



ZERO BEAT

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

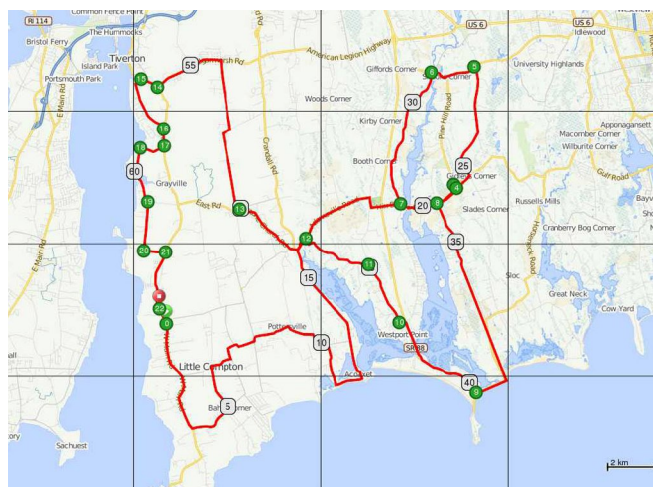
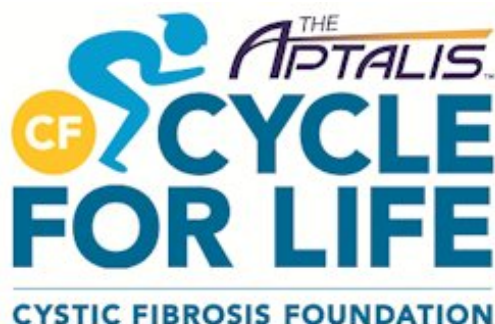


Since 1932

Volume 49 Issue 10

SEMARA-W1AEC

October 2013



62-MILE ROUTE

CF Cycle for Life RI 2013 Route

TOTAL	LEG	INFO
0.0	0.0	Start of route
21.0	21.0	L onto Old Pine Hill Rd
21.1	0.1	L toward Old Pine Hill
21.2	0.1	R onto Old Pine Hill Rd
21.4	0.1	R onto Hixbridge Rd
27.8	6.4	L onto Old County Rd
29.0	1.2	L onto Drift Rd
32.8	3.8	L onto Hixbridge Rd
33.8	1.0	R onto Horseneck Rd
40.4	6.6	Sharp R onto MA-88N/John Reed Rd
43.4	3.0	R onto Main Rd
45.1	1.7	L onto Cornell Rd
47.1	1.9	L onto Adamsville Rd
50.0	3.0	RI-179S turns slightly R and becomes E Rd
56.1	6.0	R onto RI-77N/Main Rd
56.5	0.5	L onto Nannaquaket Rd
58.2	1.7	Continue onto RI-77S/Main Rd
58.7	0.5	R onto Seapowet Ave
59.3	0.7	L to stay on Seapowet Ave
60.9	1.5	Continue straight onto Neck Rd/Puncatest Neck Rd
62.1	1.3	L onto Pond Bridge Rd
62.7	0.6	R onto RI-77S/Main Rd
64.3	1.6	End of route
64.3 miles		+2666/-2689 feet



This is the crew for the 2nd annual CF event at the Sakonnet Vineyard in Little Compton. ~John-WAIESO

Brian Cottle-N1TBT *Newport Radio Club*

Ted Wrobel-W1GRI *Newport Radio Club*

SEMARA Members:

Tony Gomes-N1JXZ

Marty Jordan-KA1YFV

Joe Krisnowsky N1IXC

Marcilio Raposa-N1MVR *Replaced Anthony-KBIUAM*

Mark Richard-K1MGY *Replaced Anthony-KBIUAM*

ZERO BEAT

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2013 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

Vice President

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Secretary

Marc Dumont—KB1ODE

Treasurer

Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Andy Reuter—WA1FNM

Dave Dean—K1JGV

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

Trustees: (year term is up)

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 Moszczanski—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!

What do you think, is the time right to reinstate the old 2m evening net? It could grow into a series of dedicated types of nets: swap, trivia, EmComm, etc. So, get that old 2m antenna polished for the winter. With the sensitivity of our repeater systems, a hand-held will do just fine. I'll be listening for you as soon as I remount my 2m 6dB-gain vertical.

POINT TO PONDER

"One who gives quickly gives twice."

