



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

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SEMARA-W1AEC

November 2013

Bob Zeida - N1BLF

Adapted from an article published by Lauren Daley in SouthCoastToday's BookLovers on August 24, 2013.

Lauren Daley is a freelance writer and book columnist. Contact her at [ldaley33 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:ldaley33[at]gmail[dot]com).

Bob Zeida (N1BLF) is an 82-year-old retiree who lives in Dartmouth. During the last 30 years, he has recorded more than 400 audiobooks, most of them for special-needs students in SouthCoast schools or the visually impaired and for the Courage HandiHam network. Zeida has never asked for a dime.

As a ham radio operator, **Bob Zeida (N1BLF)** has recorded Federal Communication Commission training manuals for radio licensing exams. He records two amateur radio magazine publications each month.

Although he reads like a professional narrator or actor, Zeida is a retired beverage wholesale distributor, a volunteer with a passion for the written and spoken word.

He reads aloud better than many of the professional narrators or actors you hear on the audiobooks from the library. Bob reads with true passion. He constantly keeps the listener in mind, expressing himself with proper inflections and emotions.

With kids' books, he takes particular pains to give the best elaborate visual for the child to connect with the story. He puts himself into the character's emotions and actions as best he can.

Bob says this was easier in earlier

years when his voice was sharper, clearer and more flexible, but now that he's reached 82, it's not so easy.

In the early 1980s, Bob started as a volunteer with the Talking Information Center (TIC), a non-profit service for those who can't read themselves.

His daily routine was to get out of work in West Bridgewater and drive 45 minutes to the TIC studio at WATD Radio in Marshfield. There TIC would assign him specific magazines to read for an hour of broadcast time over their radio and television affiliates. He'd then drive back home to Dartmouth, which took more than an hour.

The long drive eventually burned him out. Still, he wanted to continue to record audiobooks, so he made an arrangement with TIC. He continued to record at home on his own equipment. He went on to read 75 self-selected works for TIC.

He enjoyed these readings. Often he read the material for the first time as he went along. He still records an occasional book title for TIC when he comes across a book that he particularly likes and thinks others would enjoy it too.

Thirty years ago he started with cassette tapes, but now records at home with *Adobe Audition 1.5* on his computer. Bob pays for his recording equipment, computer software, blank CDs, and shipping, all out of his own pocket.



BOB ZEIDA - N1BLF

About ten years ago, Bob decided to scale back and concentrate his volunteer time on recording for SouthCoast school systems.

He now reads for Dartmouth Public Schools, Fairhaven Public Schools, Bishop Stang High School, Friends Academy, Tiverton Middle School in Rhode Island and several schools on Cape Cod.

He's recorded some 320 books for pre-K to grade 12, including heavy-duty high school textbooks in world history or biology.

The process of recording each book takes time. Virtually every book takes three hours for every one hour of actual recording time. For the past three years, he's recorded the New Bedford-based Consumer Vision magazine for the visually impaired.

Bob loves what he does. He's blessed with a good voice and the ability to help others. For **Bob Zeida (N1BLF)**, everything has been for the joy of helping others.

ZERO BEAT

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2013 SEMARA OFFICERS

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<<<<< @ >>>>>

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<<<<< @ >>>>>

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John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013) (ch)

Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC (2015)

Dick Halliwell—K1AHA (2016)

Brad Paiva—W1BEP (2017)

<<<<< @ >>>>>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds

Marty Jordan—KA1YFV

Tony Lessa—KB1UAM

Scholarship

Sonny Eddleston—K1USW – chair

Chuck Moszczenski—KB1FRL

Alan Dulong—WB1FQP

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Technical/Repeater/Web

VACANT – Technical (chair):

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Repeater

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Web

<<<<< @ >>>>>

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities

VACANT

ARES/SKYWARN/RACES(ACS)

Ed Caron—KA1RSY

QSL Manager

John Nery—WA1ESO

Radio Events

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

Tech Talk

Brad Paiva—W1BEP

It seems to me ... de Bob - K1KVV, Editor**that** some of us really enjoy our hobby...

