



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 46 Issue 10

SEMARA-W1AEC

October 2010

Fun in the Forest

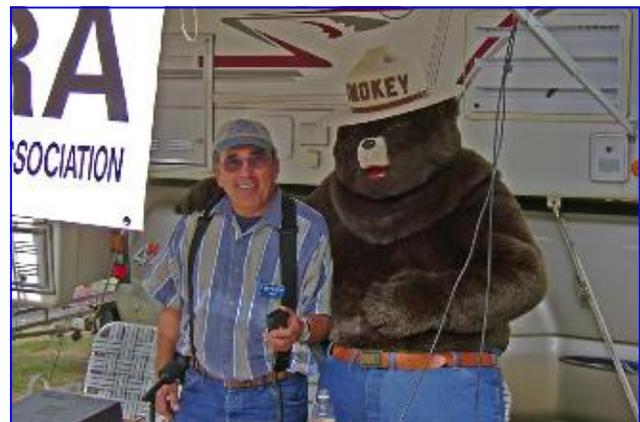
The Fun Day at the Freetown State Forest
Sunday, September 26

Set up included HF, 2 meters, 220MHz, 440MHz and 900MHz.



L-R: MARCEL (W1MLD), JOE (N1IXC), PAUL (KA1IB), BRAD (W1BEP), SONNY (K1USW). NOT SHOWN IS MARTY (KA1YFV) WHO ALSO HELPED OUT.

Notice the neat SEMARA banner!



BRAD (W1BEP) AND A NEW MEMBER, SMOKEY THE BEAR, (NO CALL SIGN YET). PHOTO TAKEN BY JOE K (N1IXC)

Brad (W1BEP) had his camper setup with solar power.

Paul (KA1IB) made a long wire for this event.

They spoke with a lot of people about the hobby, and made a few contacts.

ZERO BEAT

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(508) 997-7070**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)**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 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

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)>

That there's much more going on than can be seen from the street. SEMARA suffered a significant amount of damage from a lightning strike carried from the outside phone connection. What was most surprising is the extent of the lightning damage. Yes, we did have *PolyPhasers* to protect against electrical surges. We just didn't have enough of them to protect us from a backdoor strike; we were always concerned about the antennas striking up at 160-feet plus. The repeaters were knocked out, the computers were fried, and the routers were trashed.

The technical committee is slowly putting "Humpty-Dumpty" back together again. The 900 MHz repeater is operating on reduced power without internet connections (no IRLP/EchoLink).

The clubhouse computers are in the process of being replaced. The RF-fob door-key system will be operating shortly. SEMARA-cam will be running too, 'though the internet camera may need replacement.

Patience everyone! It took Mother Nature only a few microseconds to do the damage; it will take us poor mortals a little longer to do the repair.

Next time, we will be even better protected with additional PolyPhasers.

JOTA, Jamboree on the Air, is being held on Saturday, October 16 this year. What can you do to help? For starters, keep your ears on—listen for any JOTA activity in the 2-m repeaters. While the Scouts like to work DX, you could give them a thrill if you worked some close-in HF using emergency communications tricks like NVIS antenna configurations. What say?



Listen for **Camp Norse** in *Kingston, MA* from 8 AM to 4 PM Saturday, October 16 using the callsign **KC1TAC**.

POINT TO PONDER

"The healthy, strong individual is the one who asks for help when it is needed."

~Rona Barrett (adapted)

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T3C11 Why do VHF and UHF radio signals usually travel somewhat farther than the visual line of sight distance between two stations?

- A. Radio signals move somewhat faster than the speed of light
- B. Radio waves are not blocked by dust particles
- C. The Earth seems less curved to radio waves than to light
- D. Radio waves are blocked by dust particles

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

Club Notes

October marks the end of the later summer weather and daylight savings time. What's that mean to radio amateurs? 10-m propagation may become limited to daylight hours; 160-m may benefit from longer nighttime hours; and VHF/UHF may be able to use meteor scatter modes.



