



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 50 Issue 5

SEMARA-W1AEC

May 2014

2014 SEMARA Scholarship Winner

Each year the Southeastern Massachusetts amateur Radio Club awards a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school student who will be attending college in the fall.

The 2014 winner is Drew Tinsdale from Dartmouth High School. He is involved in many activities at his school and has an extensive resume. Drew will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute majoring in Interactive media and game design in the Computer Science Department.



SONNY-K1USW INTRODUCING DREW TISDELLE, THE 2014 SEMARA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



DREW TISDELLE AND HIS MOTHER, TAMMI FLANKED BY SEMARA OFFICERS: TREASURER MIKE-KB1NB, PRESIDENT MARCEL-W1MLD, AND VEEP JOE-N1IXO.

After Drew was introduced, Drew read his essay to the assembled members. His essay was warmly received. Members volunteered to test any smartphone apps Drew might create for amateur radio.

Then, the moment all were waiting for, Treasurer Mike-KB1NB presented Drew with a check from SEMARA for \$500.00.

We all wished Drew success in his studies at WPI!

The text of Drew's essay is on page 5

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:

Dave Dean—K1JGV

David A. DeCosta—KD1YZ

Jean Pierre Chiron,—AG1Y

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 Talk

Richard Orluk—K1XRN

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

We are lucky to have such talented volunteers. Consider the job done by the officers. It isn't easy to preside over our business meetings. Nor is it child's play to keep our books straight, pay the bills and do all that other financial stuff. If you attend the business meetings, then you know that it is not easy to keep everything straight when recording the minutes for posterity and posting them on the internet. And that's just the officers.

Did you ever think how much it takes to keep the grounds looking nice? As some of the Sunday morning Rag-chewers have remarked, "It's a big job for the old folks who are doing the job." If you have nothing to do some Thursday morning this summer, join in with the grounds crew as they manicure our extensive lawn. Then you will not have any qualms about going to **Dunkin Donuts** for a nice cool drink afterward. They meet there about 1:00 PM.

Another group of unsung heroes run the bi-monthly VE Sessions held here at the clubhouse the first Saturday of the even numbered months. That results in some fresh blood, mostly new technician class operators. And some of these new hams are eligible for a 'free' SEMARA **Baofeng UV-5B** hand-held V/ UHF transceiver. Aren't you glad that you can introduce these new hams to your favorite aspects of ham radio?

The technical aspects of our operation include our computers and repeaters, including the controllers for the repeater operation and the interfaces between the three repeaters we have on 146-, 222-, and 903-MHz as well as their IRLP and EchoLink connections. I'm sure there are several other things I've left out.

You may have noticed I omitted mentioning names. That's because I didn't want to forget anyone and make them upset. You are welcome to add to my forgetfulness problems and join these folks in any of these areas. Then I can forget to mention you too!

Make my day ... there are still some vacancies on the list at the left side of the page. *Take me to your leader.* Specifically, we need someone who will be at every (ideally) business meeting to keep us informed about all things technical. **Wanted** - not dead but alive, a chairman for the Technical Committee. In another area: **Wanted** - a chairman who likes to eat (and cook), someone who is a party animal, and someone who will throw a party for the members *at least once* each season. You can even make up your own title, like **Grill-master.**

Did you notice? We have a new chairman of the Tech Talk Committee, **Rich-K1XRN.** He needs to hear from you with leads, suggestions and help to put our monthly talks back on track. So, let's hear from you!

**POINT TO PONDER**

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Official Meeting Minutes



April 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 35 members and 0 guests present. A moment of silence was held for **Joseph Roderick (N1BZZ-SK)**, Boston Firefighter Michael Kennedy, Boston Fire Lt. Edward Walsh and Plymouth Police Officer Gregg Maloney.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously votes to dispense reading the report and accept as posted on the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported income of \$228.00, expenses of \$610.00, with total balance in accounts as \$65,874.00. The total NETCOM balance stands at \$18,486, minus two checks received the balance becomes approximately \$12,500. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds No report.

