



# ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 11

SEMARA-W1AEC

November 2010

## PowerPole Tech Talk

At the traditional, third Thursday at 7:00 PM on October 21, 2010, **Eric, N1WCO**, gave a tech talk on the proper installation and the use of Anderson PowerPoles. Do you know how the little, black pin holds the black and red connectors together? You should have been there to see for yourself!



ERIC-N1WCO PRESENTING POWERPOLE PARTICULARS TO THE SMALL, BUT INTERESTED, GROUP OF ATTENDEES.  
BOTTOM-LEFT: SHOWS THE VARIETY OF CONNECTOR COMBINATIONS USED WITH POWERPOLES.

RIGHT: TOP IS A 6-PORT, FUSED (5A, 10A,15A) DISTRIBUTION BOX.  
BOTTOM IS DUAL SOURCE (AC/DC), HEAT-SINKED BATTERY CHARGING BOX.

Do you have a project involving power connections that is a “work-in-progress?” Eric will be glad to talk to you about the use of Anderson PowerPoles, the de-facto standard for power connections for emergency gear.

*Thanks Eric for an informative presentation on the ins and outs of Anderson PowerPole connectors.*

## ZERO BEAT

Published online monthly

©2010 Southeastern Massachusetts  
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.54 Donald Street,  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748  
(508) 997-7070  
««««0»»»»**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)  
««««0»»»»**2010 SEMARA OFFICERS***President*

Louis Mester—W1CH

*Vice President*

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

*Secretary*

Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

*Treasurer*Mike McDonald—KB1NB  
««««0»»»»*Directors:*

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Brad Paiva—W1BEP

John Walsh—WA1LSH  
««««0»»»»*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)  
««««0»»»»**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  
««««0»»»»**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)>

**t**hat there are lots of interesting goings on in amateur radio. Consider the role that hams can play in helping with the emergency communications for hurricane Tomas that promises to hit eastern Cuba and western Hispaniola (Haiti). Some will say, "But they are using the internet (VoIP), that's not ham radio." Methinks the folks are missing the point — hams who have *practiced* emergency communications not only learn the protocol but also the structure behind emergency operations. No, this is not your "informal" public event exercise; there are lives involved and you don't want to mess up. So what to do? Join the ARES/SKYWARN/RACES nets and take the training courses. (See pages 5 and 6 for more details.)

**H**ave you been longing to vote out the incumbents? Well here is your chance! SEMARA holds its annual elections at the December business meeting on December 2. Look for a SEMARA email to see who you'd be running against. If you don't want to be confrontational, just volunteer for one of the committee positions; you could be appointed without a fight. ☺

**H**as you thought about taking over the reins of an existing (or a brand new) net as net control? What kind of a net do you envision: trivia-, swap-, ragchew-, license\_upgrade-, DX-, WX-, traffic-, ARES-RACES\_training-, ... ? You know I could go on and on; but what you see as a missed need is more important than any suggestions I might make. Let me know what you come up with.

**H**eads up for the new year, after the elections, there is a course for the Technician class license that will be offered at SEMARA. Spread the word. If you feel you are being left out and want some other course, speak up. If there enough takers to make it worth while, a course can be developed, if necessary, and offered to you and a few of your most intimate acquaintances.

**POINT TO PONDER**

"If our strength grows less with age,  
As I've been led to surmise,  
I'm not going to squander what little I've left  
On strenuous exercise."

~Anonymous

**HAMMIN' AROUND**

**Question\* T3C07** What band is best suited to communicating via meteor scatter?

- A. 10 meters
- B. 6 meters
- C. 2 meters
- D. 70 cm

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

# Club Notes

**N**ovember starts out on the right foot, we get an extra hour of sleep with the change back to Eastern Standard Time. Remember, UTC/GMT is 5:00 hours ahead of EST. Better yet, run two clocks, one for UTC/GMT and the other for local time.



I know it's a bit in advance but ... remember that SEMARA holds the annual elections at its December Business meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

So think about how you can best be a part of the inner circle. Pick an office, director, trustee, and/or a committee position you would like to put your name next to. Just check out the possibilities in the page 2 sidebar.



**A**t the October 7, 2010 Business Meeting,

**Fredrick S. Bacon II**  
(WA1MRH)

and

**Antone "Tony" Souza** (NN1D)

were admitted as full members of SEMARA by unanimous vote.

*Welcome to the club!*



**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 PM on the SEMARA Repeater, usually on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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

**28.490 MHz** (USB) — Net is held *Tuesdays* at 8:30 PM. **Dick, K1AHA** (Dartmouth) is net control.

**3862 kHz** (LSB) — SEMARA Morning Net is held *weekdays* from 7:30-8 AM 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 is a fun Sudoku puzzle to while away the time waiting on net control. (Solution on p. 8.)