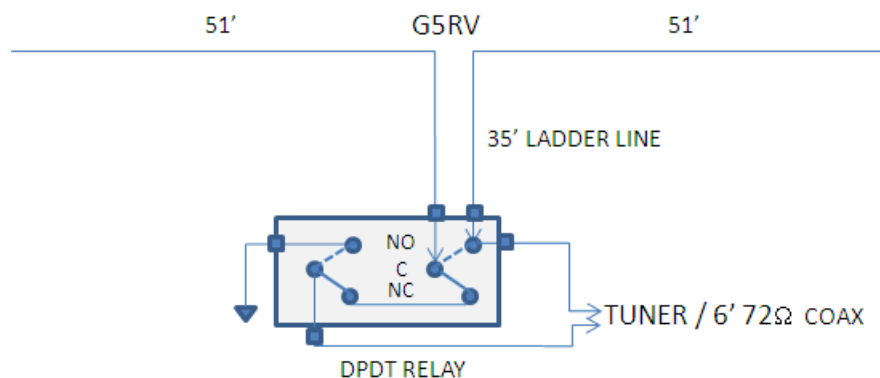
You should listen to some of our evening nets. When **160m LSB** is too noisy, the gang migrates to **6m USB**.

Just when you think you've seen it all, the **6m net** now meets on 50.200 MHz **using FM**, not USB. Why? Because it's quieter!

Anyone interested in re-starting the old **2m evening net**? Talk it up at the club.

Have a G5RV antenna?

Would you like to be able to operate on 160-meters? This idea was presented on pp. 40-41 in the November 2013 issue of **QST**. See the sketch below.



The idea is to convert the G5RV into 35' vertical radiating feedline by feeding both legs of the twin lead and use the dipole wire as a capacitive hat. Of course you'll need to use a tuner. The trick is to be sure you don't short the RF being fed to the feedline if you ground one side of the tuner.

The DPDT relay can be mounted in a box with RF isolated terminals; i.e., don't short the RF! Be careful if you use a metal box. Or save yourself the concern and use a plastic enclosure.

POINT TO PONDER

"We cannot command the wind; but we can set the sails."

~Anonymous

Official Meeting Minutes



October 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 26 members and 0 guests present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the report as posted on the board and in *Zero Beat*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported major expense last month was estimated federal and state taxes at approximately \$1300.00 and total cash on hand is currently \$56,296.00.

As of October 1, 2013 NETCOM owes \$13,045.00.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Marty (KA1YFV) reported that the tree along the property line at Little Peoples College was taken down at no cost to SEMARA.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Ed (KA1RSY) reported he is working on getting a speaker to talk about Boston Marathon communications in the near future.

The bike race the past month was attended by 6 SEMARA volunteers and there will be another race next year where volunteers will also be sought.

It was also mentioned that SKYWARN recognition day will be soon (dates to be announced).

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned several events noted in *Contest Corral* and at the end of *Zero Beat*.

RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

An application was received from **Karl Daxland (KA1RM)**. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept Karl as a life member.

OLD BUSINESS

Dick (K1AHA) reported the 6 meter net is doing well.

The President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** reported he has also spoken with and has meetings in the near future with architects, as well as Al Costelo to discuss plans about

the radio room addition. Some discussion followed.

There was also discussion about acquiring a bucket to replace the antenna on the short tower.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to allow **ARES** to hold a district meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 10:00 AM.

Among other topics discussed were: A volunteer is being sought to chair the Flea Market this coming year, and *Cypress Haven Homeowner's Association* will have a meeting this coming Tuesday evening at the SEMARA building.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

There was some discussion about a Christmas party. **Fred Bacon (N1TF)** volunteered to coordinate the event.