Technical

Chris (W1EAV) reported that repeaters are working and the Newline report is working at 21:00 hrs on Sundays. **Tony (NN1D)** spoke briefly about the changing landscape of local repeaters.

Scholarship

Sonny (K1USW) reported that a scholarship winner has been chosen. A Dartmouth High School student has been chosen. The award will be given at the next (May) business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Ed (KA1RSY) reported that all was quiet with ARES and RACES, and reminded members of the upcoming SKYWARN class on May 10, as well as the RACES net on the first Monday of the month.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) advised that the 6m net (50.200 MHz) is FM (not SSB), spoke of **Kids Day** (3rd Saturday in June) and **Field Day** (last weekend in June). Other events mentioned as posted in *Zero Beat*.

Website

It was reported that some changes are coming soon

to the website in terms of formatting and ease of use.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from Nstar looking for interest in running a gas line in the area. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the Treasurer to contact Nstar to get more information and costs without committing to the project.

OLD BUSINESS

The President, Marcel (W1MLD) reported on the progress of the keyless entry system requested last month. One system from All Security using a FOB and which logs transactions costs approx. \$1600.00. Other systems are available for less cost and are being researched. There was also some discussion about generators and back up power.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric (N1WCO) donated a discone scanner antenna and 100 ft of RG 11 coax to the club. **Brad (W1BEP)** reported that he will set up for **Field Day** at the *High Hill Fox and Coon Club* on Collins Corner Rd. in Dartmouth, June 28 and 29, and that there will be a MARS Tech Talk scheduled in the future.

A letter was read to the membership from **Dave DeCosta (KD1YZ)** resigning his position from the Board of Directors. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to accept Dave's resignation.

NOMINATIONS AND VOTING

The President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** read procedures from the bylaws regarding replacement of a member of the Board of Directors. Pursuant to the Bylaws, members will be notified by publishing online (*Zero Beat*) and a group email to be sent informing members of the BOD vacancy. At this time, nominations for the vacant BOD position were opened. Nominations were as follows: **Brad Paiva (W1BEP)** accepted then withdrawn, **Marty Jordan (KA1YFV)** accepted, **Dick Halliwell (K1AHA)** decline. A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously voted to close nominations until the next business meeting.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary

Tidbits



April 5 VE Session

This VE session had 3 applicants,
and everyone passed...

Joe Tavares - KC1BGF - Extra

William Hart - W1ACO - Extra

Scott Almeida - KC1BOQ - Technician

Scott may be eligible for a 'free' SEMARA

Baofeng UV-5B HT.



Welcome to your new privileges!

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

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>)

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. **Net control** is Brad, **W1BEP** (E. Free-town).

28.490 MHz (USB) — Net is held Tuesdays at 8:30 PM. **Net control** is **Dick, K1AHA** (N. Dartmouth).

1875 kHz (LSB) Net is held Fridays at 7 PM. **Net control** is **Dave, K1JGV** (N. Dartmouth).

If QRN is too high, look for them on **50.200 MHz** (USB)

NEXT VE SESSION @ SEMARA

June 7, 2014

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

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

508-748-0047



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 @ 12 noon
Gather @ clubhouse before 12 noon

Call on the repeater, or phone the club:
508-997-7070, if you are coming

50/50 RAFFLE

The **May** 50/50 raffle prize of
\$23.50
was won by **Dave Decosta (KD1YZ)**.

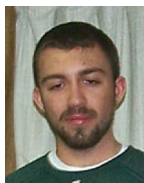
SEMARA News

Essay by Drew Tisdelle

2014 SEMARA Scholarship Winner

The history of amateur radio since its creation a little over a century ago has been a fascinating one and one that has not only involved entertaining people but has also saving lives.

