



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 50 Issue 11

SEMARA-W1AEC

November 2014

Eleven Years of Zero Beat



OCT 2003



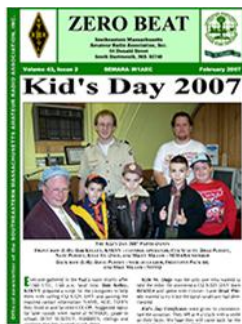
NOV 2004



DEC 2005



JAN 2006



FEB 2007



MAR 2008



APR 2009



JUNE 2010



JULY 2011



AUG 2012



SEPT 2013



OCT 2014

ZERO BEAT

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2014 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Marcel Dumont—W1MLD
 Vice President
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC
 Secretary
 Marc Dumont—KB1ODE
 Treasurer
 Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Dave Dean—K1JGV
 Jean Pierre Chiron,—AG1Y
 Martin G. Jordan—KA1YFV

Trustees: (year term is up)

Louis Mester—W1CH (2014) (ch)
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC (2015)
 Dick Halliwell—K1AHA (2016)
 Brad Paiva—W1BEP (2017)
 Martin G. Jordan—KA1YFV (2018)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds
 Marty Jordan—KA1YFV
 Anthony 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 Talks
 Richard Orluk—K1XRN

It seems to me... de Bob – K1KVV, Editor

that November is a wonderful month. It with *All Saints Day*, the day following Halloween. Then comes elections, the celebration of the “*end of the war to end all wars*” (as it used to be called), and finally the original American holiday - *Thanksgiving*.

This is also the month when things start to come together for the new radio shack building. There are lots of steps to take before it is completed. We now have a foundation dug and poured so the building can be moved from the rear of the club property and placed on it. Anyone care to predict when it will be completed?

Nominations are made at the November business meeting, Before the election actually takes place at the December business meeting, nominations are opened one last time. Then secret ballots are cast for any contested positions - those with extra names (three in the case of Directors) are considered contested. Any member can stand for any Officer slot or one of the Director's slots. Five years membership is required for the Trustee's position.

Officers and Directors serve a one-year term, and the Trustee serves a five-year term. The slate to be filled is as follows:

President – one-year term
 Vice President – one-year term
 Secretary – one-year term
 Treasurer – one-year term
 Directors (3) – one-year terms
 Trustee – five-year term

The *Board of Directors* consists of the four Officers and the three Directors. The Board meets four times a year, once each season.

The five Trustees serve as executors in case the club needs to be disbanded due to lack of members or bankruptcy. The most senior Trustee serves as the chair. Normally, the Trustees don't hold a meeting unless they are activated.

Help us to put out a better newsletter. Contribute articles, poems, noteworthy events, anything at all. News about amateur radio events is always welcomed. Please submit to editor@semara.org by the third Thursday of the month.

Reminder: The **December** issue of *Zero Beat* is the last for this editor.

POINTS TO PONDER

“Even the smartest person can learn something from the dumbest.”

~Fortune Cookie

Official Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 25 members and 1 guest present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported total income this month of \$2,996.83, expense of \$69.17 and a total amount of \$81,310.05. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Technical - Rick (W1RJJC) reported that he had cleaned and organized the radio desk.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN - Rob (KD1CY) reported all was quiet lately and reminded members of the SKYWARN recognition event on the first Friday and Saturday of December.

Radio Events - Joe K (N1IXC) reported that three members assisted at the recent Cystic Fibrosis event and several agencies participated in the Dartmouth 350th Birthday parade. Multiple radios and systems were used with success.

Repeater - Rick (W1RJJC) updated members on the status of the repeaters. The 220 repeater is off the air for repairs, progress is being made on the 145.49 repeater formerly located in Fairhaven and the IRLP nodes should be back (active) shortly.

Web - Rick (W1RJJC) reported all was working well with the website and improvements are coming in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS - A Thank You note was received from the family of Byron Piette for our condolences sent.

RATIFICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

A membership application was received from **Roland Aubin (KB1KZA)**. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept Roland as a life member.

OLD BUSINESS

The President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** reported the following: The keyless entry system will be designed once the new addition is complete as it will be included as an entry. Construction on the foundation will begin Monday. The permit for the new building to be tied in must wait for a variance from the town. The cost estimate for the variance is approximately \$760.00. Parking is closed off in the construction area. Volunteers would be needed for the Sunday prior to construction for a short clean up detail of the area.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Bob (K1KVV) noted that it would be a good time to consider SEMARA Officer candidates as nominations are begun in the November meeting. He also reminded members of his upcoming resignation of Zero Beat editor.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2014

The SEMARA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President, Marcel (W1MLD) at 10:08 AM with 6 members present. Topics discussed were as follows:

New Building Addition: The President, Marcel (W1MLD) advised that the foundation should now be cured and safe. Discussions regarding work on the foundation to be completed included access holes for

electric conduit, fill, insulation and vapor barriers in the near future prior to the building being set on its foundation. Further permitting and variances through the Conservation Commission and others will follow when necessary.

