



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 47 Issue 10

SEMARA-W1AEC

October 2011

Busy Weekend

CHIX BBQ

Saturday, September 10, 2011 marks a **red letter day** in the life of SEMARA! Chef **Scott, W1EV** and sous-chef presided over the first Chicken Barbeque in a long time. It was enjoyed by the 30-odd diners. Let's do it again, soon. *Encore !!!*



CHEF SCOTT, W1EV, AND HIS SOUS-CHEF



LOADING UP PLATES

FLEAMARKET 2011



Sunday, September 11, 2011
8 AM to Noon - Rain or Shine

\$5.00 GENERAL ADMISSION

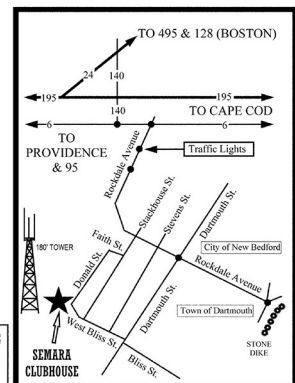
30+ YEARS OF FLEAMARKETS!
(Seller Setup starts at 7 AM)

Admission For Sellers: \$10.00

Talk-in on the W1AEC
Dartmouth 2-Meter Repeater
→ 147.000 + PL 67.0 ←

54 Donald Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748

Need more information? Go to SEMARA.ORG
Or call Eric Pierce, N1WCO at (508) 295-2468
or email: [n1wco\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:n1wco@yahoo.com)



DAVE, K2JGV, PARKING CHIEF

ZERO BEAT

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2011 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Marcel Dumont—W1MLD
 Vice President
 Bob Kelley—K1KVV
 Secretary
 Marc Dumont—KB1ODE
 Treasurer
 Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC
 Brad Paiva—W1BEP
 John Walsh—WA1LSH

Trustees: (year term is up)

Tim Smith—N1TI (2011) chair
 Henry Blanchett—W1GYL (2012)
 John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013)
 Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC (2015)

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: Technical
 Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Repeater
 Rick Cabral—W1RJC: Website
 Ben Jackson—N1WBV: facebook

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Activities
 VACANT

ARES/SKYWARN/RACES
 Rob Macedo—KD1CY

QSL Manager
 John Nery—WA1ESO

Radio Events
 Bob Kelley—K1KVV
 Tech Talk
 Brad Paiva—W1BEP



It seems to me ...

that we can have fun playing radio. To start with, we need to erect some HF antennas—wire antennas are easy and not costly. What say we get some slopers hung off the 85 foot tower—say four—so we can take advantage of their directivity.

Next we need to learn how to use the rig-to-sound card interface. We can not only work BPSK31 but also other modes such as W1JT’s meteor scatter high speed CW and the like. (The *Draconids* meteor shower come the second week of October.)

Some have been commenting on the apparent apathy on the part of the members. Well, that may be; but it isn’t new. Take a look at the comments by Barry, KD1N, the editor of Zero Beat in his farewell issue, June 1982. You can read them on page 6.

A woodpecker has been doing its best to make a hole in the rear wall of the club. Maybe it has been captured on our new security camera system. **Dave, K1JGV** has chased the bird away several times.

You may have noticed that that there is not much coverage of what has been going on at the club. What’s going on? We do have several nets—what’s happening with the nets? How about the Fleamarket 2011? In spite of my making a request for pictures and information on the buyers and vendors, nothing materialized. Lots of folks show up on Sunday mornings for free coffee and donuts. What are the hot topics of discussion?

Friday Lunch Bunch—Surprisingly, there are some radio topics discussed; usually, the talk revolves about antennas or propagation or someone’s rig. In any event, we can always talk about sports to fill the quiet moments.

Do you want to record your activities for posterity, or should I continue to provide filled material? Yes, it’s up to you!

POINT TO PONDER

“If you really want to do something, you’ll find a way. If you don’t, you’ll find an excuse.”

~Anonymous

HAMMIN’ AROUND

Question* G3C13 What is Near Vertical Incidence Sky-wave (NVIS) propagation?

- A. Propagation near the MUF
- B. Short distance HF propagation using high elevation angles
- C. Long path HF propagation at sunrise and sunset
- D. Double hop propagation near the LUF

* 2015 Element 3 General Class Question Pool (good thru 2015-06-30) Answer on page 8.

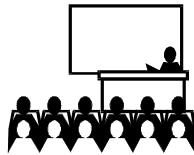
Club Notes

October is the month when things should be happening at SEMARA.

Also, look at our website for the latest postings: <http://semara.org>.