At the September 2, 2010 Business Meeting, a new member application was received from



William (Bill) Guay, KA1JNB.

He is an Extra class ham, who lives in Westport. His application was approved unanimously.

Welcome to the club!



Reminder, 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 at 8:30 PM.

We look forward to your participation and, remember, we are always looking for Net Controls to run the ARES Net.



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

October 2, 2010

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS

[LRHguay \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguay@earthlink.net)

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 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.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.)

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

Official Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2010



The meeting was called to order by President **Louis (W1CH)** at 7:15 PM with the salute to the flag. The roll was called with 16 members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading and accept as posted and in the **ZERO BEAT**. The members voted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer **Mike (KB1NB)** reported that the treasury now has a total of \$34,276.14 in all accounts and all bills paid. A motion was made and seconded to refer the report to audit. The members voted unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Dave (K1JGV) reported that the restroom is almost complete and should be done soon. The next project is the front door; and it will be done before the bad weather comes.

Scholarship Committee

Sonny (K1USW) reported that the letters are going out to the schools for scholarship notice together with a notice of the classes to begin in January. **Dave Goldstein (W1DJG)** and **Ben Jackson (N1WBV)** will be giving the class.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) reported that he included some information in the **ZERO BEAT** about the first CW transmission back in 1900. There is also information on other contests with CW and phone. See more information in **ZERO BEAT**. There are more lists in *QST* magazine.

RATIFICATION OF MEMBERS

There is one application for **William Guay (KA1JNB)** from Westport. He prefers CW and is an Extra class amateur. A motion was made and seconded to accept as a life member. Voted unanimously.

GOOD OF THE CLUB

Joe (N1IXC) notified everyone that on September 26th, a Saturday, *the Friends of the For-*

est will hold an outing at the Freetown State Forest. **Brad (W1BEP)** is asking for volunteers to help out in a demonstration of ham radio representing SEMARA. Anyone interested should contact **Brad (W1BEP)** if more information is required.

Joe (N1IXC) also tried to contact **Scott (W1EV)** and Jim who works with Scott to setup a chicken dinner but there has been no reply.

Marcel (W1MLD) requested permission to use the club for an Annual Meeting of *Cypress Haven Trust* as they did last year. A donation will be provided. This request was approved unanimously.

Bob (K1KVV) spoke about tech talks and would like to get members in the habit of coming on Thursday evenings.

Marcel (W1MLD) advised everyone about the removal of the log periodic antenna and 2 meter antenna and the rotor. We do have to spend some time repairing the antenna and rotor so that they can be replaced before the weather changes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The members voted unanimously at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Marcel Dumont, Secretary (W1MLD)



50/50 drawing
for \$15./\$15 winner was **Don (WA1PLT)**.

SEMARA News



Tech Talk

7:00 PM, Thursday Oct. 21, 2010

Eric, N1WCO, will give a tech talk on the proper installation and the use of Anderson PowerPoles. These have become the de-facto standard for power connections for emergency gear.

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.



Towers

The 160-ft tower is nicely populated with our antennas on the very top. The 85-ft tower is now without antennas.

The Sommers Log-Yagi and its rotator are safely on the ground between the shed and the clubhouse, awaiting parts for repair.



New W1AEC Letters

Dick, K1AHA, took up the suggestion in last month's *ZERO BEAT* that the letters on the shed were in need of some TLC. Dick replaced the old, deteriorated letters with new, 1-inch pine letters. Doesn't the shed look much more presentable now! (My apologies - the sun wasn't shining when the picture was taken.)