W1AEC license renewal: It was brought up that the W1AEC license is due to expire January 4, 2015. There was discussion about the Trustee listed on the license. It will be brought to the membership at the

(Continued on page 5)

Tidbits



SEMARA Repeaters

See <http://www.nerepeaters.com/se.htm>

Freq/Offset	FM	I/O Tones	IRLP/Echolink
147.000+	FM	67.0 67.0	4210/4210
224.800-	FM	67.0 88.5	4215/4215
927.8375-	NFM	67.0 67.0	4617/ -

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>)

Results of Last VE Session

These gentlemen passed their Technician exam:

Charles Curtis – KC1COX

Brian J. Raymond – KC1COY

Attend our next business meeting and qualify for a 'free' HT (SEE DETAILS BELOW).

Congratulations and welcome to ham radio!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING

First THURSDAY of the month @ 7 PM

Sunday RAGCHEW @ 7-10 AM

Thursday COFFEE CROWD

Dunkin Donuts - Dartmouth & Garfield
S. Dartmouth @ 1 PM

Friday LUNCH BUNCH

Leave for LUNCH @ 12 noon

Gather @ clubhouse before 12 noon
li you are coming, please call on the 147.000 repeater to see if anyone else is coming – the turn-out of late has been very light – no need to be a party of one.

Club Numbers

GPS Coordinates:

Lat. N 41° 36.795'
Long. W 070° 56.550'
— 0 —

Maidenhead Grid Coordinates:

FN41mo
— 0 —

FISTS Sprints:

10555

New Life Member

At the October 2, 2014 business meeting, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept **Roland Aubin (KB1KZA)**, as a life member.

Welcome to the club!

NEXT VE SESSION @ SEMARA

December 6, 2014

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: **Fred Bacon-N1TF**
exams [at] semara [dot] org

508-748-0047

Successful candidates may be eligible for a 'free'

Baofeng UV-5B HT from SEMARA..

Details:

1. Pass SEMARA VE Exam
2. Join ARRL
3. Join SEMARA



50/50 RAFFLE

The October 50/50 raffle was split \$30/\$30 with **Paul-K1PGS**



Start & Finish

Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life

Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyards,
Little Compton, RI.
September 27, 2014.



SIGN UP TENT



ON THE COURSE CHECKING WITH EVENT OFFICIAL



TWO OF THE SIX HAM OPS
THREE EACH FROM NEWPORT & SEMARA

It's a Start: New Radio Shack



MARCEL-W1MLD "CLERK-OF-THE-WORKS"
SURVEYS THE NEWLY POURED BASE FOUNDATION

(BOD Minutes: continued from page 3)

November business meeting regarding naming a Trustee for the license.

Use of Facility: It was mentioned that the facility would be used for a pot luck dinner Saturday, October 25 by a member.

Membership Involvement: The topic of membership involvement was discussed and the hope for increased interest once the addition of the radio room is completed.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), *Secretary*

UNKNOWN YL - COURTESY OF ARMAND-W1BUG



Of Interest ...



FISTS?

When you learn CW on a straight key, you build up a kind of affinity for the solid feel and greater control of the way you shape your code.

Back in the day, the particular characteristic sound of your sending was called your fist. It's because you cupped your hand above the knob on a straight key, forming a sort of fist.

In the days when everyone used straight keys, you could tell who was sending by the mannerisms that crept into their style of keying.

To this day, some of us refer to fist as a style of sending CW with a straight key.

The International Morse Preservation Society uses Fists as a shorthand name in The Fists CW Club.

To learn more, pay a visit to:

<http://fistsna.org/>.

For *Handiham World*,
Pat Tice, WA0TDA

NE Spectrum Management Council

The New England Spectrum Management Council held its annual meeting on September 6 at 1 PM at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough Woods, in Boxborough.

NESMC is the FCC certified frequency coordination body for amateur operations on 29 MHz and above, in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

NESMC is also the exclusive provider of data to the ARRL repeater directory for these four states.

Rick-W1RJ

Getting Started on 6 Meters

Adapted from article by Dr. Ron Milliman, K8HSY in *Handiham World Weekly E-letter*

The "Mystery" Band

The 6 meter band (50-54 MHz) is often referred to as the "mystery band" or the "magic band" by many hams.

