



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 47 Issue 4

SEMARA-W1AEC

April 2011

"A License To Learn"

When you earned your Ham ticket, you got a license to get on the air. You actually got more than that – you got a license to learn. You probably learned about things that were foreign to you, like FCC rules, on-air behavior, and technical stuff. You follow the rules and you act well, but what about that other stuff? The technical stuff.

Well, you say: “I only learned enough to get my ticket and I’ve forgotten all that by now.” I submit you really did not forget. You simply forgot what you remember.

For instance, you might recall that a two-meter band antenna needs to be about 19 inches long, and that it is also called a quarter-wave antenna. Bingo! You remembered some technical stuff. Something about *resonance*.

And you might understand that red wires go to the positive voltage and black wires the negative. Bingo, again! More technical stuff. Hmmm...*practical construction procedures*.

And maybe you get on 20 meters around mid-day, expecting longer distance QSOs. Aha! More technical stuff. Wow! You remember *propagation*!

In each case, you remember, put in practice, or act something technical.

With these simple items, you have a springboard for more learning. You were curious enough about this Ham Radio thing that made you want to get your license. Well, that curiosity rears its head every time you get on the air or read a magazine and say, “Why?”

Getting on the air, setting up a station, raising an antenna, or building a simple circuit from some basic parts are all technically related, and your license is your permit that allows you to do all these. Your license allows you a limitless range of technical activities. So, how do you find out what these are and what are your horizons?

One way is to go to the clubhouse and talk, face-to-face, with other Hams. You will find some have the same problems as you, and, surprise, you might find you have answers for them, based on your own learning and reading. You might find yourself a technical expert in some field in the eyes of your peers. (*An ‘expert’ is defined as someone who has read one more page in the book than the other person.*)

You will also find answers to your questions from others who have deeper knowledge and experience. Every club has them. One of my jobs as your section’s Technical Coordinator, is to find and identify these people so they can be recognized for what they are, whether they are experts on antennas, construction techniques, propagation, or subatomic theory with regard to alternate energy sources.

If you are an expert, would you please drop me a note so I can add your name to a list of Hams who are willing to help other people with questions? Please include a comment or two about what your area of expertise is, and if there are any limitations (such as ‘only email’ or ‘weekends only’) Be sure to tell me how people can contact you. And if you are a member of SEMARA, let me know that, too.

You may also want to indicate to me whether you want an appointment and recognition as a Technical Specialist in our EMA section. Send your info to [k1nun \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:k1nun@arrl.net).

And if you have a technical question, you may direct it to me and I will forward it to one of our section experts for follow-through.

Talk, read, learn, do!

73, *Eric (KINUN)*

ARRL EMA Technical Coordinator

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2011 SEMARA OFFICERS*President*

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John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013)

Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC (2015)

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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

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES*Activities*

Scott Szala—W1EV

ARES/SKYWARN/RACES

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

QSL Manager

John 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 there is a lot of promise with the coming of the warmer weather. If you don't press him too hard, **Dave (K1JGV)** have an uimpressive list of 'chores' to accomplish to make the clubhouse and grounds more presentable. Surprise him and offer to do one or two things on his list.

Field Day is fast approaching. June 25-26 is right around the corner. How do you feel about doing something different? Our super-duper Sommers Log-Yagi antenna may not up on the tower by then. So that means we will be using simple wire antennas. Some have suggested we could just as well string them up from anywhere. Where would you suggest?



We have volunteered to represent Massachusetts in this special event. We need to hear from you about your availability to fill operating slots. Please don't make this a last minute thing—that can give the organizers ulcers! Seriously, all it takes is a few hours of your time. Since we have so many 'retired' hams, we should have no trouble filling the mid-week slots. So, what say? *I'd love to hear from you.*

Questions? I'm always glad to clarify.

Last but not least on my list is the **SEMARA Tailgate Party** right here at the clubhouse. Who's willing to play General? *Step right up,*

POINT TO PONDER

**“Be not afraid of growing slowly.
Be afraid only of standing still.”**

~Chinese Proverb

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T9A04 What is a disadvantage of the "rubber duck" antenna supplied with most handheld radio transceivers?

- It does not transmit or receive as effectively as a full-sized antenna
- It transmits a circularly polarized signal
- If the rubber end cap is lost it will unravel very quickly
- All of these choices are correct

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

Club Notes

April is the month for new things to happen at SEMARA. To get an idea of the changes and repairs to the repeater and internet connects, take a look at the postings by **Rick, W1RJG** on our website:

[semara \[dot\] org](http://semara.org).



Licensing classes started March 1. According to **Dave-W1DJG** [w1djg \[at\] w1djg \[dot\] com](mailto:w1djg@w1djg.com) four students passed the class.

Congratulations to the class and to the instructors!