Tech Talks: This space reserved for announcements about the Tech Talk. Brad, WIBEP, is now in charge. Let him know what topics will get you out.



VE Session - October 1 attracted no examinees for the second time. To encourage more hams to upgrade and non-hams to become hams, we need to put them into licensing classes. [Tony, NN1D, is offering a Tech class this month.]



LUNCH BUNCH—SEPTEMBER 2, 2011
 RAY (KB1EVX), JOE (W1JFI), BOB (K1KVV),
 BILL (W1POW), AND ARMAND (W1BUG)



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

December 3, 2011

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM

Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS

<[exams\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:exams[at]semara[dot]org)>

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) — Massachusetts RACES Drill (Region 2, Sector A) is held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

50.200 MHz (USB) — Net is held Wednesdays at 8:30 PM. Dick, K1AHA (Dartmouth) is net control.

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

3862 kHz (LSB) — SEMARA Morning Net is held weekdays from 7:30-8 AM ET.

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>)

Sudoku

Here is an easy Sudoku puzzle to solve while waiting for the net to start. (Solution on p. 8.)

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

Official Meeting Minutes



September 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 21 members and 0 guests present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to dispense with the reading and accept the report as posted on the bulletin board and in *Zero Beat*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported that the total balance available is \$25,525.00 and expenses last month totaled \$11,076.00. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Dave (K1JGV) reported that the front door needs work and should be addressed.

Technical

Ben (N1WBV) stated that passwords have been removed from club computers and he is open to suggestions to prevent or track inappropriate use. Regarding the repeater, he mentioned that, during the recent power outage, the batteries running the repeater lasted approximately 3 hours (much less than anticipated) and suggested the possibility of a 20-30 kW propane generator as a backup power source.

Marcel (W1MLD) said that when power was lost Police and Fire systems on the tower also went down. **Tony (NN1D)** brought a generator from the Police Dept. to run Police, Fire and SEMARA 2-m systems until power was restored the next day.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Joe (N1IXC) reported that the repeater worked well during the recent Hurricane Drill. There were some small issues relaying messages (MEMA) which they were working on.

Activities

Joe (N1IXC) reminded members of the Chicken Dinner and that tickets were still available for \$8.00.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned that there were several activities available and posted in *Zero Beat*.

Repeater

Rick (W1RJC) reported that the controller and IRLP

node approved at the last meeting were in and would be installed soon. The underground cable that had been damaged was to be replaced with a wireless link, which was also in and soon to be installed. The 220 repeater soon would be on IRLP then possibly would be connected to a new 220 area network. He also brought up that the backup battery for the repeater needs to be replaced. Another option discussed was the possibility of a partnership with Police and Fire for a generator. After considerable discussion it was decided to table further discussion until the next meeting.

Website

Rick (W1RJC) stated that the website was up and running well.

COMMUNICATIONS

Bob (K1KVV) reported that he received an application from **Joseph Chretien (W1JJC)** to renew his membership to "Life" member. *It was unanimously voted to accept Joe (W1JJC) as a life member.* As he sent a \$25.00 fee, he will be contacted to be refunded the \$5.00 overpayment.

OLD BUSINESS

John (WA1LSH) reported that he had contacted **Jeff Covelli (WA8SAJ)** for a repair estimate of the Drake Radio. The radio would be sent out and service would be charged at \$40.00 per hour, with the average cost being approximately \$200.00 plus shipping. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed by a majority vote not to repair the radio. A motion was then made, seconded and passed to sell the radio at the upcoming flea market, at the discretion of the Flea Market Chair, **Eric (N1WCO)**.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe (N1IXC) requested reimbursement for the purchase of materials for the upcoming Chicken Dinner. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse Joe in the amount of \$55.00.

Armand (W1BUG) made a motion to form a *Finance Committee*, to be appointed by the President, charged with review any expense over \$100.00. After being seconded and following considerable discussion the motion was ultimately passed by a majority, with 6 opposed and 1 abstention.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned that **Tony (NN1D)** would be teaching a Technician class this October if anyone

(Continued on page 5)

SEMARA News

(Minutes continued from page 4)

knew of interested students. Perhaps Tech Talks could be used to assist / encourage members to upgrade licenses as well.

Dick (K1AHA) mentioned that there were some issues with reporting a power outage during the recent storm. Possibly a Tech Talk could cover Skywarn, RACES and ARES reporting.