Listen for the Beacons

To help you know when 6 meters is open and into which area of the country or world, there are numerous beacons set up that you can listen for. Here in the United States beacons can be heard in the frequency range between 50.060 and 50.080 MHz. However, in other countries around the globe, they are more scattered across the 6 meter band. For a comprehensive and up-to-date list of 6 meter beacons: G3USF's Worldwide List of 50MHz Beacons

www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/50.htm

The 6 Meter Band Structure

Dave Finley, N1IRZ's article "6 Meters: An Introduction" (QRPP, Spring 2000) states "...six meters is much more rigidly structured than the HF bands tend to be.

6 meters has a *CW-only* sub-band which runs from 50.0 to 50.1 MHz. *Calling frequencies* are used. 50.100 to 50.125 is a "*DX Window*," in which domestic QSOs are discouraged. The *DX calling frequency* is 50.110. The traditional *domestic calling frequency* is 50.125." N1IRZ goes on to point out that you should monitor 50.125 and 50.200, as well as 50.090, during openings. Check 50.110 for DX stations, too."

Do You Know Your Grid Square?

As N1IRZ points out you need to know your grid square when operating 6 meters because you are likely to be asked for it. The grid square system "is almost universally used as a locator system by VHF, UHF and microwave operators." It "divides the world into 32,400 squares, each 2 degrees of longitude by 1 degree of latitude. [See the Tidbit p.4 for SEMARA's grid coordinates.]

VHF operators collect grid squares like HF operators collect countries. ARRL's VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) award requires confirmed contacts with 100 grid squares.

To find your grid square, go to:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/grids.php>

Add your grid square number to your QSL card information.

The Key Word When Working 6 Meters

The key word when working 6 meters is '*patience*.' It requires considerable patience, and you will need to make it a part of your ham operating routine to check 6 meters frequently for band openings and to listen for the several beacons that will let you know not only if the band is open, but the beacons will let you know what part of the country or world is open to you. Of course, 6 is open pretty much all of the time for local communications, much like 2 meters in that regard.

Good luck...

Ron, K8HSY



November Radio Activities

www.arri.org/contests

3.5-28 IPA Contest www.iparc.de	Phone-CW Nov 1, 0600Z - See website	3.5-28 Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon www.skccgroup.com	CW Nov 8, 1200Z - Nov 9, 2359Z
1.8-28 Ukranian DX Contest urdx.org	Phone-CW Nov 1, 1200Z - Nov 2, 1200Z	1.8-28 50 Kentucky QSO Party www.wkdx.com	All Mode Nov 8, 1400Z - Nov 9, 0200Z
3.5-28 Himalayan Contest arsi.info/contests/himalayan	Phone-CW Nov 1, 1200Z - Nov 2, 1200Z	1.8-28 50-440 CQ WE (Western Electric) cqwe.cboh.org	All Mode Nov 8, 1900Z - Nov 10, 0500Z
3.5-21 Radio Club of America QSO Party radioclubofamerica.org	Phone Nov 1, 1700Z - Nov 2, 0500Z	3.5-28 LZ DX Contest lzdx.bfra.org	Phone-CW Nov 15, 1200Z - Nov 16, 1200Z
1.8-28 ARRL November Sweepstakes www.arri.org/contests	CW Nov 1, 2100Z - Nov 3, 0300Z	1.8-28 Russian WW Multi-Mode Contest www.rdrclub.ru	All Mode Nov 15, 1200Z - Nov 16, 1159Z
1.8-28 Collegiate ARC Championship collegiatechampionship.org	CW Nov 1, 2100Z - 3, 0300Z	3.5-28 Feld-Hell Turkey Shoot Sprint www.feldhellclub.org	Digital Nov 15, 1600Z - Nov 15, 1800Z
28 DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport	Digital Nov 2, 1100Z - Nov 2, 1700Z	1.8 All Austria 160 Meter Contest www.oevsv.at	CW Nov 15, 1600Z - Nov 16, 0700Z
3.5, 7 OK1WC Memorial Contest memorial-ok1wc.cz	Phone-CW Nov 3, 1630Z - Nov 3, 1730Z	1.8-28 ARRL November Sweepstakes www.arri.org/contests	Phone Nov 15, 2100Z - Nov 17, 0300Z
3.5-28 ARS Spartan Sprint arsqrp.blogspot.com	CW Nov 4, 0200Z - Nov 4, 0400Z	1.8-28 Collegiate ARC Championship www.collegiatechampionship.org	Phone Nov 15, 2100Z - Nov 17, 0300Z
1.8-28 CWops Weekly Mini-CWT Tests www.cwops.org/cwt.html	CW Nov 6, 1300Z - See website	1.8 RSGB Second 1.8 MHz Contest www.rsgbcc.org	Phone Nov 15, 2100Z - Nov 16, 0100Z
3.5-14 NS Weekly RTTY Sprint nccsprint.com	Digital Nov 7, 0145Z - Nov 7, 0215Z	1.8-28 ARS HF Contest www.arsitalia.it	All Modes Nov 16, 0000Z - Nov 16, 2359Z
1.8-14 NS Weekly CW Sprint www.nccsprint.com	CW Nov 7, 0230Z - Nov 7, 0300Z	3.5-7 Homebrew and Oldtime Contest www.qrpsc.de/contestrules/hotr.html	CW Nov 16, 1300Z - Nov 16, 1700Z
3.5-28 Worked All Europe DX Contest www.waedc.de	Digital Nov 8, 0000Z - Nov 9, 2400Z	1.8-28 Run For the Bacon www.fqrp.org	CW Nov 17, 0200Z - Nov 17, 0400Z
50-1296 ARRL EME Contest www.arri.org/contests	All Modes Nov 8, 0000Z - Nov 9, 2359Z	3.5-14 NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint naqcc.info	CW Nov 20, 0130Z - Nov 20, 0330Z
28 10-10 Fall Digital QSO Party www.ten-ten.org	Digital Nov 8, 0001Z - Nov 9, 2359Z	1.8-28 50 SKCC Straight Key Sprint www.skccgroup.com	CW Nov 26, 0000Z - Nov 26, 0200Z
3.5-28 Japan International DX Contest jidx.org	Phone Nov 8, 0700Z - Nov 9, 1300Z	1.8 Top Band Sprint www.qrparci.org/contests	Phone-CW Nov 27, 0000Z - Nov 27, 0600Z
1.8-28 OK-OM DX Contest okomdx.crk.cz	CW Nov 8, 1200Z - Nov 9, 1200Z	1.8-28 CQ World Wide CW Contest www.cqww.com	CW Nov 29, 0000Z - Nov 30, 2359Z
		1.8-28 Full Day of Hell www.feldhellclub.org	Digital Nov 29, 0000Z - Nov 29, 2359Z

