effective date of these new rules will be September 3, 2010.

\* ARRL Bulletin 21 ARLB021  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 5, 2010



## Prof. Braun Day 2010

17 - 19 September

Held annually to commemorate to the first radio contact between Cuxhaven and the island of Heligoland, some 62 kilometers in the North Sea.

Former radio officers of the merchant marine meet at the places where experiments were under way from 1899 on.

Take part in this mainly CW event.

<http://www.doese-apprt.de/pfbday/index.html>

Best wishes for today's party.  
Don't drink too much at Doelle (Hotel)  
Else you'll become full.  
[Free translation. Ed.]

Welt No 042		
Leitung Nr. XX...		
Telegramm Nr.		
Aufgenommen von <i>KHG</i> ...		
den <i>24. 9.</i> 19 <i>00.</i>		
um <i>11.</i> Uhr <i>07.</i> Min.		
durch <i>ff</i> .....		
	Telegraphie des Deutschen Reichs.	DPO7 SEEFUNK die sympathischen Küstenfunkstellen
	Amt <b>Cuxhaven KCX</b>	
Telegramm aus <i>Heligoland</i> .....	<i>21. 20.</i> den <i>24. 9.</i> um <i>11.</i> Uhr <i>07.</i> Min	
<i>Zum heutigen Feste der Wuensche beste, Trinkt nicht zuviel bei Doelle sonst werdet ihr voelle.</i>		
<i>Prof. F. Braun, anno 24. 9. 1900</i>		
<small>Dieses historisch aufgemachte Telegramm ist verbunden mit einer Spende zum Erhalt des Feuerschiffes „Elbe 1“, von dem aus es auf Seefunkwellen in Morse-Telegraphie übermittelt wurde.</small>		

# Some Questions: Tech Exam Graphics

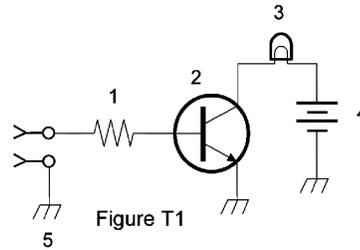
Sometimes there are multiple correct answers—  
*select them all.*  
 Answers are given at the bottom of the page.

T6C02  
 What is component 1 in figure T1?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Transistor  
 C. Battery  
 D. Connector

T6C03  
 What is component 2 in figure T1?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Transistor  
 C. Indicator lamp  
 D. Connector

T6C03  
 What is component 3 in figure T1?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Transistor  
 C. Lamp  
 D. Ground symbol

T6C05  
 What is component 4 in figure T1?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Transistor  
 C. Battery  
 D. Ground symbol



T6C06  
 What is component 6 in figure T2?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Capacitor  
 C. Regulator IC  
 D. Transistor

T6C07  
 What is component 8 in figure T2?  
 A. Resistor  
 B. Inductor  
 C. Regulator IC  
 D. Light emitting diode

T6C08  
 What is component 9 in figure T2?  
 A. Variable capacitor  
 B. Variable inductor  
 C. Variable resistor  
 D. Variable transformer

T6C09  
 What is component 4 in figure T2?  
 A. Variable inductor  
 B. Double-pole switch  
 C. Potentiometer  
 D. Transformer

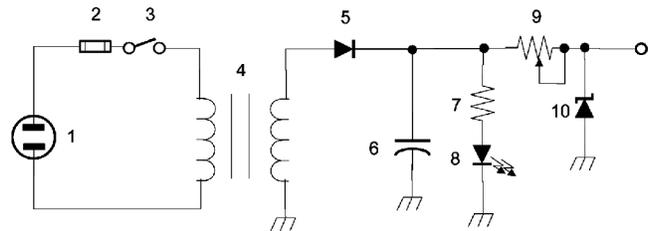


Figure T2

**Some Contests\***

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

- Sep 3, 0230Z - 0300Z *1.8-14 NS Weekly Sprint*  
CW [www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html)
- Sep 4, 0000Z - Sep 5, 2400Z *3.5-28 All Asia Contest* Phone [www.jarl.or.jp/English](http://www.jarl.or.jp/English)
- Sep 4, 0000Z - 2400Z *3.5-28 Russian Radio*  
RTTY WW RTTY [www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2.shtml](http://www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2.shtml)
- Sep 4, 1200Z - Sep 5, 0400Z CW--*1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.450; 50+ Colorado QSO Party All-modes*  
[www.ppraa.org/coqp](http://www.ppraa.org/coqp)
- Sep 5, 1800Z - Sep 6, 0300Z *1.8-28 50+ Tennessee QSO Party All-modes* [www.tnqp.org](http://www.tnqp.org)
- Sep 11, 0800Z - 2000Z CW--*3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 145-147 Arkansas QSO Party All-modes* [www.arkanhams.org](http://www.arkanhams.org)
- Sep 18, 0000Z - 2359Z *3.5-28 Connecticut QSO Party All-modes* [www.ctqp.org](http://www.ctqp.org)
- Sep 18, 1300Z - Sep 19, 2100Z CW--*1.805, 50 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.845, 3.86, 7.261, 14.27, 21.37, 28.37; 50+ South Carolina QSO Party All-modes* [w4cae.org](http://w4cae.org)

\* See more September contest activity at URL above

**Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND**

What is a good reason not to use a "rubber duck" antenna inside your car? A. Signals can be significantly weaker than when it is outside of the vehicle

**Answer: Sudoku** 119

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

**VE Sessions**

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

- SEMARA – 10:30 AM** Oct 2nd  
Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
508-991-6055
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM** Sep 20th  
Skip Denault-KB1CNB  
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](mailto:skip@newtestamentschool.org)  
774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM** Sep 11th  
W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE  
[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)  
508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00 PM** Sep 9th  
Louis Mester-W1CH  
[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH@arrl.net)  
401-263-6045

**Coming FLEAS & FESTS**

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

- 11 Sep Windsor, ME - AARA**  
Bill K1NIT 207-623-9075
- 11 Sep Windsor, CT - VR+C Museum**  
John 860-673-0518
- 11 Sep Ballston Spa, NY - SCRACES**  
Al KA1IEG 518-677-3316
- 12 Sep Newtown, CT - CARA**  
Joe AB1DO 203-938-4880
- 18 Sep Alton, NH - MASONS**  
Bob W1GWU 603-776-0086
- 18 Sep Forestdale, RI - RIAFMRS**  
Rick K1KYI 401-864-9611
- 19 Sep Cambridge, MA - FLEA at MIT**  
Nick [www.swapfest.us](http://www.swapfest.us) 617-253-3776



**CLUB ACTIVITIES**

- BUSINESS MEETING**  
7 PM First Thursday of the month
- SUNDAY RAGCHEW**  
7-11 AM SUN
- MOST-OF-THE-TIME (call ahead)**  
**LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM FRIDAYS**  
Meet at the clubhouse at 11:15 AM