~Cervantes

**147.000 Repeater IRLP & EchoLink Restored**

As of Tuesday, September 3, 2013, the long awaited restoration of IRLP and EchoLink on SEMARA's 147.000 repeater is complete. As with SEMARA's 902 MHz repeater, the controller was upgraded to a brand new S-COM 7330 and the node PC was replaced with the Raspberry Pi. The new node (called a "PiRLP") draws less than 1A and is connected to the repeater's 12VDC battery backup system. An internet switch and wireless link to the clubhouse will soon be rewired to the battery backup system as well. With the completion of this upgrade, the repeater's courtesy tone and better sounding audio has also been restored.

SEMARA's 147.000 repeater node is normally idle, ready for incoming or outgoing connections. To make an outgoing connection on IRLP from the repeater, simply enter the 4 digit node number. To make an outgoing connection on EchoLink from the repeater, simply enter star (*) plus the node number. To disconnect from either network, enter 73. To make an incoming connection into the repeater from an external node, the IRLP node number is 4347 and the EchoLink node number is 4343 (W1AEC-R from the EchoLink software).

Thank you for your patience during the last several months. Enjoy the repeater.

- **Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC**
SEMARA Repeater Committee Chairman

Official Meeting Minutes



September 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with the 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 approved to accept the Secretary's Report as posted on the board and published in *Zero Beat*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported total income of \$5,824, total expense of \$154 with total assets of \$64,966. NETCOM has a balance of \$10,145 as of September 1, 2013. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

All was reported to be in good condition. It was also reported that Little People's College was advised of the tree on the property line in bad condition. After some discussion it was decided that a letter would be officially sent to them advising of the poor condition of the tree.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Ed (KAIRSY) reported the monthly hospital drill would take place this coming Saturday at 10:00 AM. and also spoke of the Plymouth "Run for the Rock". The ARES district meeting for Metro Boston is coming up and they are still working on plans for an ARES district meeting at SEMARA in the future. He is also working on a SKYWARN class to be given as well.

RADIO EVENTS

Bob (K1KVV) reported several events as posted in *Zero Beat*. **John (WA1ESO)** thanks volunteers for the upcoming *C.F. event*. There are still volunteer opportunities. He requested use of the 147.000 repeater for the event team on September 28, 2013. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to allow use of the repeater during the event.

REPEATER

Rick (W1RJC) reported that EchoLink and IRLP has been restored on the 147.000 repeater. Now all three repeaters have the same controllers and are run by Raspberry Pi units. The systems are soon to be completely tied in to back up power so they can be fully functional during loss of power. Work will next be

performed on the 220 repeater system which will add an IRLP link and RF link to the network. There was also some discussion about removing the password on the webcam and possible upgrades to the repeaters and equipment.

WEBSITE

It was reported that the website is up and running well with minor upgrades expected in the near future.

The President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** extended thanks to Rick (W1RJC) for the time and effort he put into the upgrades and the great work and documentation on the systems.

RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

An application was received from **Allen Perry (KC1ABI)**. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept Allen as a Life Member.

OLD BUSINESS

There was some discussion on the building addition as well as waiting for the availability of a crane to complete the current antenna project.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and seconded to remove the password from the webcam, making it viewable by the general public. After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was *defeated* by a majority vote.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously *approved* to purchase a serial to IP device not to exceed \$250.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a Quantar analog/p25 digital repeater in the amount of \$600. After a vote this motion was *defeated* by a majority.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously *approved* for the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** to look for an architect for design of the addition and report back to membership at the next meeting with further information and cost estimates.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to *reimburse* **Rick (W1RJC)** for 2 light bulbs.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary

Tidbits



At the September 2nd Business Meeting, an application for membership was received from

Allen Perry KC1ABI.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept him as a life member.

Welcome to SEMARA!

50/50 RAFFLE

The 50/50 raffle was won by **Dave (KD1YZ)**

The split was \$27.50/\$27.50.

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.

NEXT VE SESSION @ SEMARA

October 5, 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'
— 0 —

Maidenhead Grid Coordinates: FN41mo
— 0 —

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

Everything Else is Just DC by Rich-W2RG

September wasn't quite the month for *50 MHz and Up* activities that August was along the Massachusetts south coast. Propagation mostly seemed just fair, with occasionally decent troposcatter but no ducting.

Troposcatter is an odd phenomenon. Small-scale irregularities of humidity, air density, particles, or whatever in the lower atmosphere can bounce a signal around with the net effect that some of it actually goes farther forward than it might have without the scattering. So a signal that could be heard only 100 miles in a troposphere with no "enhancement" can now be heard at 200 miles – or more.