Amateur radios, also known as ham radios, are used by a variety of people ranging from actors, doctors, truck drivers, and preachers to students and average people as a hobby. After getting licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, these people use amateur radio to spread many different types of messages throughout the world. Actors use them as parts of their shows and movies, doctors use them to communicate across the world their different ways to treat patients, truck drivers, though they usually use CB radios, also sometimes use amateur radios in order to communicate with each other in order to keep themselves entertained during long rides, preachers use them in order to spread their religious beliefs throughout the world to their many followers, students, often as part of amateur radio clubs, can use them to communicate with other students across the globe as well as to learn from others in their studies, and average people use them to communicate with and to make new friends all over the planet. People even use amateur radios to compete in DX contests, in which contestants try contact the greatest number of distant amateur radios during a set amount of time. All these different uses of the



amateur radio make it a relevant and fun piece of technology that is used during our time.

In addition to the many mentioned uses of amateur radios, they have also used in times of emergency as a type of communication when normal communication methods are unavailable, such as cell phones and the Internet. They can be used to contact public service agencies and keep them in touch during these times, such as during 9/11 the New York City agencies kept in contact using amateur radios. These radios can be used to communicate not only with people across the globe but even with astronauts in space if one desired to do so.

As I plan to go to college in order to major in Computer Science, amateur radios will play an interesting role in my education. In today's world, amateur radios have evolved far beyond being used just in the form of radios. Now amateur radios can be used simply by downloading a program for a computer and even as an app on a person's phone. As I aspire to one day create applications for phones and computers, creating newer and better versions of amateur radio applications as part of learning my major will most certainly be a wonderful experience to have. I'll not only be able to learn how to develop applications from this but also be able to create an application that is used to help people communicate easily throughout the world. It is my hope that I can one day incorporate amateur radios in to my college education and create a great application for those who use amateur radios throughout the world.

To All,

If you like to collect rare and historically significant QSL cards, this is an event you will like.

W1AA/MSK will be on for **International Marconi Day** on April 26th to represent the Marconi 1901 shore station on Nantucket.

W1AA/MSK will be mostly on CW because I'll be running a temporary setup from my QTH with an IC-7000 (100 W) and an 80-m dipole for all bands. I'm using an ancient IBM ThinkPad laptop and using CT for logging.

The list of participating stations is on the G-land page -- <http://g4usb.net/IMD/>

I think there are 31 and may be more and there is an award!

CU on the 26th - mark your calendar!

Whitey-K1VV



To All,

International Marconi Day is April 26, 2014.

You may want to take part if you like to collect rare and historically significant QSL cards and Awards.

Click here -- <http://www.qrz.com/db/W1AA/ref/1398353060>.

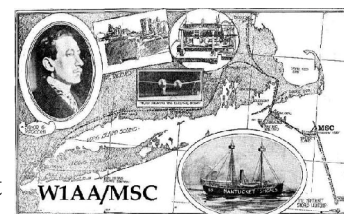
60 stations World Wide will be taking part -- <http://g4usb.net/IMD/award-stations/>.

Watch the DX Summit for spots -- <http://www.dxsummit.fi/DxSpots.aspx>.

We plan to start on 40 CW on Friday evening.

73, **Whitey-K1VV**

W1AA Marconi Radio Club
Cape Cod, MA



Radio in the Field

118th Boston Marathon

On April 21, the world focused its attention on Boston and the 118th running of the BAA Marathon. A record number of runners participated in this year's 26.2-mile race from Hopkinton to Boston. Over three hundred Amateur Radio operators, under the overall coordination of **Steve Schwarm-W3EVE**, helped to assure a smooth and safe event.

SEMARA had at least three members participating in the event: **Rob-KD1CY**, **Anthony-KB1UAM**, and **Marcilio-N1MVR**.



MARCILIO-N1MVR



B.A.A. OP RADIO

Marcilio submitted this report.

Just me standing and waiting with my ham radio. I also used a Motorola turbo radio – med control only.



