



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 74th YEAR

Volume 42, Issue 4

SEMARA W1AEC

April 2006

Three Generations



THREE GENERATIONS OF BREDBERGS ARE MEMBERS OF SEMARA

LEFT TO RIGHT: SECOND GRADER PARKER BREDBERG, (NO CALLSIGN YET), GRANDFATHER CARL BREDBERG, K1KID, AND FATHER GLEN BREDBERG, KB1GKH

Parker joined SEMARA March 3, the snow storm postponed the March 2 business meeting. The applications for life membership for **Carlos A. Matos, KB1NAS** and **William G. Roach, VE3BNO** were also approved.

This is part of the continuing trend for SEMARA. Younger people are joining and allowing the *elders* to step back and make room for the new blood. *Welcome new to all our newer members!* Now get to work - HI HI.

NORTHBOUND SNOWBIRD

Starting north around the March 27. Stopping along the way. Not sure when we will make Fall River. The APRS web for the motor home is <<http://findu.aprsfl.net/cgi-bin/msg.cgi?call=WA1ZCB-9>>; and for the towed car, use <<http://findu.aprsfl.net/cgi-bin/msg.cgi?call=WA1ZCB-8>>. 72 de Ed, WA1ZCB/QRP

ZERO BEAT

<http://zerobeat.semara.org>

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ADVERTISING

Club members may have one free
 non-commercial ad per month.

THE 25TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH
 IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
 MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION.

2006 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Rick Cabral, W1RJC

Vice President

Carl Bissonette, WA1AKR

Secretary

Ronald Silvia, WB1HGA

Treasurer

Scott Szala, W1EV

Board of Directors:

Bill Miller, K1IBR

Carl Bredberg, K1KID

Tim Smith, N1TI

Trustees: (year term is up)

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM (2006)-Ch

William Miller, Jr., K1IBR (2007)

Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS (2008)

Bill Vincent, W1POW (2009)

Don Manley, N1PMB (2010)

FISTS CW no.10555

(Adventure Radio Society)

Bumblebee no. 71

Grid Coordinates:

FN41mo

GPS Coordinates:

Lat. N 41° 36.795'

Long. W 070° 56.590'



It seems to me ...

de Bob, K1KVV <editor@semara.org>

That things are looking up at SEMARA. No, it's not just the warmer temperatures, 'though that helps. You could not help but notice that things are starting to be put on the front burner. This month promises to finally get the north side of the clubhouse shingled — thanks **Mike, N1ITQ**. We are awaiting the installation of the new repeater antenna on top of our 160 foot tower — high climber **Roland, N1JOY**. (Or has it been done already and I just didn't hear about it?)

From what I heard, the March Steer Roast was an unqualified success — way to go **Scott, W1EV** and crew! As I have said many times, one of the things that we know how to do it feast. While the grounds look pretty good in spite of the winter, with **Dave Dean, K1JGV** pulling back, I'm glad to hear that there are a few 'younger' folks who will be helping to keep the place 'ship shape in Bristol fashion.'

And while I'm on a roll here. Thanks to Roland,, N1JOY for being the ram-rod for New Building committee. We all look forward to seeing what kind of designs come out of this. I know I'll forget something and someone in this enumeration; but thanks to the Technical committee and all the improvements and updates vis-à-vis the repeater system and the phone lines and the computer licenses, and so on and so forth.

Yes! A lot of stuff has been, is and will continue to go on at SEMARA. See you at the next business meeting.



HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* T1A02 What is one of the basic purposes of the Amateur Radio Service as defined in Part 97?

- A. To support teaching of amateur radio classes in schools
- B. To provide a voluntary noncommercial communications service to the public, particularly in times of emergency
- C. To provide free message service to the public
- D. To allow the public to communicate with other radio services

* 2006 Technician Class (Element 2) question pool (eff. 2006-07-01)

Answer on page 7



MEETING MINUTES

The **March 2, 2006** Business Meeting was postponed one day due to a snow storm. The meeting was called to order on March 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Rick Cabral, W1RJC**, with the salute to the flag and a roll call of 35 members. We have one guest. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)– The minutes of the previous business meeting, appearing in the current issue of Zero Beat, is accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report (Scott Szala, W1EV)– absent. Report accepted as read by the president.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds (Mike Miller, N1ITQ)– Announced the shingle party will be held April 22, 06 with a rain date April 26, 2006. The hot water has been restored with installation of new tank; Roland explains on-demand not practical due to circuit breaker not meeting the requirements, thus conventional tank was installed as before. Asking for volunteer snow plower to clear drive and parking area; heater in rest room was removed for safety reasons; wiring in hallway was repaired and 2 timers are now installed in both restrooms to shut off the lights after 15 minutes. We also now have a 200 amp transfer switch as opposed to a 100 amp switch originally installed.