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

**NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION**  
 December 4, 2010  
 Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM  
 Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguv \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguv@earthlink.net)  
 508-991-6055

# Official Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2010



The meeting was called to order by Secretary **Marcel Dumont (W1MLD)** at 7:05 PM with the salute to the flag. The roll was called with 18 members and 2 guests present.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported that because the computer was down, he was not able to complete his report but gave us the last month's total of \$34,273. A motion was made and seconded to refer the report to audit. The members voted unanimously.

At this time the Vice-President **Bob (K1KVV)** arrived and took over as Chair of the meeting.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Buildings and Grounds – Dave (K1DJG)** reported that the Handicap Restroom is 99.99% complete.

The front door does not need to be replaced at this time. A plate will be placed at the bottom outside and can remain that way for a few years. There is no cost involved.

**Scholarship Committee –** The chairman was not present so **Joe K (N1IXC)** reported that applications are going out.

**Radio Events – Bob (K1KVV)** reported that the Boy Scouts are having Jamboree on the Air 2010 on October 16, in Kingston, MA; call sign is **KC1TAC**. More in QST.

## Ratification of Members

There were two applications received: one from **Fredrick S. Bacon II (WA1MRH)** and one from **Antone "Tony" Souza (NN1D)**. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as members; the members voted unanimously.

**Technical Committee – Dave (W1DJG)** reported that the antenna is down as well as the rotor. The mount for the antenna broke and allowed the antenna to rotate freely. We need to machine a new one.

Several weeks ago we were hit by lightning and damaged much equipment. The tv was damaged and the 900 repeater and several computers were also damaged. **Ben (N1WBV)** was able to acquire four

computers from someone at GEMOTO at no cost. One is now replacing the Vostro main computer.

The FOB entry system is destroyed and will need to be replaced. The lines may have to be replaced. The protection devices were destroyed and need to be replaced. There was considerable discussion and **Dave (W1DJG)** mentioned that he will be committed to his main job for several months so he will not be around much.

**Website – Ben (N1WBV)** reported that the website is functioning properly.

**Activities –** No one has been able to contact **Scott (W1EV)** and we should try to do something on our own.

**ARES, SKYWARN, RACES –** Drill went well with more stations responding according to **Joe K (N1IXC)**. Our repeater is operating well.

**Tech Talk – Eric ((N1WCO)** announced that he will be giving a tech talk on October 21, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Joe K (N1IXC)** reported that the *Friends of the Forest* had a demonstration at the Freetown forest. **Wayne (WA1CCM)** made and donated a sign for the club. Many thanks to Wayne.

**John (WA1LSH)** thanked everyone for remembering his family after the passing of his son.

Thanks to **Dick (K1AHA)** for making and installing the **W1AEC** sign on the shed.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Ben (N1WBV)** made a motion to appropriate \$500. To replace some of the lightning destroyed equipment. The motion was seconded and the members voted to approve unanimously.

**Mike (KB1NB)** proposed that we purchase a temporary lock for the door for \$150.00 until the FOB system is replaced. There was considerable discussion. The motion was seconded and the members voted 19 for and 2 opposed. The motion passed.

The camera will be addressed at a later date.

It was suggested that we check on our insurance to see whether we are covered for any of this lightning damage and equipment lost.

**Ben (N1WBV)** suggested that we don't bring in stuff that stays here for over a month.

**Dave (K1JGV)** reported that we have a problem

(Continued on page 6)

# SEMARA News

## Sunday Morning Pre-Ragchew

Seems like a pre-ragchew has been established at the McDonald's located at Dartmouth St. and Rockdale Ave. in South Dartmouth, not far from the club. We have failed to solve the world's problems (or even our own) at the official ragchew on Sunday mornings, so a warm up, pre-ragchew has been started at 7:30 AM each Sunday morning.

So far, **Chuck (KB1FRL)**, **Henry (W1GYL)** and **Dave (K1JGV)** have been in loyal attendance. More are welcome. After we finish with the 'take over' of McDonald's, we then move on to the SEMARA clubhouse for more challenging and provocative conversation.

## Sunrise Bakery Coffee Hour

There is *another get together* that has been going on for some time. That is the 9:00 AM coffee hour, or perhaps it is two hours, at the Sunrise Bakery near the Dartmouth Police Station on Russell's Mills Road.

Regulars are **Marcel (W1MLD)**, **Don (WA1PLT)** and sometimes **Dave (K1JGV)**. Again, club members are always welcome.