WATCHING THE RUNNERS GO BY.

The team of nurses, EMS, a doctor, a MEMA member, and Red

Cross people: all there just waited and watched the runners go by. If one were to fall, we would get them.

Our tent had an IV station. A female runner was low on fluids so she was put on IV fluids.

I had to call for a bus to transport her out. We took care of about 35 runners with different situations; but she was the only one that was bad.



Postscript: I was working with 2 other hams whose names I forgot.

We were the station next to Heartbreak Hill, as they call it.

Foxtrot One Seven Charlie was my callsign.

We met at Babson College at 6:30AM, got our info badges, name tag and jacket and an extra Motorola turbo radio. So we had 2 radios on at the same time.

All told, the team took care of 35 runners. It was crazy but fun still at 6pm. We were packing up there and still had runners running through us.

Also **Anthony-KB1UAM** was there but he was riding on a bus. I drove him to Woburn to drop him off for the bus job he had at the marathon.

73, **Marcilio-N1MVR**



www.arrrl.org

It's not too early to think about Field Day. The 2014 field day packets and rules are available from ARRL. Visit:

<http://www.arrrl.org/field-day>



Extra Pool Question

E1B01 "Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?"

- An amateur station transmission made at random without the proper call sign identification
- A signal transmitted to prevent its detection by any station other than the intended recipient
- Any transmitted bogus signal that interferes with another licensed radio station
- An emission outside its necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted

Wikipedia: "A spurious emission is any radio frequency not deliberately created or transmitted, especially in a device which normally does create other frequencies.

Do you think the answer is D?

Amateur Radio News



Morse Code*

It's a fortunate thing the railroad and the telegraph evolved together. This was in the late eighteen thirties. Towns were connected by single track lines. Trains traveling in opposite directions had to be scheduled using sidings. Lead time communication was not only needed it was vital. Joseph Henry had recently invented the electromagnet. Samuel Finley Breese Morse was a portrait painter with imagination. He combined a clockwork driven paper tape with a pencil moved by Henry's electromagnet to mark the moving tape. Then he contrived a code of long and short marks on the tape to identify numerals and letters.

Railroads quickly adopted Morse's telegraph to schedule trains. The classic railroad station house evolved with its bay window on the track side, having the angled windows looking left and right. The electric telegraph was in this bay window. The Kingston, R.I. Station is a good example of this architecture.

Soon station agents began to read the messages by the sound of the clicks on the paper tape machine. Young Tom Edison was a newsboy on the Port Huron - Detroit line. One day he luckily rescued a small child of the station agent who had been playing on the tracks. The grateful agent taught Edison Morse's code, and even as a teenager Edison became an expert operator. He graduated to the important Boston station. While on duty there a senior Operator in New York tried to burn up young Edison by gradually increasing the speed until the New York Operator started stumbling.

Edison broke in saying, "Change off old man and send with other foot." This was the start of Edison's amazing career which ended with almost 2,000 patents.

You can see the evolution of the Morse telegraph via the telegraph instruments in glass cases in this museum including a tiny working instrument which was at each place setting at the head table on the occasion of the 50th year banquet of the telegraph in New York.

In ship disasters Morse code wireless operators were heroes of movie star class. Jack Binns patched up his damaged station on the Republic after it was rammed by the Florida. He called for help rescuing all but the three killed in the collision before Republic sank. In 1912 Phillips on the Titanic wasn't so lucky, but those that were saved owed their lives to his CQD.

When I was first in the Army Signal Corps in 1942 at Fort Monmouth, NJ Motorola had yet to develop the Handy Talkie. Morse code was big in the Signal Corps. About a third of my barrack mates were being trained as Morse operators. Us technical types called them "dit happy". There are still occasions when Morse code is valuable. In the Viet Nam war, Viet Cong paraded three captured US Navy prisoners. One knew the code and blinked a message in his eyes sending "TORTURE." But this is the past. Sadly amateur radio doesn't require the code anymore.