Scholarship (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)– absent.

Technical (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)– Directions for club phone use and ID is posted next to the wall phone. The mike cord for Kenwood TS 180 is repaired; Cat controller up for sale as approved at last meeting is now on E-bay receiving bids; extension cables was added to keyboard and mouse in radio room; replacing antenna is still being planned; one computer has already been upgraded, two more to go; Repeater speed dial numbers list has been passed out to members;

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Internet (Larry Houbre, Jr., AA1FS)– absent.

Activities (Scott Szala, W1EV)– absent.

ARES (Rob Macedo, KD1CY)– Rob reports the Hurricane Center trip provided positive exposure for W1AEC; 1st ARES drill last weekend went well and reminds us the monthly MRA repeater network ARES net @ 8.30 PM and RACES net at 147.1350 repeater. April 8, will be a workshop, involving Communications exercise.

Radio Events (Ron Silvia, WB1HGA)– No club radio activities scheduled for this month.

New Building (Roland Daignault, N1JOY)– On February 26, 14 members joined the meeting and discussed the floor, shingling, restroom expansion and club building. On building expansion, discussed single or split, members at the meeting made preference to single with handicapped access; electrical panel and circuits will have to be rewired; Rob is looking to acquire a generator via homeland security funds; plans for radio room. Roland stressed that this is only in “discussion” stages, upon completion of “study”, the committee will outline their findings and make recommendations to the body for discussion and approval. Right now a need for an Architect will be required for structural, zoning and building codes among other issues..

COMMUNICATIONS (Carl Bissionette, WA1AKR)– absent.

RATIFICATIONS*– Three applications for life membership were received:

William G. Roach, VE3BNO; Carlos A. Matos, KB1NAS; and Parker Bredberg, no call.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (Rick Cabral, W1RJC)

– Presentation of certificate made to Dave Dean for his volunteer effort maintaining the club grounds. You can access documents pertaining to SEMARA such as the repeater commands list via www.users.semara.org. Be sure to use the following to enter: username: _____, password: _____.

OLD BUSINESS–

*Motion**– to remain tabled (to establish contingency funds for month to month expenditures to officers)

NEW BUSINESS–

Motion defeated– to establish building fund

*Motion**– to allow expenditures not to exceed \$100 on food for shingling gang.

Motion defeated– on proposed by-law amendment.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB– **Mike, N1ILQ** has organized periodic visits of Cub Scouts' exposure to ham radio.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Ron Silvia, WB1HGA,
Secretary

* Motions are voted, and passed, by those present.



WB1HGA



CLUB NOTES

April is known for variable *holidays*. Except for April Fools Day - always April 1 - and the beginning of Daylight (Savings) Time - the first Sunday of April - the other *holidays* are variable. The day the US tax returns are due is a variable in Massachusetts because the Massachusetts IRS office is closed on Patriots Day or the 15th falls on a weekend. And the best one is Easter since it depends on the phases of the moon.



Three applications were voted life membership at the March 3, 2006 business meeting:

William G. Roach, VE3BNO;
Carlos A. Matos, KB1NAS; and
Parker Bredberg, no call.

Welcome to the club!



DAVE RECEIVES AWARD

Dave Dean, **K1JGV** received an award from **Rick Cabral, W1RJG**, SEMARA President for his service to the club.

Dave has been the grounds keeper for years and most recently was also the club auctioneer. Dave is 'gracefully' giving up these functions as he cuts back on his professional activities to make time to enjoy his retirement.

LOCAL NET ACTIVITY

Please support these local nets by checking in!

2-m Roundtable Net held every evening at 7 p.m. All are welcome, and please note this important change: we are back on the SEMARA Repeater, W1AEC, 147.000+ with a PL of 67.0 Hz..

2-m YL Net. Please support the *RI YL Net* on 146.700- every Thursday at 7 p.m. **Debbie, W1GKE** is net control.

6-m Net held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on 50.200 MHz USB. **Bob, N1HCW** is usually net control and the net is doing well with as many as 12 check-ins some nights from RI and MA.

