



# ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 6

SEMARA-W1AEC

June 2010

## First SEMARA Scholar



### FIRST SEMARA SCHOLAR

MELISSA WESEMBER (KB1UDU), A NEWLY LICENSED HAM, RECEIVES HER \$500 SCHOLARSHIP CHECK FROM MIKE (KB1NB), SEMARA TREASURER.

(L-R) WITNESSING THE AWARD PRESENTATION ARE HER FATHER, TOM TAVARES, SONNY (K1USW), CHAIRMAN OF THE SEMARA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, AND LOUIE (W1CH), SEMARA PRESIDENT.



After being dormant during most of its existence, the SEMARA Scholarship Committee was re-activated late last fall by chairman **Sonny (K1USW)**. Assisted by his committee, **Chuck (KB1FRL)**, **Alan (WB1FQP)**, and **Joe (N1IXC)**, all the area high schools were notified about the SEMARA scholarship and its requirements.

It was a lot of work for the committee. It did pay off. Now there are many more people who know about SEMARA and its scholarship program.

*Job well done!*

## Painting Trim



THIS NEW, WHITE PAINT JOB ON THE TRIM WAS DONE EARLY ONE MORNING BY RAY (KB1EVX).



TWO VOLUNTEER PAINTERS, SONNY (K1USW) AND JOE (W1JFI), FINISHING UP THE TRIM.

*More photos follow on page 6.*

## ZERO BEAT

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### 2010 SEMARA OFFICERS

#### President

Louis Mester—W1CH

#### Vice President

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

*Secretary* Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

#### Treasurer

Mike McDonald—KB1NB

#### Directors:

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

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 Moszczanski—KB1FRL

Alan Dulong—WB1FQP

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

#### Technical/Repeater/Website

Dave Goldstein—W1DJG: Tech

Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Repeater

Ben Jackson—N1WBV: Web

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### Activities

Scott Szala—W1EV

#### ARES/SKYWARN

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

#### QSL Manager

vacant

#### Radio Events

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

#### Tech Talk

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

## It seems to me ...

de Bob - K1KVV <[editor@semara.org](mailto:editor@semara.org)>



**t**hat the membership is beginning to become impatient — a good sign. Whenever folks are content with everything at the club, that's a sign of decay and slow death. In the present case, folks are impatient with the pace of progress of various improvements, especially with some technical issues.

There are good reasons for the impatience, someone else promised to deal with the technical issues. Only a few members can actually deal with them. Those who made the promises suffer from the usual deficiencies; they are too busy in their personal lives and they have overcommitted the time they do have to do too many things.

So what are some of these issues?

1. Due to one of the storms this winter, the Sommers log-yagi antenna on the 85-ft tower now freely rotates and has sheared off the hardline.
2. Computer access is being held-up pending implementation of an every-member password system.
3. Our 900 MHz repeater needs to have the controller software upgraded.

Yep—mostly problems that average folks can't personally fix. *What can we do to contribute to the solutions?*

**A**t one time SEMARA was known for its fabulous feasts put on at least once a season. Perhaps Field Day will offer us the chance to have a family oriented picnic-style cookout *and* get enough operators and equipment to have an emergency powered main station (W1AEC) and a separate GOTA station for new comers. If we have more than one W1AEC transmitter, we could also have a 'free' VHF station. (See <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2010%20Rules.pdf>.) How's that sound? Food and fun!

**A**s a warm-up why don't you ask some young people to participate in Kids Day? (See the rules on page 5.) Of course, you might get a surprise. You could hook up with an 11-year old girl who has an Extra class license.

Think about it — there are lots of chances to *get on the air* in June.

### POINT TO PONDER

“If absence makes the heart grow fonder,  
 some people must really love SEMARA.”

~ anonymous

### HAMMIN' AROUND

**Question\* E8A02** What type of wave has a rise time significantly faster than its fall time (or vice versa)?

- A. A cosine wave
- B. A square wave
- C. A sawtooth wave
- D. A sine wave

\* 2008 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool (good thru 2012-06-30)

Answer on page 9

# Club Notes

**J**une is a month of beginnings. As a result it is also a month of transitions. Summer finally arrives along with the solstice and the shortening of daylight.