We didn't have much of that this past month.

Ducting is even better. The troposphere stratifies in a way that the signals travel almost as if they're in a waveguide – a duct for radio waves. This can result in very strong signals at opposite ends of the duct. We didn't have much of that either in September. Bill Hepburn predicted brief periods of ducting, but little of it was at times that helped amateur operations. See

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

for Hepburn's fine web site.

I participated in the **ARRL September VHF QSO Party** on 14-16 September from my home station in *Fairhaven* on 50 and 144 MHz. I have an Icom IC-746 putting about 80 watts to a 5-element 6-meter beam at about 62

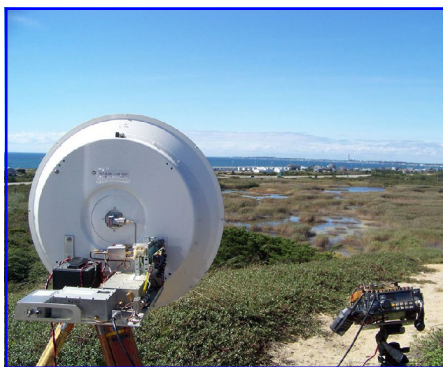
ft and a 7-element 2-meter beam at about 58 ft. Not a powerhouse for a station that's nearly at sea level, but reasonably effective.

My longest path for the event was to **W3TDF** (FN20, 245 miles) in *Pennsylvania*, with other scattered contacts from southern New Jersey around to **K1WHS** in southwest *Maine* (FN43, 120 miles). Even at a distance of 120 miles, superstation **K1WHS** is probably one of the few stations that *anyone* along the *Massachusetts* south coast should be able to work. See

<http://directivesystems.com/sept2010.htm>

for a description of this impressive station and how the operators won the **2010 September VHF QSO Party**.

The second weekend of the **10 GHz & UP contest** on 21-22 September was another roving event. On Saturday morning, I drove to the bluffs along Cliff Road in *North Truro* (grid square FN42wb) on the Cape. This is not only a great site for VHF and microwave radio, it's a favorite spot for local artists. I had some trouble getting a good parking spot that morning, though more space opened up as the artists



VIEW FROM FN42WB ON THE CAPE

completed their works.

Signals were good north-south and poor east-west. This may have been due to the front that was moving toward us on Saturday and arrived here early Sunday morning. Propagation is often enhanced along the leading edge of a front. I easily worked *three* stations on *Block Island* (100 miles), two on *Mount Washington* (163 miles), and several others closer in.

In mid-afternoon I moved to the *Fort Hill Area* in *Eastham* (FN51at). More artists and photographers. I spent much of my time there talking with interested, curious sightseers and hikers. It's a decent site for microwave work, but it seemed that most of the other operators around New England must have been taking coffee breaks. I made only *two* QSO's, though one was 183 miles to **N1JEZ** on *Mount Washington*, and the other was a short 73 mile path to **WA1MBA** in FN42jj.

Sunday started with rain as the weather front pushed through. I had intended to meet **KB1QZA** in *Charlton, MA*, but decided that a high hill is not a good place to be with rain, wind, and possible lightning. We scrubbed that plan and stayed home and watched the weather. After the front passed through in late morning, I went solo to *Hoppy's Landing* (FN41no).

Propagation on the back side of the front was even worse than it was before the front. I made only *five* QSO's in two hours, but one was by an unusual and fun mode of "propagation".

(Continued on page 7)

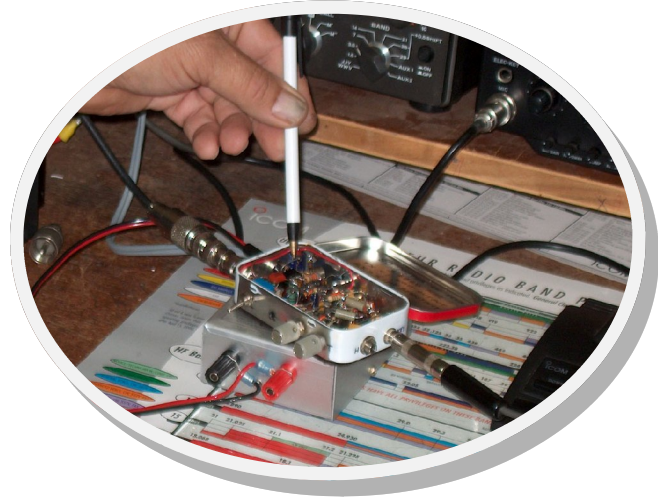
A Decade Ago

A FEW 'OLD' PHOTOS THAT DEPICT THE SEMARA OF YESTERYEAR.