The April 2nd **VE session** had four successful results:

Technician class licensees—

Carol S Fano, KB1VLI,
Ian J Rymaszewics, KB1VLJ,
and

Kevin Sousa, KB1VLH.

General class licensee—

Irving B Brown, KB1BFI.

Congratulations and welcome to your new privileges!



Mark your calendars! **Field Day** is June 25-26, 2011. This can be a fun event. It's also a good way to introduce newcomers to the fun of a grand on-the-air experience.

Who knows, there may even be some fantastic culinary delights as well.

See **Ben (NIWBV)**



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

April 2, 2011

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS

[exams \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:exams@semara.org)

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 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.)

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

Official Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2011



The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)**, with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 18 members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was a motion made and seconded to dispense with the formal reading and accept the report as posted on the board and in *Zero Beat*. The vote passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to refer the Treasurer's Report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Technical

Dave (W1DJG) spoke regarding an email from **Rick (W1RJC)**. Considerable progress has been made in the past month. The 147.00 repeater is back online with IRLP. The 900 repeater is back online at full power and connected to the NEAR-900 network. Much work has been done in the repeater shack cleaning up and repairing wiring. Special thanks go out to **Rick (W1RJC)**, **Jeff (N1ZZN)** and **Steve (KC1HO)** for all their work and as well to **Rick (W1RJC)** for his donation of equipment.

Dave (W1DJG) has been working on the log periodic antenna and has also reformatted the hard drive on the computer. The SEMARA cam is also working as well. Future work will be done on the 147.00 repeater output and the new 220 repeater system as well as continued progress on the log periodic antenna.

Dave (W1DJG) also mentioned that there was fewer than anticipated students in the Technician licensing class but hopes that a few more students may join next week.

Scholarship

Sonny (K1USW) reported that only one application was received by the March 1 deadline. He has contacted the NB Voc Tech Media Technology Department Head and offered to extend the deadline for a few weeks if they want to expedite any applications from students.

Next year, letters may go to Department Heads instead of Guidance Counselors to increase contact with students.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Joe (N1IXC) mentioned that the ARES drill last month went well but reminded members to wait to check in until all cities and towns EMA services have checked in.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned the upcoming 13 Colonies event this coming July, giving some details and looking for operators for this event. Several other events are available on the internet.

COMMUNICATIONS

Marcel (W1MLD) mentioned that the lawyer is still trying to get the original letter of complaint and signature, some discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Dave (W1DJG) and **Ray (N1KXJ)** spoke briefly on the Wouxon portable radio, among others, available.

Bob (K1KVV) spoke briefly about upcoming Field Day.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE),
Secretary

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle was won by **Joe K (N1IXC)**. \$33.00 total was split 16.50/\$16.50.

SEMARA News

2011 SKYWARN Training Schedule

These classes are for new folks wishing to be SKYWARN trained and those that would like to refresh their SKYWARN training in a live class.

For those that have been SKYWARN trained previously and prefer to take the refresher class online, please see the following link:

www.erh.noaa.gov/box/officePrograms/skywarn/webSkywarnRefresher/

The actual schedule update appears at:

www.wx1box.org/node/36

2011 SKYWARN Training Sessions

Saturday April 2nd, 2011: 10 AM-1 PM:

Westerly Police Headquarters
60 Airport Road, Westerly, RI
Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator
Registration: Pre-registration required. Site seats 50 people. RSVP to Rob Macedo-KD1CY via email at [rmacedo \[at\] rcn \[dot\] com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com) or to Jim Creamer-KB1MAO at [divingdog \[at\] cox \[dot\] net](mailto:divingdog@cox.net)

Wednesday April 6th, 2011: 7-10 PM:

Acushnet Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
14 Thomas Street. Acushnet, Mass
Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator
Registration: Pre-registration required. Site seats 30 people. RSVP to KA1RSY-Ed Caron via email at [ka1rsy \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:ka1rsy@comcast.net)

Thursday April 14th, 2011: 6-9 PM:

Salem State University Meier Hall Room 426
358 Lafayette Street, Salem, Mass
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster
Registration: None required.

Thursday April 21st, 2011: 630-930 PM:

Stoddard Town Hall
1450 Route 123 N, Stoddard, NH
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster
Registration: None Required

Wednesday April 27th, 2011: 7-10 PM:

Uxbridge High School
62 Capron Street, Uxbridge, Mass.
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster
Registration: None Required

Saturday May 7th, 2011: 1-4 PM:

West Tisbury Fire Department
452 State Road, West Tisbury, Mass.
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster
Registration: None Required

Monday May 9th, 2011: 7-10 PM:

Granby Senior Center (Behind Town Hall)
15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT
Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator
Registration: None Required.