**T**he ARRL has three radio activities in June starting with the VHF Contest, June 12-14. It's a good time to check out your gear for 6-m and up.



**T**o balance May, there is a holiday known as Father's Day. It is usually known for gifts of ties or golf balls and the like. This year it may be different.



**T**his same weekend is the ARRL Kids Day starting at 2 PM ET on Sat. June 19. Here's your chance to share our hobby with young people. You will be surprised at how many are licensed.



**T**he ARRL Field Day starts on 2 PM ET on Sat. June 26. This is another opportunity to let the rest of the world know what we can do — especially in the context of an emergency. We can subsist on grill cooked food.



**NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION**  
**June 5, 2010**  
**Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM**  
 Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
 508-991-6055



**Club Numbers**  
 GPS Coordinates:  
**Lat. N 41° 36.795' Long. W 070° 56.550'**  
 Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: **FN41 mo**  
 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.semara.org/repeaters.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's an easy Sudoku puzzle to ponder while waiting on net control. **(Page 9 has the solution.)**

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

# Official Meeting Minutes



**May 6, 2010**

The President, **Louis (W1CH)** called the meeting to order at 7:02PM with the salute to the flag. A moment of silence was offered for a **Norman Benoit (WA1KDT, SK)**.

The President welcomed our guests **Melissa Wesember (KB1UDU)**, a newly licensed Ham. Her father, **Tom Tavares** was also introduced and said he plans to take the exam next month to become a Ham. The roll was called with 24 members and 2 guests present.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as printed in the **ZERO BEAT** and as posted on the bulletin board.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported that the April total was \$12,560.00 and we now have a total \$21,615.00 in all accounts.

A settlement was made and the check is in the mail. The amount cannot be disclosed as part of the settlement but will cover our expenses for mitigation and legal fee's and we will have some leftover.

A motion was made and seconded to turn the report over to audit. The members voted unanimously.

## STANDING COMMITTEE'S

**Building and Grounds** — **Dave (K1JGV)** reported that he has obtained a building permit for the handicap restroom. He also wanted to thank **Sonny (K1USW)** and **Dick (K1AHA)** for cutting the lawn in the absence of **Marty (KA1YFV)**.

Dave has paid and will present the bills to the treasurer for \$86.00 for the mower repairs and \$25.00 for the application and \$75.00 for the building permit. The total job should be about \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00.

Other projects in the works are scraping and painting the trim on the outside of the building. We will be doing this on May 15 and 16th and we can paint on the following weekend.

Dave also reported that he has to purchase a new wide door for the restroom which will cost about \$100.00.

**Scholarship Committee** — **Sonny (K1USW)** reported that he is going to present the very first scholarship to **Melissa Wesember**, a New Bedford High student and member of the Science Club, Swim Team, Key Club, Tennis Team, Vice President of the Medical Career's Club and President of the Spanish Club. Melissa has been on the Honor Roll twice, she does community service projects and will be attending Norwich University majoring in Engineering in the fall. Melissa is also interested in a military career. Melissa was introduced and read her very informative essay. The essay was based on Amateur Radio. After the reading Melissa was presented with a \$500.00 check. Good luck to her in her endeavors.

**Technical Committee** — **Dave (W1DJG)** reported that the G5RV antenna was installed and is now working and temporarily replaces the log periodic while being repaired. A tower climber is coming to evaluate the problem. The 2-m antenna problem seems to have cleared up. Al Costello checked the connections and did not see a problem although he was unable to check the antenna weep hole to see if it was blocked. He will do that soon when he has to climb the tower again.

**Rick (W1RJC)** was unable to attend but did send an email with the following report.

The old repeater was sold along with the controller on *eBay* and we received a total of \$382.50. The 900 repeater has not had much progress. Rick is waiting for **Jeff (N1ZZN)** to program the repeater to work with the new controller. The 2-m repeater is back to 100 watt and has been working properly.

The Website launched last week and Rick is adding content to the site. Members are encouraged to create a new account.