Nets, Fests & Other Stuff

LOCAL NETS

SEMARA Tu, W, F Evening Nets @ 8 PM

Everyone is welcome to check in ...

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

50.200 MHz (FM) – held Wednesdays at 8 PM. Net control is **Brad, W1BEP** (E. Freetown).

28.490 MHz (USB) – held Tuesdays at 8 PM. Net control is **Dick, K1AHA** (N. Dartmouth).

28.490 MHz (USB) – held Fridays at 8 PM. Net control is **Dave, K1JGV** (N. Dartmouth).
Net returns to 1875 kHz (LSB) in the fall when QRN is more manageable

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

8 Nov **Bourne MA** **FARA**
Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422

29 Nov **Windsor CT** **VR+C Mus**
John 860 673 0518

2015

15 Feb **Westford MA** **NEARC RadioXLVI**
Bruce 603 772 7516

28 Feb **S Burlington VT** **RAoNVt**
Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589

7 Mar **Chicopee MA** **MtTomARA**
Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990

27,28 Mar **Lewiston ME** **AARC ME Conv**
Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350

1,2 May **Deerfield NH** **NEARfest XVII**
Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235

6 June **Hermon ME** **PSARA**
Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400

21,23 Aug **Boxboro MA** **FEMARA NE Conv**
Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235

Lawn Chair Dipole

It works! Which ham bands are closest to the natural resonance of this configuration?

Don't calculate it! Measure it using a full size physical mock-up instead.

Tnx de K2MIJ



WHO IN OUR CLUB WOULD DO SUCH A THING? HINT: DICK-K1AHA

13 Original Colonies Update

The British are coming! Please welcome for 2015 our newest *bonus station!* English club station **G4EUZ**-Durham & district Amateur Radio Society. They will be using the special event call **GB13COL**.

A contact with **GB13COL** will net you a "Union Jack English flag" as a bonus station endorsement on the certificate in addition to **WM3PEN**.

Also, **WM3PEN** is proposing that we use **D-STAR**, *Radio to Radio Only*.

13 Colonies for 2015.

The theme for 2015 is "*The Founders and Patriots of the Revolution*".

START: Tuesday, June 30, 1300Z (9AM EDT),
FINISH: Monday, July 6, 0400Z (Sunday July 5 midnight EDT).

Go to our website to see the new certificate and to "K2A" at QRZ.org to see NY's new 2015 card for an example.

I will be emailing everyone, on an individual basis, as to your participation for 2015. Please get back to me ASAP!. This is for the Group master roster, also let your state manager know too!

73 de **Ken-KU2US**

Event Manager

[dentron1\[at\]yahoo \[dot\] com](mailto:dentron1[at]yahoo[dot]com)