3868 kHz SEMARA Morning Net held weekdays from 7:30 - 8 a.m. Because of crowded band conditions, once again please note the new frequency of **3868 kHz**. All are welcome to join the 5 to 7 regular check-ins.

FISTS WINTER SPRINT

We had 5 CW operators show up at different times with 2 stations running all the time. We did have problems with the Kenwood 570 desensing and AGC pumping that cut down our number of QSOs. I think we need to replace this radio with a more "robust" rig in the next W1AEC radio event.

The new electronic keyer with memories sure helped with the scoring on the TS 180. We now need a set of paddles. We brought in our own paddles for now.

We made coffee, exchanged eyeball QSOs and enjoyed the event. In less than three hours, we worked 68 QSOs, for 4619 points, with 31 states and one DX! Not bad for a "relaxing" afternoon at the SEMARA W1AEC radio room!

The next FISTS Sprint is coming soon! Won't you join us?? Watch the SEMARA reflector for an announcement or check the W1AEC schedule on bulletin board.

72 & 73 de **Ron, WB1HGA**

Amateur Radio News

YOU'RE ON A PARTY LINE

From *The Handiham Weekly E-Letter*, March 29, 2006

Remember folks, when chatting on the ham bands it is like talking on an OLD TIME party line telephone. You do not know who may be listening. It doesn't matter if it is on a 2 meter net or a net on 80 meters. It may be just two or three people talking and not even a net. Most of the time people are out there listening. Some just are listening with no intent to do anything. Some, however, may have the intention of using that information for their own unlawful gain.

It is not a good idea to mention over the air that you are going on vacation and will be gone for a certain length of time. What can happen is that someone listening in on the conversation may decide that they can just look you up in the "database," find out where you live, pay you a visit, clean you out, and when you get home you find out you have been robbed?

After your vacation is over and you are back home again you can talk about that vacation you just came off of all you want. It is then, of course, too late for anyone to take advantage of the building being empty. The same thing is true if someone is sick and in the hospital for a period of time. It is not a good idea to come on the air and mention that "we need someone to be net control because XYZ is in the hospital and unable to do the net."

That person's relatives will probably be at the hospital visiting and so again the QTH is just there empty ready for those bad guys to check out that "database" and make their trip to collect all those nice things.

Many years ago I used to be net control for a two meter net. They had a rule formulated after something similar happened. It seems on one net session a person came on the repeater and made mention of a silent key and gave out all the normal information as to when and where the viewing and funeral was. While the relatives were gone the home was broken into and many expensive things were taken. Who ever did the

dirty deed must have looked up the person's address in the "Callbook," made the trip and cleaned them out. From that time on for many years it was a policy that that kind of information was not to be given out over the air.

Before the event use a phone for this kind of information to keep things more secure. Prevent this from happening to your friends! After the event, talk about it all you want on the air.

So until next time,

73 & DX from KOHLA, Avery

COOL OPERATING POSITION



The picture is my ham shack in the RV. I use the K1 and KX1 most of the time for CW and QRP and the 706 for IRLP to talk to some of the guys on the 145.49 in Fairhaven.

72-73 de **Ed, WA1ZCB/QRP**



ELECRAFT K1 INTERIOR

SEE REVIEW, PAGE 6

More SEMARA Stuff



ELECRAFT K1 REVIEW

The Elecraft K1 is a QRP portable radio designed for field trips or temporary station set-up such as camping, an afternoon in the park, a trip or vacation. Their cousin, the K2 is designed for more stationary use as a base station; but can be used in the field as well as any radio. The kid in the Elecraft family is the KX1, the smallest of the lot, designed for backpacking, field and portable use. All their radios can be powered very efficiently by battery. This review covers the 4 band version of the K1.

The K1 is a dandy little rig that plays very well whether at home or in the field. Functions available through the front panel are band switching, key speed, filters, RIT/XIT, attenuation and memories for sending. You can read the battery voltage with a push of the button. The power on/off switch is in the rear! All these functions are available without entering a menu.

At 5 watts, the little radio draws almost 800 milliamps of current on transmit and 30 milliamps of current on standby (receive). The front end is very clean and you can work weak stations with ease. I received unsolicited reports of nice CW tone from the hams I worked.

The built-in tuner functions very well; it tunes balanced or unbalanced antennas. The tuning time is fast; it always tries to find a 1:1 match, other tuners are happy with 3:1 if not less. If there is a mismatch, power output is reduced.