Dave also mentioned that when they climb the 85 ft. tower he wants to install a 160 meter

*(Continued on page 6)*

# SEMARA News



## ARRL Field Day Overview

**A**RRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities.

It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

**F**ield Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2010 will be held June 26-27, 2010. You may work any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.

For complete rules and information about the (GOTA) Get On The Air) station and free VHF station, download the six-page PDF document:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2010%20Rules.pdf>

## New Technician Exam Question Pool

**E**ffective July 1, 2010, questions for the Technician license (Element2) exam will be taken from this question pool:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>



## About Kids' Day

**Purpose:** Kids Day is an on-air event to encourage young people (licensed or not) to have fun with Amateur Radio. It is designed to give on-the-air experience to youngsters and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

**Dates:** Saturday, June 19, 2010, 2:00 PM ET (1800 UTC – 2400 UTC) 8:00 PM ET. *Operate as much or as little as you like.*

**Suggested exchange:** Name, age, location and favorite color. Be sure to work the same station again if an operator has changed. To draw attention, call “CQ Kids Day.”

**Suggested Frequencies:** 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, 24.960 to 24.980 MHz, 21.360 to 21.400 MHz, 18.140 to 18.145 MHz, 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 7.270 to 7.290 MHz, 3.740 to 3.940 MHz, as well as your favorite 2-meter repeater (with permission of the repeater’s sponsor). *Be sure to observe third-party restrictions when making DX QSOs.*

**Reporting:** Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club (see address below).

**Awards:** All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can *download* this certificate for free, customized with the youngster’s names, after filling out the *Kids Day Survey*. Alternatively, you can send a 9” x 12” SASE to:

**Boring Amateur Radio Club**  
PO Box 1357  
Boring, OR 97009

## New Members

Elected to full membership on May 6, 2010:

**Anthony Lessa Jr., KB1UAM, Technician,**

and

**Melissa Wesember, KB1UDU, Technician.**

*Welcome to SEMARA!*

# More SEMARA News

(Continued from page 4)

G5RV antenna.

**ARES/RACES/SKYWARN — Rob (KD1CY)** reported that there has been a lot of serious weather this last few months and wanted to thank all that were participants and assisted. FEMA has been very helpful in assisting people that were flooded out during the storms.

The statewide hurricane drill has been moved the first Monday in August. ARES will now be using the W1AEC repeater to test and operate on starting in June.

Boxboro hamfest is coming in August.

**Radio Events — Bob (K1KVV)** mentioned that there are many events scheduled for May and June and a listing is available. Many contests are listed in *ZERO BEAT* as well as other events.

**Communications — Bob (K1KVV)** sent a sympathy card to Norman Benoit's only living relative.

There were two membership applications received, **KB1UAM, Anthony Lessa Jr.** and **KB1UDU, Melissa Wesember.** A motion was made and seconded to accept both applications. The members voted unanimously. Congratulations to both new members.

## New Business

**Dave (W1DJG)** requested permission to purchase a G5RV antenna for 160 meters, the cost is not to exceed \$150.00. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to reimburse **Dave (K1JGV)** for expenses of the building permit and repair of the lawnmower which totals \$186.01. Voted unanimously.

## Good of the Club

**Dave (K1JGV)** mentioned that donations are accepted for the present projects.

**Dave (W1DJG)** is going to *Pave Paws* next weekend and will ask questions about ham radio frequencies.

**Brad (W1BEP)** has the 900 MHz radio vendor number. if anyone needs it, see Brad.

**Mike (KB1NB)** has a list of available equipment that **John W1HIQ, SK** had. See Mike for list and offers.

**Ben (N1WBV)**, "We're going to have a field day this year," more to come later.

**Bob (K1KVV)** mentioned that the club needs a *QSL Manager* to handle all the electronic QSL's received.

## Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn seconded and voted unanimously at 8:00 PM



Respectfully submitted  
**Marcel (W1MLD)**

(Painting Trim continued from page 1)



**MARCEL (W1MJD)** REMARKED  
"THIS POWER WASHER COULD PUT OUT A FIRE."  
**JOE (W1JFI)** STILL PAINTING.



**SONNY (K1USW)** TRIMMING THE GRASS WHILE THE OTHERS SPLASH ON THE PAINT.

(Continued on page 7)

# Work Party Photos

(Continued from page 6)



DICK (K1AHA) TAMING THE PUSH MOWER.