Monday May 16th, 2011: 7-10 PM:

Morton Hospital and Medical Center - Margaret Stone Conference Room
88 Washington Street, Taunton Mass.
Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator
Registration: Pre-registration required. RSVP to Rob Macedo-KD1CY via email at [rmacedo \[at\] rcn \[dot\] com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com)

Saturday May 21st, 2011: 10 AM-1 PM:

Westminster Public Safety Building
7 South Street, Westminster, Mass.
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster
Registration: Pre-registration required. RSVP to Rob Macedo-KD1CY via email at [rmacedo \[at\] rcn \[dot\] com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com)

Saturday June 4th, 2011: 1-4 PM:

Brockton VA Medical Center - Building 22: Training Rooms 2 and 3
940 Belmont Street, Brockton, Mass
Taught by: NWS Forecasters
Registration: None required.

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)

ARES SKYWARN Coordinator

Eastern Mass ARES Section Emergency Coordinator

ANSWER: Archive Challenge

Do you remember this article?

It was published in Zero Beat.

440 MHz Amatur Radio vs. USAF

By Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC

Vol 43. Issue 5: May 2007

Regulation Review

International Third-Party Traffic**

Proceed With Caution – Occasionally, DX stations may ask you to pass a third-party message to a friend or relative in the States. This is all right as long as the US has signed an official third-party traffic agreement with that particular country, or the third party is a licensed amateur. The traffic must be noncommercial and of a personal, unimportant nature. During an emergency, the US State Department will often work out a special temporary agreement with the country involved. But in normal times, never handle traffic without first making sure it is legally permitted.

US Amateurs may handle Third-Party Traffic with:

V2	Antigua/Barbuda	C5	Gambia, The	OA-OC	Peru
LO-LW	Argentina	9G	Ghana	DU-DZ	Philippines
VK	Australia	J3	Grenada	VR6	Pitcairn Island*
V3	Belize	TG	Guatemala	V4	St. Kitts/Nevis
CP	Bolivia	8R	Guyana	J6	St. Lucia
T9	Bosnia-Herzegovina	HH	Haiti	J8	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
PP-PY	Brazil	HQ-HR	Honduras	9L	Sierra Leone
VE, VO, VY	Canada	4X, 4Z	Israel	ZR-ZU	South Africa
CA-CE	Chile	6Y	Jamaica	3DA	Swaziland
HJ-HK	Colombia	JY	Jordan	9Y-9Z	Trinidad/Tobago
D6	Comoros (Federal Islamic Republic of)	EL	Liberia	TA-TC	Turkey
TI, TE	Costa Rica	V7	Marshall Islands	GB	United Kingdom
CM, CO	Cuba	XA-XI	Mexico	CV-CX	Uruguay
HI	Dominican Republic	V6	Micronesia, Federated States of	YV-YY	Venezuela
J7	Dominica	YN	Nicaragua	4U1ITU	ITU - Geneva
HC-HD	Ecuador	HO-HP	Panama	4U1VIC	VIC - Vienna
YS	El Salvador	ZP	Paraguay		

Notes:

* Since 1970, there has been an informal agreement between the United Kingdom and the US, permitting Pitcairn and US amateurs to exchange messages concerning medical emergencies, urgent need for equipment or supplies, and private or personal matters of island residents.

US licensed amateurs may operate in the following US territories under their FCC license:

The Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, Johnston Island, Midway Island, Kure Island, American Samoa, Wake Island, Wilkes Island, Peale Island, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Please note that the Region 2 Division of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has recommended that international traffic on the 20 and 15-meter bands be conducted on the following frequencies:

14.100-14.150 MHz

14.250-14.350 MHz

21.150-21.200 MHz

21.300-21.450 MHz

The IARU is the alliance of Amateur Radio societies from around the world; Region 2 comprises member-societies in North, South and Central America, and the Caribbean.

Note: At the end of an exchange of third-party traffic with a station located in a foreign country, an FCC-licensed amateur must transmit the call sign of the foreign station as well as his own call sign.

** <<http://www.arrl.org/third-party-operating-agreements>>

More SEMARA News

Official Newsletter of the SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

New Computer Policy

A while back we made some announcements regarding the new password policy for computer accounts at SEMARA. Some of you may have discovered over the past weekend that this policy is now being enforced on all the computers and if you didn't send up a password, you're no longer able to access the computer resources.

If you are one of these folks DO NOT FRET! You can send an e-mail to [computer \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:computer@semara.org) with your call sign and a password (your password CANNOT be your call sign) and we will set you up with an account in no time flat.