There was also mention of the upcoming **RACES** drill this coming Monday as well as some discussion about the **SCMARG (145.49 Mhz)** repeater location in Fairhaven, and the over use of the printer for personal use of large files.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2013

The SEMARA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** at 10:15 AM. with 5 members present. Topics discussed were as follows:

Member Participation: There was discussion about membership participation, or lack thereof, for events and general upkeep of SEMARA.

Access to the Shed: There was discussion regarding lack of access to the shed outside. It was suggested that a new key would be made and left within the building where it could more easily be accessed.

New Addition: There was some discussion regarding ideas for the new radio room addition.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted;

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary

Tidbits



At the October 5th VE Session, three applicants passed their exams:

Matthew D. White, N1MUK - General,

Kerry LeBlanc, KC1ANG - Technician,

Samuel M. Preciado, Jr., - Technician.

The last two had to wait until the government 're-opened' for the FCC to post their new calls.

Welcome to the hobby!

Questions, advice, or just company?

Email [info \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:info[at]semara[dot]org)

50/50 RAFFLE

The 50/50 raffle was won by **Brad-W1BEP**

The split was \$23.50/\$23.50.

LOCAL NETS

Everyone is welcome to check in!

147.000+ (PL 67.0 Hz) (FM) — Massachusetts RACES/ACS Drill (Region 2, Sector A) is held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

50.200 MHz (FM) — Net is held Wednesdays at 8:30 PM. **Paul, K1PGS** (E. Freetown) is net control.

28.490 MHz (USB) — Net is held Tuesdays at 8:30 PM. **Brad, W1BEP** (E. Freetown) is net control.

3868 kHz (LSB) — SEMARA Morning Net is held weekdays from 7:30-8 AM ET. **INACTIVE**

1875 kHz (LSB) Net is held Fridays at 7 PM. **Dave, K1JGV** (S. Dartmouth) is net control with **Dick, K1AHA** (S. Dartmouth) as back up. If it is too noisy, look for them on **50.200 MHz** (USB)

NEXT VE SESSION @ SEMARA

December 7, 2013

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Fred Bacon-N1TF

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

508-748-0047



LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORIES

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>)

Club Numbers

GPS Coordinates:

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

Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: FN41mo

— o —

For FISTS Sprints: FISTS #10555

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING

First THURSDAY of the month @ 7 PM

Sunday RAGCHEW 7-10 AM

Thursday COFFEE CROWD

Dunkin Donuts - Dartmouth & Garfield
Dartmouth @ 1 PM

Friday LUNCH BUNCH

Leave for LUNCH at **12 noon**
Gather @ clubhouse before 12

Call on the repeater, if you will be delayed
or you can phone the club: 508-997-7070

50 MHz and Up

All Else is Just DC...

by Rick-W2RG
Beacons

50 MHz and Up has been nearly dead for the past month or so, at least here in the northeast. There have been a few brief openings as on Monday morning October 6 on 2-m, but not enough to support much long-path activity.

My main VHF activity of late has been just monitoring the *Hepburn index* and the *beacons*.

If you've never checked out the Hepburn index, have a look at Bill Hepburn's web site at www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html.

Hepburn is not a Ham. He's a meteorologist whose hobby interest is propagation of FM radio and TV signals – that is, VHF and UHF. And his predictions can be very useful to Hams.

K4MSG and I have been following Hepburn's site closely lately, because we're hoping to make the roughly 400 mile path from southeast Massachusetts to northern Virginia on 432 MHz. Paul has a very capable station, but he has not yet made a 432 MHz contact in grid square FN41 – our square. I figure that's partly because of the PAVE PAWS limitation on Hams of 50 W maximum output on 432 MHz. But I know that when ducting is good, 432 MHz will readily make that distance.

The 50 W limitation has probably also led to there being few well-equipped 432 MHz stations in this area. If you do have a good 432 MHz station and are willing to try the path with **K4MSG** some time, please let me know – or contact Paul directly.

Unfortunately, Hepburn's predictions for the northeast US have been bleak lately. So we watch and wait.