JOE (N1IXC) AND BILL (W1POW) KEEPING A HOSE UNDER CONTROL



ANDY (WA1FNM) HANDLES THE PUSH MOWER.



JOE (W1JFI) WORKING IN THE UNDER-FLOOR CUBBY



JOE (N1IXC) IS DIRECTING THE FOOT TRAFFIC AT THE WORK PARTY—ANDY (WA1FNM) IS JUST RELAXING.

BILL (W1POW) KEEPING A SIGN FROM GETTING AWAY.



18 pm

# Handicap Bathroom Progress



THE PANELING AND DOOR REMOVED FROM THE 'WOMEN'S BATHROOM STALL.



BATHROOM STALL WALL REMOVED.



DICK (K1AHA) AND MARTY (KA1YFV) WORK ON FINISHING THE WALL



DAVE (K1JGV) PLASTERING THE CEILING JOINT.

## What's He Up To?



IT LOOKS LIKE DICK (K1AHA) IS STEALING THE RADIO. ACTUALLY HE IS ATTACHING AN ANTENNA HE JUST INSTALLED TO THE RADIO.

### Correction

Norman L. Benoit, WA1KDT (SK), 75, of Fairhaven, MA, passed on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. ... He was the Godfather of Patricia Days, daughter of Charlie, WA1JFD. ...

### Digital Mode Contests

<http://www.arrrl.org/contest-corrall-calendar>

#### Ten-Ten Open Season

Jun 5, 0000Z - Jun 6, 24000Z  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

#### DigiFest

Jun 5, 0000Z - Jun 6, 24000Z  
[www.mixw.org](http://www.mixw.org)

#### DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest

Jun 6, 1100Z - Jun 6, 1700Z  
[www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/](http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/)

#### BARTG Sprint 75

Jun 12, 2000Z - Jun 12, 2359Z  
[www.bartg.org.uk](http://www.bartg.org.uk)

#### SARL Digital Contest

Jun 27, 1300Z - Jun 27, 1700Z  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

### Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

*What type of wave has a rise time significantly faster than its fall time (or vice versa)? (C) A sawtooth wave is non-symmetric, the others, cosine wave, square wave, and sine wave are symmetric.*

### Answer: Sudoku <sup>70</sup>

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

### Some Contests

<http://www.arrrl.org/contest-corrall-calendar>

#### ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Jun 12, 1800Z - Jun 14, 0300Z *Phone-CW*  
[www.arrrl.org/contests](http://www.arrrl.org/contests)

#### Kid's Day

Jun 19 1800Z - Jun 19 2400Z *Phone*  
[www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html](http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html)

#### ARRL Field Day

Jun 26, 1800Z - Jun 27, 2100Z *All\_modes*  
[www.arrrl.org/contests](http://www.arrrl.org/contests)

### Coming FLEAS & FESTS

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

20 Jun Cambridge, MA — FLEA at MIT

Nick 617-253-3776

### VE SESSIONS

*Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.*

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

#### SEMARA – 10:30AM

June 5th

Larry Houbre-AA1FS  
[LRHguy@earthlink.net](mailto:LRHguy@earthlink.net)  
508-991-6055

#### Falmouth, MA – 9:00AM

June 12th

W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE  
[BenFleck@cape.com](mailto:BenFleck@cape.com)  
508-540-2583

#### Middletown, RI – 9:00AM

June 12th

Jack Garforth-K1IG  
[K1IG@verizon.net](mailto:K1IG@verizon.net)  
401-683-2250

#### Providence, RI – 7:00PM

June 10th

Louis Mester-W1CH  
[W1CH@arrrl.net](mailto:W1CH@arrrl.net)  
401-263-6045

### ALL-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

#### BUSINESS MEETING

7 PM First Thursday of the month

#### SUNDAY RAGCHEW

7-11 AM SUN

### MOST-OF-THE-TIME ACTIVITIES

LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM FRIDAYS

Meet at the clubhouse at 11:15 AM