Ben (NIWBV)

Computer Passwords

Duplicate requests for passwords from members who already have a password established have been received. So everyone is on the same page, this is the list of people who already gave us passwords and are already set up as of September 2010:

- K1USW
- WA1JFD
- W1BUG
- K1XTB
- WA1ESO
- W1POW
- W1JFI
- K1BKR
- N1IXC
- N1IQU
- K1KVV
- KB1UAM
- W1DBX
- KB1ODE

If you are on the list, you are all set. Other members (who haven't sent in requests in the last few days, as of 18 Mar 2011) who wish to have access can send their password request to [computer \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:computer@semara.org) and the technical committee will receive it.

Rick(WIRJC)

You're Invited to Track Satellites

In November 2010, five research satellites were carried to orbit aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. Two of these satellites—FASTRAC 1, known as "*Sara Lily*" and FASTRAC 2, referred to as "*Emma*" - entered orbit as a single nanosatellite, but on March 15, 2011, scientists sent the command to have them separate.

According to FASTRAC Student Program Manager **Sebastian Munoz, KE5FKV**, students at the University of Texas will be confirming the separation as the satellites pass: "We started one of the most exciting phases of our project by separating both of our girls so that they can compute on-orbit real-time relative navigation solutions while both of them are freely drifting from one another."

Munoz said that they will continue to update the satellites' two line elements (TLEs) on their website for those radio amateurs interested in tracking the two nanosatellites. "I want to thank the ham community all over the world for supporting our project," Munoz said. "Your support has been incredible and we really value it. We really appreciate all of your help so far and we hope that we can continue to count on it."

The FASTRAC website with the current TLEs can be found at:

fastrac.ae.utexas.edu/for_radio_operators/users/phpBB3/predictedorbit.php

W1AW 2011 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Time shifted to reflect local daylight time:

1300 UTC (9 AM ET) CWs Wed, Fri

1300 UTC (9 AM ET) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)

1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

2000 UTC (4 PM ET) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

2000 " " CWs Tue, Thu

2100 " (5 PM ET) CWb Daily

2200 " (6 PM ET) DIGITAL Daily

2300 " (7 PM ET) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri

2300 " " CWf Tue, Thu

(W1AW 2011 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule continued)

0000 " (8 PM ET) CWb Daily

0100 " (9 PM ET) DIGITAL Daily

0145 " (9:45 PM ET) VOICE Daily

0200 " (10 PM ET) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

0200 " " CWs Tue, Thu

0300 " (11 PM ET) CWb Daily

Some Contests

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

Apr 17, 1800Z - Apr 17, 2359Z **HF**
ARRL Rookie Roundup
 Phone <www.arrl.org/contests>

VHF Spring Sprints:
 <sites.google.com/site/springvhfsprints>
 Apr 11, 7PM - 11PM **144**
 Apr 19, 7PM - 19PM **222**
 Apr 27, 7PM - 27PM **432**

HF QSO Party All_modes :
 Apr 9, 0000Z - Apr 10, 0000Z
Montana <www.fvarc.org>
 Apr 9, 1400Z - Apr 10, 0200Z
New Mexico <www.swcp.com/~n5zgt>

Apr 9, 1800Z - see website
Georgia <gqp.contesting.com>

Apr 16, 1600Z - Apr 17, 0400Z
Michigan <www.miqp.org>

Apr 18, 1600Z - see website
Ontario <www.va3cco.com>

Apr 23, 1700Z - Apr 24, 1700Z
South Dakota <www.w0blk.org>

Apr 30, 1100Z - May 1, 1700Z
Nebraska <www.hdxa.net>

Apr 30, 1600Z - see website
South Dakota <www.floridaqsoparty.org>

Special Non-Contest Event

Apr 16, 0001Z - Apr 24, 2359Z **HF**
Lighthouse Spring Lights QSOParty
 All_modes <arlhs.com>

Answer: Sudoku 20

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

VE Sessions

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



SEMARA – 10:30 AM April 2nd
 Larry Houbre-AA1FS
 <[exams \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:exams@semara.org)>
 508-991-6055

Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM April 19th
 Skip Denault-KB1CNB
 <[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](mailto:skip@newtestamentschool.org)>
 774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM April 9th
 W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
 <[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)>
 508-540-2583

Providence, RI – 7:00 PM April 14th
 Louis Mester-W1CH
 <[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH@arrl.net)>
 401-263-6045

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

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

- 3 Apr **Framingham MA**
 FARA Bev *NILOO* 508-626-2012
- 16 Apr **Manchester NH**
 NHAntqRC Charlie 603-898-4821
- 16 Apr **Gales Ferry CT**
 RASON Gary *WTISND* 860-884-4218
- 17 Apr **Cambridge MA**
 FLEA at MIT Nick 617-253-3776
- 29,30 Apr **Deerfield NH**
Nearfest IX Mike *KITWF* 978-250-1235

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

What is a disadvantage of the "rubber duck" antenna supplied with most handheld radio transceivers?
 A. It does not transmit or receive as effectively as a full-sized antenna.

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