I had an SWR problem with my 40 meter vertical and found it using the built-in K1 auto-tuner. I confirmed this using an external LDG auto-tuner and a wattmeter. I set the K1 to manual key to enable the external tuner. On the band

in question, the output was down to less than 1 W! The LDG found a match; but with a slightly higher SWR. These radios “fold back” under mismatches and the output of the K1 is reduced.

The memory keyer, when played back after entering your message, has a mechanical sound without any feel to it. In other words it sounds “artificial” (too perfect) during sending. The characters don’t seem to flow. Nonetheless, it sends clearly and can store two messages you enter with your paddle. The display shows how much memory is left as you are entering characters.

A noise blanker would have been a useful addition. This radio did not come with one and it’s optional. As a result, occasional ear-popping pulses and static can be heard while receiving.

The backlighting option would also be welcome addition. At times I found it difficult to read the frequency. With ample lighting in the room or in daylight and even outdoors, there is no problem.

The owner’s manual is very clear on controls and their usage. After a few minutes’ reading, the radio will become a second nature to use.

The radio is purchased as a kit only; as either a two or four band radio. The options are auto tuner, noise blanker, “floor stand,” a paddle set (designed to be attached to the stand), and additional band modules.

Anyone who enjoys kitting radios (or has someone to build it for you) will enjoy operating the K1. You can take it with you to the field using a portable antenna. If you want to learn CW, electronics or you’re an old pro looking for something exciting, the Elecraft K1 is for you!

de Ron, WB1HGA

This review did not include kitting. The radio reviewed was assembled and tested by **Carl Bredburg, K1KID**. Contact him for kitting information and comments.

APRIL VE SESSIONS

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

From <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

- 1 SEMARA Clubhouse — 10:30 a.m.**
Larry Houbre, AA1FS
508-991-6055

- 8 Falmouth, MA — 9:00 a.m.**
Joanne Reid, N1LNE
508-540-2483

- 8 Middletown, RI — 9:00 a.m.**
Jack Garforth, K1IG
401-683-2250

- 13 Providence, RI — 7:00 p.m.**
Louis Mester, W1CH
401-263-6045

- 17 Fall River, MA — 7:00 p.m.**
Skip Denault, KB1CNB
774-644-3469

- 20 Canton, MA — 7:30 p.m.**
Lou Harris, N1UEC
508-668-0858

POINT TO PONDER

“It takes both rain
and sunshine to
make a rainbow.”

~Anonymous

B. To provide a voluntary noncommercial
communications service to the public, par-
ticularly in times of emergency

NE DIVISION FLEA MARKETS

From <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

- 8 Apr Londonderry, NH**
Interstate RS — Gayle 781-598-1442
- 15 Apr Portland, ME**
Portland AWA — Roger 207-671-0671
- 16 Apr Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 23 Apr Southington, CT**
Southington ARA — Chet 869-628-9346

- 5-6 May Hopkinton, NH**
HOSSTRADERS — Joe 207-469-3492
- 6 May Goshen, CT**
SoBARC — Lee 860-435-0051
- 21 May Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 27 May Vernon, CT**
Hartford Hamfest — Wayne 860-487-1921

- 3 Jun Hermon, ME**
Bangor Hamfest — Roger 207-848-3846
- 11 Jun Newington, CT**
NARL — George 860-463-0948
- 18 Jun Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

- 8 Jul Union, ME**
Pen-Bay ARC — Scott 207-354-6809
- 16 Jul Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

- 19 Aug St Albans, VT**
StARC Tailgate — Arn 802-285-6457
- 20 Aug Adams, MA**
NoBARC — George 4/3-443-7539
- 20 Aug Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776
- 25-27 Aug Boxboro, MA**
NE Div Conv — Mike 978-250-1236

- 17 Sep Newtown, CT**
W. CT Hamfest — 203-749-1610
- 17 Sep Cambridge, MA**
Flea @ MIT — Nick 617-253-3776

SEMARA HandiHam Affiliate

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

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.130 -	151.4	WF1A	Cranston, RI
145.150 -	123.0	WAIDGW	Fall River
145.450 -	100.0	W1SYE	Portsmouth, RI
145.490 -	67.0 ¹	KD1CY	Fairhaven
146.655 -	88.5	WAIGPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1ZIZ	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
146.730 -	67.0	W1SGL	Sandwich
146.760 -		W1HQV	Scituate, RI
146.805 -	67.0	NN1D	Fall River
146.835 -	192.8	WA1QCA	Johnston, RI
146.880 -	100.0	WC1R	Newport, RI
146.940 -		K1KYI	Lincoln, RI
146.955 -	88.5	K1PBO	Dennis
147.000+ SEMARA	67.0	W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045+	141.3	W1HDN	W Warwick, RI
147.135+	67.0	KA1GG	Taunton
147.165+	67.0	WA1HAH	Exeter, RI
147.180+	67.0	W1MV	Bridgewater
147.195+	127.3	K1SMH	Attleboro
147.330+	173.8 ²	W1AQ	E. Prov., RI
147.345+	88.5	KB1QL	Vineyard