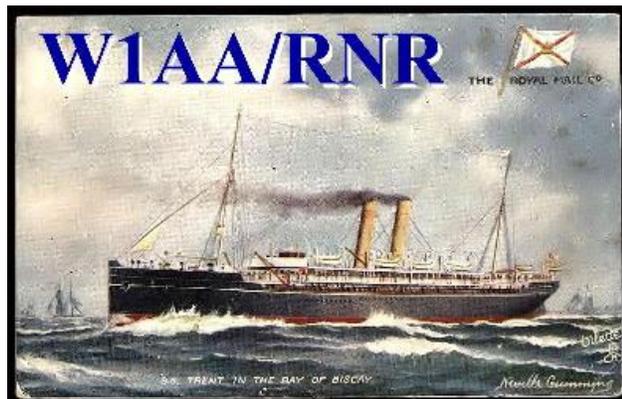
Buildings & Grounds Update

The *Building & Grounds Committee* has expanded to include **Dick Halliwell (K1AHA)**, who has been helpful in lending a hand. **Marty Jordan (KA1YFV)** is hard at work staining some finish molding for me to put up. **Sonny Eddleston (K1USW)** has helped maintain the grounds and has recruited a young lad who has been refurbishing the front gardens each month.

The HC restroom is fully functional and already has been ‘broken in’ and road tested. A piece of paneling inside and a few molding strips may still be lacking, but are not that visible. I will send you a picture of the ‘completed’ rooms along with a few others of interest.

More SEMARA News

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



100th Anniversary Special Event

First Wireless Rescue of an Airship Oct 18, 1910

W1AA/RNR and W1AA/W

Oct. 16, 2010 – 0000Z to 2000Z – CW and Phone
by

W1AA Marconi Radio Club

The Marconi Radio Club will operate two HF stations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the first rescue of an airship (America) by wireless. This was also the first wireless operation from an airship.

Two stations will be operating, one representing the *Airship America* with callsign **W1AA/W** and a second representing the rescue ship *SS Trent* with callsign **W1AA/RNR**. *America* and *SS Trent* used these callsigns in 1910.

In the fall of 1910, Walter Wellman, a newspaperman, built a new dirigible called *America*. Wellman's plan was to fly to Europe in his airship *America*. He had a crew of four including Jack Irwin as his wireless operator. The callsign of *America* was "W." Yes, that is correct, it was the single letter "W." This was years before any wireless regulations or the issuing of callsigns by the government.

America left Atlantic City, NJ on Oct. 15, 1910 and flew in a huge arc past Cape Cod and then southeast for over 1,000 miles. Engine trouble forced the journalist and his crew to abandon ship, not far from Bermuda. Wellman brought the ship down within a mile of the *SS Trent*, a passing steamer, which made spark gap wireless contact with the *America* and rescued all on board. The *SS Trent* then delivered Wellman and his crew to shore safely. This At-

lantic adventure set a record for the longest airship flight at that time in aviation history. It was also the first operation of a wireless from an airship and the use of wireless communication, which resulted in the rescue of the *America* airship crew.

Please QSL via **W1AA: Marconi Radio Club, PO Box 113, Lakeville, MA 02347**. Two QSL cards are available: **W1AA/W** for the *America* Airship and **W1AA/RNR** for the rescue vessel *SS Trent*. Send a business size #10 envelope—SASE.

A *certificate* is also available to all stations who confirm QSOs with both "W" and "RNR." Use a large SASE, big enough for the 8 ½" x 11" certificate, with enough postage for 3 ounces. \$1.50 in stamps will cover most of the USA.

Watch the DX Summit for W1AA Spots:

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/DxSpots.aspx?count=50&range=2>.

Use the W1AA Call SEARCH function on the DX Summit to find the recent W1AA postings:

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/Search.aspx>.

If you work us, please spot us on the DX Summit because any spot scrolls off the page in 5 minutes.

This is a note worthy historic milestone in wireless history. *Be There!*

Good Luck to all.

73 **Whitey K1VV**

W1AA Marconi Radio Club

General Class Exam Questions

G4D05

How does an S-meter reading of 20 db over S-9 compare to an S-9 signal, assuming a properly calibrated S meter?

- A. It is 10 times weaker
- B. It is 20 times weaker
- C. It is 20 times stronger
- D. It is 100 times stronger

Sometimes there are multiple correct answers—

select them all.

Answers are given at the bottom of the page.

G4D07

Which of the following describes a Type-N connector?