Otherwise, thank goodness for beacons. Or, I should say, thank the many generous Hams around the U.S. and the world who have set up these things to make browsing the bands easier. Almost every Ham band has a beacon, and from 14 MHz and up, some bands have loads of them. Beacons are tools useful on both the VHF and the HF

bands.

A good beacon gives you:

1. **Propagation info.** If you can hear a particular beacon clearly that's putting 20 watts into an omnidirectional antenna, you can be sure that basic Ham stations at each end with 100 W and omnidirectional or better antennas should easily be able to make a QSO.
2. **Accurate compass direction** (to the beacon). This can be useful when you're setting up a narrow-beam antenna, particularly if you're out roving or portable.
3. **Accurate frequency.** This is a common issue on the microwave bands, where rig frequency displays are often in error by a few kilohertz, especially rovers and portables.

There are many sources for beacon info. One is the VHF/microwave list at <http://www.newsuhf.com/beacons2.html> maintained by **WZ1V** of the *North East Weak Signal Group* (NEWS Group). A good one for HF is G3USF's extensive list at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/28.htm.

But perhaps the most useful is the international beacon network of the *International Amateur Radio Union* (IARU). The site of the *Northern California DX Foundation* (NCDXF) has an excellent description of this

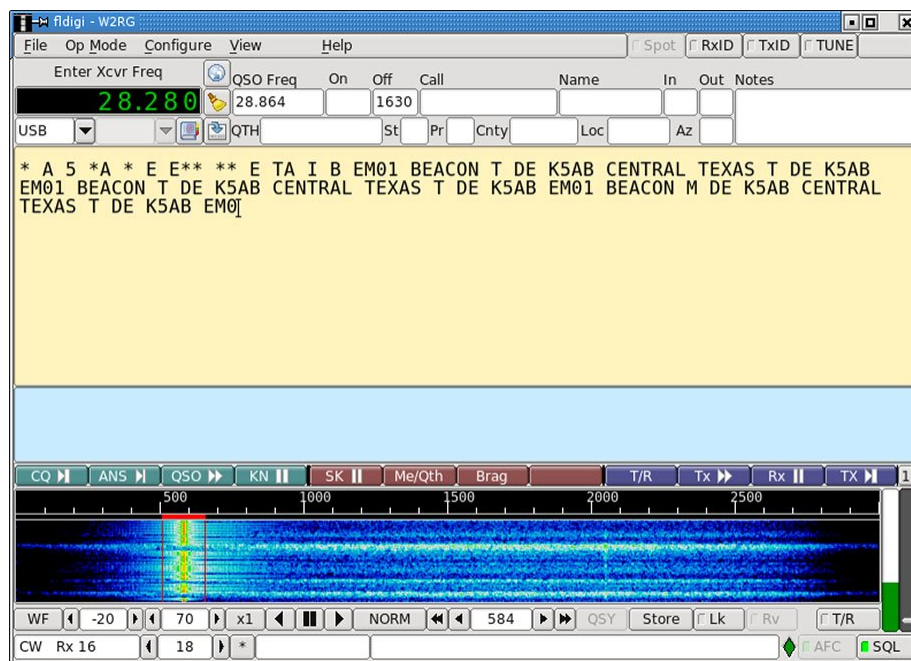
system (see www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconschedule.html).

Each beacon in the IARU network transmits once every three minutes. A transmission consists of the callsign of the beacon sent in CW at 22 words per minute followed by four one-second dashes. The callsign and the first dash are sent at 100 W. The next dash is at 10 W, then 1 W, and finally at 100 mW.

If you're not into CW, there's lots of software that can help. The NCDXF provides links to some beacon-monitoring software, and most any digital-mode software can be useful. Here's a screen shot of the *fldigi* program copying a weak **K5AB** beacon on 10-m. *Fldigi* can handle PSK, RTTY, and many other modes and does a pretty good job with CW.

Every beacon must send its call sign to be useful. Others send a wealth of information such as location, maidenhead grid square, power output, type of antenna, etc.