¹IRLP-4617 & E-Link-4611; ²required for use of IRLP-4907

440			
441.400+	100.0	WG1U	Plymouth
442.200+	88.5	KE1AK	Fall River
442.950+	82.5 ⁵	K1RK	Barnstable
443.450+	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.500+	141.3 ⁵	K1PBO	Dennis
443.800+	88.5 ³	W1RJC	Dartmouth
443.850+	141.3	AA1PL	Exeter, RI
444.200+	118.8	N1YHS	Bourne
444.250+	141.3 ⁵	WAIGPO	Falmouth
444.350+	88.5	W1ACT	Fall River
444.550+	88.5	W1MV	Bridgewater
447.025 -	77.0 ⁴	N1JBC	Johnston, RI
447.075 -	88.5	N1DZD	Kingston
449.275 -	103.5	W1WNS	W. Bridge-water

³IRLP-4259 & E-Link-4259; ⁴IRLP-5920 & E-Link-55920; ⁵ Cape Net

APRIL SEMARA EVENTS

6—Business Meeting 7 p.m.

1—VE Session 10:30 a.m.

13—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.

20—Auction and Tech Talk – 7 p.m.

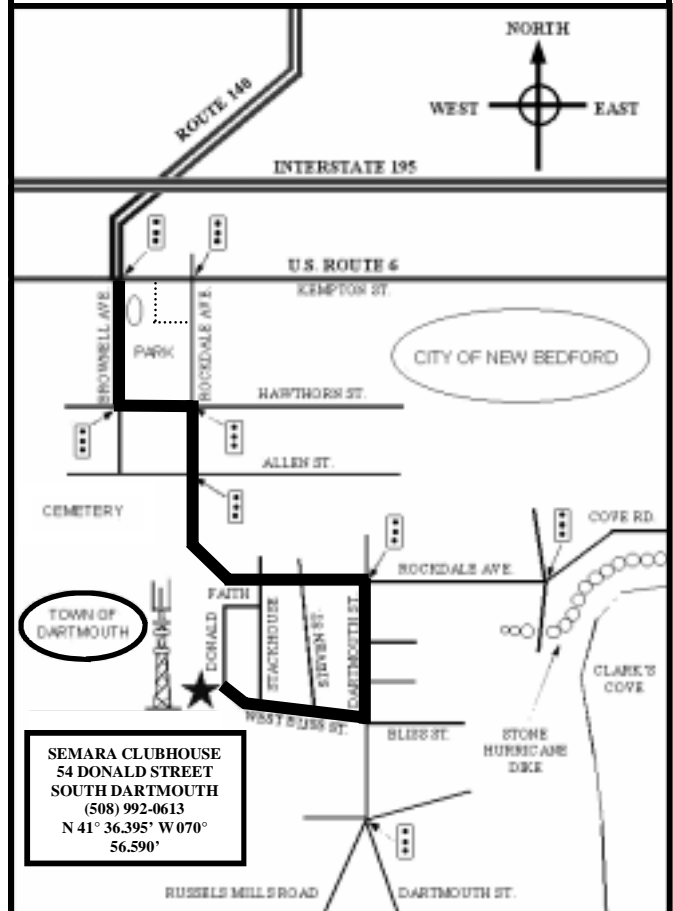
Topic and Speaker to be announced

26—Ragchew, 6:30 p.m.

Ragchew at the clubhouse every Sunday 7 – 11 a.m.

Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts!

Directions to SEMARA



SEMARA ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

— RAGCHEW —

Sat - 8 p.m. 28.700 MHz USB
Sun - 8 a.m. 28.700 MHz USB
Wed - 8:30 p.m. 50.200 MHz USB
Daily - 7 p.m. 147.000+ SEMARA
Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.m. 3.868 MHz LSB

— WEATHER NET —

Mon-Fri - 8:00 p.m. 145.490- [alt. 146.655-]

— **W1RJC Sunday Activities 443.800+** —
 9 p.m. - ARRL News followed by Amateur Audio News