We did have Tech Talks and home-built project demos.
The QRP-in-the-Field Group was active setting personal records.



**DAVE DeCOSTA, KD1YZ GAVE A TECH TALK
ON THURSDAY, NOV 20, 2003
ON AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY**



**BILL MILLER, K1IBR DEMONSTRATED HIS
80M ALTOIDS BOX QRP RIG IN 2003**



**2003: QRP USING A LONG WIRE WITH COUNTERPOISE
NOTE THE FISHING POLE ANTENNA ON THE BENCH**



**2003: RON, WB1HGA LISTENED AT HIS QRP
OPERATING POSITION IN THE FIELD**

14th Annual Southern New England Weather Conference

14th Annual Southern New England Weather Conference

The conference will be held on **Saturday, October 26th** at **Meditech Corp.** in **Canton, MA** (at the base of Blue Hill), same place as last year. The conference is sponsored by the not-for-profit *Blue Hill Observatory Science Center*.

The conference will cover many of the various weather events that have affected Southern New England recently.

- There will be several talks on Superstorm Sandy
- Significant tornadoes in New England and New York since 1995
- The 75th anniversary of the 1938 Hurricane

- A comparison of the Blizzard of 2013 to the Blizzard of 1978, presented by Harvey Leonard and Matt Noyes.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Please note that registration is **limited** at **230** registrants!

- Student/Teacher Early and Regular Registration (Aug 1 - Oct 22): \$89
- Regular Registration (Sept 13 - Oct 22): \$99
- Late Registration (Oct 26 - at the conference site): \$109 (on-line registration is available after Oct 22.)
- Student/Teacher Late Registration (Oct 26): \$99 (same rules as above)

KEY SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WEATHER CONFERENCE LINKS:

Conference website:

<http://www.snewweatherconf.org>

Conference agenda/abstracts/biographies:

<http://www.snewweatherconf.org/2013Agenda.shtml>

Conference registration:

<http://www.snewweatherconf.org/confregform.cfm>

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)

ARES SKYWARN Coordinator
Eastern Massachusetts ARES
Section Emergency Coordinator

<http://ares.ema.arrrl.org>

(50 MHz & Up continued from page 5)

N1GJ's site in **Bourne, MA** (FN41rr) is totally obstructed by trees to his southwest, which is the direction from Bourne to the entire south coast shore, including **Hoppy's Landing**. George found several years ago that the solution is to point north at a water tower along the Cape Cod Canal, instead of pointing his antennas southwest. By pointing slightly north of **N1GJ**, I get an S9 sideband signal bouncing off the tower. This also works for the lower microwave bands, though not quite as well.

George's rotator and the accuracy of his setup have to be pretty good for this to work. His station is a little less than 0.8 miles from the tower. The beamwidth of his 2-ft dish at 10 GHz is about 3.5-degrees. But many ham rotators,

like the common HAM-4, turn in increments of 5-degrees. That's a limitation built into the braking hardware of the rotator. If you have a more expensive rotator that you set up very accurately, or you get lucky with those 5-degree stops, you may get your dish pointing right at the water tower. If you're not so lucky, or not so careful, the closest you can possibly point the dish may be 170 feet to either side of the water tower. But the 3.5-degree 10 GHz beam is only 120 ft wide!

Monday evening, *23 September 2013*, brought us the **Fall 144 MHz Sprint**, sponsored by the Southeast VHF Society (<http://www.svhfs.org>). Since this event is only four hours, I operated from home. Propagation started out good, providing contacts with **K1WHS** (FN43, 120 miles) and

K8GP out west of Washington, DC (FN19, 400+ miles). It seemed to go down as the evening wore on, however, and by 10:00 PM the band was pretty quiet.

We're now sliding into the doldrums, for microwave activity at least. On **1 October**, we have the **222 MHz Sprint**. On **9 October** is the **432 MHz Sprint**. And on **12 October** is the **902+ MHz Fall VHF Sprint**.

There are no more prominent events until the **ARRL January VHF QSO Party**. I'll try to get out a reminder for that one when it gets closer, as it usually draws a high level of activity, and often 6 meter propagation is good.