When the bands seem dead, I recommend looking for the beacons. Often, they'll confirm *the old observation that a band may be open, there's just no one trying to use it.*



Amateur Radio News

Centennial Convention Website Now Live!



The ARRL Centennial Convention website www.arrl2014.org/ is now live! Online registration is coming soon. The League will celebrate 100 years of "*Advancing the Art and Science of Radio*" next year from **Thursday, July 17, to Saturday, July 19, 2014**. Most Centennial Convention activities will take place at the *Connecticut Convention Center* in *Hartford*, where thousands of League members and friends are anticipated. Hartford was ARRL's birthplace.

The Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford will be the hub of ARRL Centennial activity. Online convention registration will become available in January. A **two-day ticket is \$25** in advance, **\$30 on-site** (free of charge for attendees age 21 and younger). It includes **Friday and Saturday Exhibit Hall admission** and access to all forums and general sessions. Additional events include free bus trips all three days to ARRL Headquarters and **W1AW**.

Stay tuned for the ARRL National Centennial Convention program and registration, starting January 2014. We look forward to seeing you **join us in celebrating 100 years!**

145.490 Repeater Update

Proceeding the recent painting and rehabilitation of the Fairhaven water tank on Boston Hill Road, SCMARG was unable to reach an acceptable agreement with the town's Board of Public Works (BPW) that would allow us to provide the same level of service we had previously. After much discussion between the SCMARG trustees, we have decided to pull the equipment out and to reinstall it at our other site located on Wilbur Avenue in Dartmouth. This Dartmouth communications tower will offer at least comparable (if not somewhat better) coverage than our former Fairhaven location, based on the projected plots between the two locations.

SCMARG's 927.6500 repeater at the Dartmouth site has been removed and replaced with the **145.490 repeater**. The equipment swap was completed the first weekend in November. We are now awaiting the 2-meter antenna to be relocated from Fairhaven to Dartmouth. Once that is completed, the **145.490 repeater** will be on the air from its new location in Dartmouth. We will keep everyone posted on the progress via SCMARG.org, as well as our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition period. We look forward to restoring the **145.490 repeater** to service.

73, SCMARG Trustees: **Marc-KA1WBF, Rick-W1RJ, Rob-KD1CY & Tony-N1XRS**

RS0ISS Active on SSTV from International Space Station

Dmitry Pashkov, UB4UAD, reports that the Amateur Radio slow-scan television (SSTV) experiment onboard the International Space Station has been active for the past couple of days on **145.800 MHz FM**, mainly while the ISS is above Moscow.

UB4UAD says that on *October 31*, **RS0ISS** transmitted SSTV images showing images from the life and work of the first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin.

Stations can view the SSTV pictures from the ISS by making a simple audio connection between the receiver output and the computer soundcard input and using one of the free SSTV programs, such as: **MMSSTV** (for Windows systems) or the **SSTV app** (for Apple iOS devices). Details are on the AMSAT-UK website at

amsat-uk.org/2011/08/01/1490/.

Failing a hard-wired connection, just holding a microphone connected to the PC soundcard in front of the receiver's speaker should provide sufficient audio to decode the SSTV signal. SSTV images from the ISS typically are in **Martin 1 format**.

The ISS Fan Club website at

www.issfanclub.com/

indicates when the ISS is within range. The Energia page at

www.energia.ru/eng/iss/researches/education-26.html

has more information on the SSTV experiment, which is designated MAI-75.

Emergency Communications Night

The ARES Net is the first Monday of the month at 8:30 PM on the MMRA Repeater system (after the earlier MEMA Nets). Frequencies that link into the ARES Net on the MMRA Network are on the web site detailing the links through Hub 1:

[www.mmra.org/repeaters/
repeater_index_by_linkstate.html](http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/repeater_index_by_linkstate.html)

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

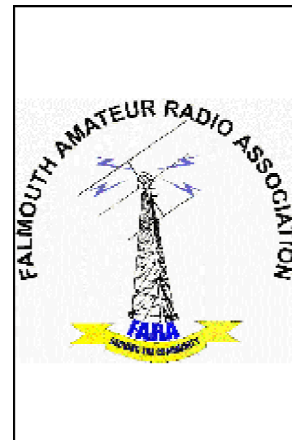
We are always looking for Net Controls to run the ARES Net. Updates are posted on ares.ema.arrl.org.