73, which means "Good Wishes," or *dah dah di di dit di di di dah dah.*

Bob Merriam, President Ret.

New England Wireless
& Steam Museum

* with permission of the author,

Different Styles of Keys

A progression of telegraph key styles starting from the simple to the divine.

- Some features of the original RR keys are embodied in the WW-II *J-38 telegraph key*.



J-38 KEY

- The key that came with the *Ten-Tec Century 21* CW-only transceiver was a single paddle key. It was 'slapped' sideways to make the 'dots' or 'dashes' using the built-in electronic keyer.



1-PADDLE KEY

- The original, mechanical, semi-automatic keyer was made by Vibroplex around the end of the 18th century. Dashes are made manually.



VIBROPLEX KEY

- This 2-paddle key works with almost any keyer. Iambic keyers connect dots and dashes.



IAMBIC KEY

Radio Tests & Fests

Some Special Events

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

WX4NHC Annual Station Test event

Saturday May 31st, 2014.

9 AM-6 PM EDT (1300-2200 UTC)

WX4NHC is the *Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center*. It will be on the air using various modes.

WX4NHC will be on the *WX_TALK* Echolink conference node 7203/IRLP_9219 system from 4-6 PM EDT (2000-2200 UTC) for contacts and testing of their Echolink station.

RACES Drill

The first Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM
We hold our monthly RACES Drill on the SEMARA 147.00 repeater. Please check in after the cities and towns.

900 Night

Each fourth Thursday (May 22) at 5:30 PM
Meet at *Plane Jane's* at the Plymouth Airport, South Meadow Road, in Plymouth.
Talk-in is on the Marshfield 900 MHz repeater, analog or P25 Digital.

Kids Day 2014

Saturday, June 21 2:00pm - 7:59pm
(1800 UTC through 2359 UTC)

Kids Day 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.

Suggested frequencies:

10 Meters:	28.350 to 28.400 MHz
12 Meters:	24.960 to 24.980 MHz
15 Meters:	21.360 to 21.400 MHz
17 Meters:	18.140 to 18.145 MHz
20 Meters:	14.270 to 14.300 MHz
40 Meters:	7.270 to 7.290 MHz
80 Meters:	3.740 to 3.940 MHz

plus your favorite repeater (with permission).

Be sure to observe third-party restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Suggested exchange: name, age, favorite color.

Reporting: See www.arrl.org/kids-day

Survey & Certificates: go to the [Kids Day](#) page, do the survey, print personalized certificates for each of the kids.

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

2,3 May	Deerfield NH	NEARfest XV Mike K1TFW 978 250 1235
18 May	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Mitch 617 253 3776
31 May	Goshen CT	SBARC Marc K1CTT 860 672 2659
7 June	Hermon ME	PSARA Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
15 June	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Mitch 617 253 3776
21 June	Newington CT	NARL Quentin KB1EWM 860 383 8203
18,19 July	Hartford CT	ARRL Nat Conv 100th Anv. 860 594 0200
20 July	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Mitch 617 253 3776

Some Radio Activity

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

3.5-14 CW	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint naqcc.info May 22, 0030Z - May 22, 0230Z
10G+ Phone-CW	Worldwide EME Contest www.dubus.org May 24, 0000Z - May 25, 2400Z
1.8-28 CW	CQ WW WPX Contest www.cqwp.com May 24, 0000Z - May 25, 2359Z
3.5-28 CW	QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint www.qrparci.org/contests May 25, 8 PM - May 25, Midnight
1.8-28 CW	MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint www.miqr.org May 26, 2300Z - May 27, 0300Z
1.2G Phone-CW	Worldwide EME Contest www.dubus.org May 31, 0000Z - Jun 1, 2400Z
1.8-28 Digital	Full Day of Hell Feld-Hell Contest www.feldhellclub.org May 31, 0000Z - May 31, 2400Z