73, *Dave-K1JGV*

## Building and Grounds Update



THE NEW, READY TO USE, HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM

Presented by the team:

*Dave-K1JGV* project chair  
*Marty-KA1YFV* project co-chair  
*Dick-K1AHA* grounds / maintenance  
*Sonny-K1USW* grounds / gardens  
*Joe-W1JFI* / trash removal



## ARES Net Reminder

A reminder that the monthly ARES Net for November is rapidly approaching. The monthly ARES Net for November is Monday November 1st, 2010, at 8:30 PM on the MMRA Repeater system. This is after the RACES Nets earlier in the evening. For frequencies that will be linked into the ARES Net on the MMRA Network, please see the following link from the MMRA web site and the repeaters that will be linked in will be through Hub 1:

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

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

Make the first Monday of the month, "Emergency Communications Night" and check into your local RACES Net and then check into the ARES Net on the MMRA Repeater System. We look forward to your participation and remember, we are always looking for Net Controls to run the ARES Net.

As always, we will have several interesting announcements for the net that evening 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.arrl.org>

Thanks for your continued support of ARES!

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Robert Macedo (KD1CY)**

*ARES SKYWARN Coordinator*

*Eastern Massachusetts ARES  
Section Emergency Coordinator*



# More SEMARA News

## Emergency Communications Primer\*

### A Quick Primer on How to Help "Served Agencies" During Hurricanes or Other Disasters

*[Written for RI emergency communications, this applies equally well for SE Massachusetts.]*

1. Take stock of your ability to commit the time to learn the necessary procedures and to participate in frequent drills and training sessions. While we welcome all who wish to help, it is vital that each team member can be counted on to participate in activities that maintain a high level of preparedness. Your FCC license is just the start.
2. Review the ARRL's trainer and field resource guide for emergency communicators. (Note: RI has no RACES and RI-ARES is dormant).
3. We have a 30+ year relationship with the American Red Cross - RI Chapter. View the online training: "Introduction to Disaster Services."
4. Apply for the valuable and recognized credential: the American Red Cross volunteer badge. Start with the quick background check.
5. Enter your contact information and information about your equipment and personal capabilities via our online registry.
6. Once you have the results back from the background check, let me know.
7. Prepare your own "2 Hour Carry Kit."
8. If practical, begin assembling your own "12 Hour Go Kit." It might be needed.
9. Begin taking and completing important, no-cost, online FEMA training: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800. First responders have already taken these courses and agency leaders expect us to have taken them as well.
10. Get your obligations to your family squared away. They need to be safe.
11. Participate in on-air training events. Some of our messages are complex. Training is vital. We'll tell you about training if your contact information is in the registry.
12. If there is a no-notice major emergency, go to the W1SYE repeater 145.45, minus 0.600 trans-

*(Continued in the next column)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

with the storage trailer that is completely full. We should get a dumpster to get rid of this stuff. Motion to table until next month. Members voted to table.

**Dave (K1JGV)** reported that we received a letter from the Dartmouth Building Department. This is in reference to the restroom. Dave and Marcel will meet with the building inspector after getting an appointment.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The members voted unanimously at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

*Marcel Dumont, Secretary (W1MLD)*

### WORD TO THE WISE\*

**Rotator** - the thing that turns your antenna. It's NOT a "rotor"!

A **rotor** is an element of a device or system that rotates - for example, the rotor of an electric motor, such as the one in your **ROTATOR!**

\* *The ARRL Contest Update for October 27, 2010*

*(Continued from the previous column)*

- mit offset, PL tone 100.0 and check-in. If the repeater is down, go to a KA1RCI repeater node, or use 145.45 simplex. Wait for instructions. Don't self-deploy.
13. If we are facing a situation that provides advance warning such as a tropical or winter storm, you will be contacted via email or phone using the information from the online registry. Keep your contact information up-to-date.
14. An initial Newport County emergency communications plan is being written and will be distributed later. Send questions and comments to Mike K1NPT (K1NPT@arrl.net) or Ted W1GRI (twrobel@tacticaltech.com)

\* *Redacted from an email sent by Arthur G. Weeks Jr. WIAGW to the Newport County Radio Club membership on Sept. 12, 2010 immediately after the near miss by Hurricane Earl.*

**Be sure to register your station and availability with the EMA-ARES website: <http://ares.ema.arrl.org/> Contact either Rob (KD1CY), Ed (KA1RSY), or Joe K (N1IXC) for more information.**

# Extra Class Exam Questions

**E1A03** With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station's CQ on 14.349 MHz USB. Is it legal to return the call using upper sideband on the same frequency?

- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
- B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 20 meter band
- C. No, my sidebands will extend beyond the band edge
- D. No, USA stations are not permitted to use phone emissions above 14.340 MHz

**E1A05** Which is the only amateur band that does not permit the transmission of phone or image emissions?

- A. 160 meters
- B. 60 meters
- C. 30 meters
- D. 17 meters

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

**E1A06** What is the maximum power output permitted on the 60 meter band?

- A. 50 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to an isotropic radiator
- B. 50 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to a dipole
- C. 100 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to an isotropic radiator
- D. 100 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to a dipole

**E1B04** What must be done before placing an amateur station within an officially designated wilderness area or wildlife preserve, or an area listed in the National Register of Historical Places?

- A. A proposal must be submitted to the National Park Service
- B. A letter of intent must be filed with the National Audubon Society
- C. An Environmental Assessment must be submitted to the FCC
- D. A form FSD-15 must be submitted to the Department of the Interior

**E1B05** What height restrictions apply to an amateur station antenna structure not close to a public use airport unless the FAA is notified and it is registered with the FCC?

- A. It must not extend more than 300 feet above average height of terrain surrounding the site
- B. It must be no higher than 200 feet above ground level at its site
- C. There are no height restrictions because the structure obviously would not be a hazard to aircraft in flight
- D. It must not extend more than 100 feet above sea level or the rim of the nearest valley or canyon

**E1B08** On what frequencies may the operation of an amateur station be restricted if its emissions cause interference to the reception of a domestic broadcast station on a receiver of good engineering design?

- A. On the frequency used by the domestic broadcast station
- B. On all frequencies below 30 MHz
- C. On all frequencies above 30 MHz
- D. On the interfering amateur service transmitting frequencies

### Some Contests\*

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

- 1.8-28 **Ukrainian DX Contest**  
Phone-CW [www.ucc.zp.ua](http://www.ucc.zp.ua)  
Nov 6, 1200Z - Nov 7, 1200Z
- 3.5-21 **Radio Club of America QSO Party**  
Phone [www.radioclubofamerica.org](http://www.radioclubofamerica.org)  
Nov 6, 1700Z - Nov 7, 0500Z
- 3.5-28 **Japan International DX Contest**  
Phone [jidx.org](http://jidx.org)  
Nov 13, 0700Z - Nov 14, 1300Z
- 1.8-28 **OK-OM DX Contest**  
CW [okomdx.crk.cz](http://okomdx.crk.cz)  
Nov 13, 1200Z - Nov 14, 1200Z
- 1.8-28 **50 Kentucky QSO Party**  
Phone-CW [www.wkdx.com](http://www.wkdx.com)  
Nov 13, 1400Z - Nov 14, 0200Z
- 1.8-28 **50-440 CQ WE (Western Electric)**  
All-modes [cqwe.cboh.org](http://cqwe.cboh.org)  
Nov 13, 1900Z - Nov 15, 0500Z
- 3.5-28 **LZ DX Contest**  
Phone-CW [lzdx.bfra.org](http://lzdx.bfra.org)  
Nov 20, 1200Z - Nov 21, 1200Z
- 1.8-28 **ARRL November Sweepstakes**  
Phone [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)  
Nov 20, 2100Z - Nov 22, 0300Z
- 1.8-28 **CQ World Wide CW Contest**  
CW [cq-amateur-radio.com](http://cq-amateur-radio.com)  
Nov 27, 0000Z - Nov 28, 2400Z

\* See more November contest activity at URL above.

### Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

B. 6 meters.  
*What band is best suited to communicating via meteor scatter?*

### Answer: Sudoku 160

4	9	1	2	8	5	3	7	6
3	6	5	7	6	4	2	1	8
2	7	8	3	9	1	4	5	9
8	4	7	6	3	2	5	9	1
9	5	2	4	1	9	8	3	7
1	3	9	8	5	7	6	2	4
9	8	6	1	2	3	7	4	5
7	1	3	5	4	8	9	6	2
5	2	4	9	7	6	1	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** **Dec 4th**  
Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
508-991-6055
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM** **Nov 15th**  
Skip Denault-KB1CNB  
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](http://skip[at]newtestamentschool[dot]org)  
774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM** **Nov 13th**  
W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE  
[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)  
508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00 PM** **Nov 11th**  
Louis Mester-W1CH  
[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH@arrl.net)  
401-263-6045



### Coming FLEAS & FESTS

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

- 5 Nov Feeding Hills, MA**  
HCRA Jim-KK1W 413-245-3228
- 6 Nov Londonderry, NH**  
IRS Chris-KB1QVM 603-434-6137
- 13 Nov Bourne, MA**  
FalARA Ralph-N1YHS 508-548-0422
- 20 Nov Rockport, MA**  
CAARA Richard-KR1G 508-269-4941



### 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**