~Rick-W2RG



Some Radio Activity

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


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

- 222 **222 MHz Fall VHF Sprint** All Modes
svhfs.org Oct 1, 7 PM - Oct 1, 11 PM
- 1.8-14 **NS Weekly Sprint** CW
nccsprint.com Oct 4, 0230Z - Oct 4, 0300Z
- 1.8-28 **DX/NA YLRL Anniversary Party** All Modes
ylrl.org Oct 4, 1400Z - Oct 6, 0200Z
- 1.8-28 50 **TARA PSK Rumble** Digital
n2ty.org Oct 5, 0000Z - Oct 5, 2400Z
- 1.8-28 **EPC Russia DX Contest** Digital
epc-ru.ru Oct 5, 0400Z - Oct 6, 0359Z
- 1.8-28 **Oceania DX Phone Contest** Phone
oceaniadxcontest.com Oct 5, 0800Z - Oct 6, 0800Z
- 14-28 **Worked All Britain HF Contest** Phone
worked-all-britain.co.uk
Oct 5, 1200Z - Oct 6, 1200Z
- 1.8-28 50,144 **California QSO Party** Phone-CW
cqp.org Oct 5, 1600Z - Oct 6, 2200Z
- 3.5-14 **EU Autumn Phone Sprint** Phone
eu-sprint.com Oct 5, 1600Z - Oct 5, 1959Z
- 21,28 **RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest** Phone-CW
rsgbcc.org Oct 6, 0700Z - Oct 6, 1900Z
- 3.5 50, 144 **OK1WC Memorial Contest** Phone-CW
www.hamradio.cz/ok1wc Oct 7, 1600Z
- 3.5-28 **ARS Spartan Sprint** CW
arsqrp.blogspot.com Oct 8, 0200Z - Oct 8, 0400Z
- 432 **432 MHz Fall VHF Sprint** All Modes
www.svhfs.org Oct 9, 7 PM - Oct 9, 11 PM
- 1.8-28 **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test** CW
cwops.org/onair.html Oct 9, 1300Z
- 28 **10-10 Sprint** All Modes
www.ten-ten.org Oct 10, 0001Z - Oct 10, 2359Z
- 3.5-14 **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** CW
naqcc.info Oct 10, 0030Z - Oct 10, 0230Z
- 902+ **902+ MHz Fall VHF Sprint** All Modes
svhfs.org Oct 12, 7 AM - Oct 12, 1 PM
- 1.8 **Great Pumpkin Sprint** Digital
podxs070.com Oct 12, 8 PM - Oct 13, 2 AM
- 3.5-28 **Makrothen RTTY Contest** Digital
home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch
Oct 12, 0000Z - Oct 13, 1600Z
- 1.8-28 **Oceania DX CW Contest** CW
oceaniadxcontest.com Oct 12, 0800Z - Oct 13, 0800Z
- 3.5-28 **Scandinavian Activity Contest** Phone
www.sactest.net Oct 12, 1200Z - Oct 13, 1200Z
- 1.8-28 **QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party** CW
www.qrparci.org/contests
Oct 12, 1200Z - Oct 13, 2359Z

Local VE Sessions

[http://www.arrl.org/
find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session)

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

- SEMARA – 10:30 AM** **October 5th**
Fred Bacon-N1TF
[exams \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:exams[at]semara[dot]org) 
508-748-0047
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM **October 2^{1st}**
Skip Denault-KB1CNB
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](mailto:skip[at]newtestamentschool[dot]org)
774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM **October 12^h**
W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
[BenFleck \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:BenFleck[at]verizon[dot]net)
508-540-2583
- Slatersville, RI – 9:00 AM **October 19th**
Robert E Jones-WB1P
[bgjones49 \[at\] arrl \[dot\] net](mailto:bgjones49[at]arrl[dot]net)
401-333-4787

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

- 11,12 Oct **Deerfield NH** **NEARFest XIV**
Mike-K1TWF 978 250 1235
- 13 Oct **Meriden CT** Nutmeg
John-N1GNV 203 440 4973
- 20 Oct **Cambridge MA** **FLEA @ MIT**
Nick 617 253 3776
- 26 Oct **Gales Ferry CT** TCARC
Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799
- 2 Nov **Londonderry NH** IRS
Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137
- 9 Nov **Bourne MA** **FARA Fest**
Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
- 2014**
- 22 Feb **S Burlington VT** HAM-CON
Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589
- 15 Mar **Dayville CT** ECARA
Paul KE1LI 860 928 5147
- 28-29 Mar **Lewiston ME** AARC ME Conv
Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
- 2,3 May **Deerfield NH** **NEARfest XV**
Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235