- A. A moisture resistant RF connector useful to 10 GHz
- B. A small bayonet connector used for data circuits
- C. A threaded connector used for hydraulic systems
- D. An audio connector used in surround sound installations

G4D11

What is the main reason to use keyed connectors over non-keyed types?

- A. Prevention of use by unauthorized persons
- B. Reduced chance of damage due to incorrect mating
- C. Higher current carrying capacity
- D. All of these choices are correct

G4E01

Which of the following emission types are permissible while operating HF mobile?

- A. CW
- B. SSB
- C. FM
- D. All of these choices are correct

G4E04

Why is it best NOT to draw the DC power for a 100-watt HF transceiver from an automobile's cigarette lighter socket?

- A. The socket is not wired with an RF-shielded power cable
- B. The socket's wiring may be inadequate for the current being drawn by the transceiver
- C. The DC polarity of the socket is reversed from the polarity of modern HF transceivers
- D. The power from the socket is never adequately filtered for HF transceiver operation

G4E05

Which of the following most limits the effectiveness of an HF mobile transceiver operating in the 75 meter band?

- A. "Picket Fencing" signal variation
- B. The wire gauge of the DC power line to the transceiver
- C. The HF mobile antenna system
- D. FCC rules limiting mobile output power on the 75 meter band

Some Contests*

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

- Oct 8, 1400Z - Oct 10, 0200Z 1 8-28 **DX/NA YLRL Anniversary Party CW** www.ylrl
- Oct 9, 1600Z - Oct 10, 1200Z 14-28 **Worked All Britain HF Contest** Phone www.worked-all-britain.co.uk
- Oct 10, 0001Z - Oct 10, 2359Z 28 **10-10 Sprint All-modes** www.ten-ten.org
- Oct 16, 8 PM - Oct 17, 2 AM 1.8 **Great Pumpkin Sprint BPSK31** www.podx070.com
- Oct 106 0000Z - Oct 17, 2400Z 3.5-28 **JARTS WW RTTY Contest RTTY** jarts.web.fc2.com
- Oct 18, 0200Z - Oct 18 0400Z 1.8-28 **Run for the Bacon CW** www.fpgrp.com/fpqrprun.php
- Oct 23, 1000Z - Oct 24, 1000Z 3.5-28 **Scandinavian YLRA Contest All-modes** www.contestclubfinland.com
- Oct 23, 1600Z - Oct 24, 2359Z 1.8-28 50 **W/VE Islands QSO Party All-modes** www.usislands.org
- Oct 30, 0000Z - Oct 31, 2359Z 1.8-28 **CQ WW SSB Contest** Phone cq-amateur-radio.com
- Oct 30, 0000Z - Oct 31, 2359Z 50-1296 **ARRL EME Contest All-modes** www.arrl.org/contests

* See more October contest activity at URL above.

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

Why do VHF and UHF radio signals usually travel somewhat farther than the visual line of sight distance between two stations? The Earth seems less curved to radio waves than to light.

Answer: Sudoku 13

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

VE Sessions

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

- SEMARA – 10:30 AM** Oct 2nd
 Larry Houbre-AA1FS
[LRHguy \[at\] earthlink \[dot\] net](mailto:LRHguy[at]earthlink[dot]net)
 508-991-6055
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM** Oct 18th
 Skip Denault-KB1CNB
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](mailto:skip[at]newtestamentschool[dot]org)
 774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM** Oct 9th
 W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
[BenFleck \[at\] cape \[dot\] com](mailto:BenFleck[at]cape[dot]com)
 508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00 PM** Oct 14th
 Louis Mester-W1CH
[W1CH \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:W1CH[at]arrl[dot]net)

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

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

- 10 Oct Wallingford, CT - CT State Conv**
www.nutmeghamfest.com
- 15 Oct Deerfield, NH—NEAR-Fest VIII**
www.near-fest.com
- 17 Oct Cambridge, MA - FLEA at MIT**
www.swapfest.us



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

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