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FIFTEENTH ANNUAL**

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<http://www.falara.org>

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NO SALES BEFORE 0900**



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STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
7 FOOT SPACES REQUIRED: _____ x \$10.00/7' FOOT SPACE = \$ _____ ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to: FARA
Mail to: FARAFEST P.O. Box 815, West Falmouth, MA 02574

Some Radio Activity

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

Nov 2 2100Z-Nov 4 0259Z 1.8-28 / -
ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
www.arrl.org/contests

9 0000Z-10 2400Z 3.5-28 / -
Worked All Europe DX Contest Dig
www.waedc.de

9 0001Z-10 2359Z 28 / -
10-10 Fall Digital QSO Party Dig
www.ten-ten.org

9 0700Z-10 1300Z 3.5-28 / -
Japan International DX Contest Ph
jidx.org

9 1200Z-10 1200Z 1.8-28 / -
OK-OM DX Contest CW
okomdx.crk.cz

9 1200Z-10 2359Z 3.5-28 / -
Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon CW
www.skccgroup.com

9 1400Z-10 0200Z 1.8-28 / 50
Kentucky QSO Party Ph CW Dig
www.wkdx.com

9 1900Z-11 0500Z 1.8-28 / 50-440
CQ WE (Western Electric) Ph CW Dig
cqwe.cboh.org

16 0000Z-17 2359Z - / 50-
1296 ARRL EME Contest Ph CW Dig
www.arrl.org/contests

16 1200Z-17 1200Z 3.5-28 / -
LZ DX Contest Ph CW
lzdxbfra.org

16 1600Z-17 0700Z 1.8 / -
All Austria 160 Meter Contest CW
www.oevsv.at

16 2100Z-18 0259Z 1.8-28 / -
ARRL November Sweepstakes Ph
www.arrl.org/contests

16 2100Z-17 0100Z 1.8 / -
RSGB Second 1.8 MHz Contest CW
www.rsgbcc.org

23 0000Z-24 2359Z 1.8-28 / -
CQ World Wide CW Contest CW
www.cqww.com


27 0000Z-27 0200Z 1.8-28 / 50
SKCC Straight Key Sprint CW
www.skccgroup.com

28 0000Z-28 0600Z 1.8 / -
Top Band Sprint Ph CW
www.qrparci.org/contests

Local VE Sessions

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

SEMARA – 10:30 AM **December 7th**
 Fred Bacon-N1TF
exams [at] semara [dot] org
 508-748-0047 

Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM November 18th
 Skip Denault-KB1CNB
skip [at] newtestamentschool [dot] org
 774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM November 9th
 W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
BenFleck [at] verizon [dot] net
 508-540-2583

Slatersville, RI – 9:00 AM December 28^h
 Robert E Jones-WB1P
bgjones49 [at] arrl [dot] net
 401-333-4787

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

9 Nov **Bourne MA** **FARA Fest**
 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422

2014

15 Feb **Marlborough MA** Algonquin ARC
k1em.org

22 Feb **S Burlington VT** HAM-CON
 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589

15 Mar **Dayville CT** ECARA
 Paul KE1LI 860 928 5147

16 Mar **Southington CT** SARA Flea Market
www.chetbacon.com/flea2013.pdf

28,29 Mar **Lewiston ME** AARC ME Conv
 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350

27 Apr **Middletown NY** OCARA
 Neil AC2O 914 490 2001 F

2,3 May **Deerfield NH** **NEARfest XV**
 Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235

17 July **Hartford CT**
ARRL Nat'l Centennial Conv
ARRL2014.org