Marcel (W1MLD) brought up the fact that he asked the Tech Committee to inventory current SEMARA equipment so we can look into ARRL Equipment Insurance soon.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary

The 50/50 raffle was won by Marty (KAIYFV). The split was \$13.50/\$13.50

MEMA and ARES Update

There have been a lot of developments in the past few weeks and it seemed best to hold off until a number of the items here were sorted out.

Approximately 3 weeks after Hurricane Irene, there was the Southeast Massachusetts Emergency Managers Directors Association Meeting (SEMEMDA) meeting. After the meeting, a discussion on RACES ensued including the operational changes of the region 1 and 2 offices not being opened during Hurricane Irene. The official reason given by Region Two Manager, James Mannion, was that there was not enough staffing on the MEMA side to staff the Region 1 and 2 facilities.

Following Hurricane Irene was the cancellation of the September RACES Nets. At the SEMEMDA meeting, less of an explanation could be offered for the last minute cancellation, but later on, it was determined that MEMA was reviewing the program including changes to the RACES Nets resulting in the cancellation.

Remember the motto from the 9/11 ARES/Amateur Radio deployments wish is "blessed are the flexible for they will not get bent out of shape."

73 de Robert Macedo (KD1CY)

ARES SKYWARN Coordinator

EMass ARES Section Emergency Coordinator

Joseph Hampson III W1JFI (SK)



Joseph Hampson III, age 63 years, of Fairhaven, died unexpectedly in Springfield on Wednesday, September 28, 2011.

Joe was born in New Bedford and was a graduate of Fairhaven High School, Class of 1966. He joined SEMARA as KAIJFI in 1982. He was an avid amateur radio enthusiast, and as a radio and TV technician, he was formerly employed at Richie's Radio in North Dartmouth. Joe was also active as an EMT with the Acushnet Ambulance Service.

He is buried in the family plot at St. Mary's Cemetery. Donations may be made in his name to Habitat for Cats, 1322 Ashley Blvd., NB 02745.

May he rest in peace.

All RACES, ARES, and SKYWARN Stations

Recently, Tom Kinahan resigned his post as our State RACES Communications Officer after serving in that post since the mid-90's.

While we search for an exceptionally qualified candidate for permanent appointment, MEMA has asked me to assume the role of State RACES Communications Officer on a temporary basis. I look forward to speaking with each of you, but in view of the pressing circumstances I would be very appreciative if you would contact your regional RACES Officer with your questions and comments. They will relay to me as needed.

Please continue to function as you have in your local and state government RACES appointments, including the monthly radio drills. There will, however, be some changes that will be implemented immediately in the monthly drill procedure, so please watch for a message to be released shortly.

These developments for the RACES program do not immediately affect any ARES programs, but you are encouraged to contact your ARES leadership with any questions you may have.

In the meantime, we also have some pressing challenges that need to be addressed in the coming months.

I look forward to working with you.

*73 de Michael P. Neilsen, W1MPN
State RACES Officer (Acting)*

More Chix BBQ Pix

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



Some Contests

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

Phone/CW/Digital modes

- 1.8-28 DX/NA YLRL Anniversary Party
www.ylrl.org Oct 7, 1400Z - Oct 9, 0200Z
- 3.5-28 50,144 Arizona QSO Party
www.azqsoparty.org Oct 8, 1600Z - See website
- 1.8-28 50,144 Pennsylvania QSO Party
www.nittany-arc.net Oct 8, 1600Z - See website
- 28 10-10 Sprint
www.ten-ten.org Oct 10, 0001Z - Oct 10, 2359Z
- 1.8-28 50+ Iowa QSO Party
www.wa0dx.org Oct 15, 1400Z - Oct 15, 2300Z
- 1.8-28 50+ New York QSO Party
www.nyqp.org Oct 15, 1400Z - Oct 16, 0200Z
- 1.8-28 50+ School Club Roundup
www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup-scr
Oct 17, 1300Z - Oct 21, 2359Z
- 3.5-28 Scandinavian YLRA Contest
www.sylra.is Oct 22, 1000Z - Oct 23, 1000Z
- 1.8-28 50 W/VE Islands QSO Party
www.usislands.org
Oct 22, 1600Z - Oct 23, 2359Z

VHF/UHF+ All_Modes

- 902+ Fall VHF Sprints
www.svhfs.org Oct 22, 7 AM - Oct 22, 1 PM
- 50-1296 ARRL EME Contest
www.arrl.org/contests
Oct 22, 0000Z - Oct 23, 2359Z
- 50 Fall VHF Sprints
www.svhfs.org Oct 29, 2300Z - Oct 30, 0300Z

Answer: Sudoku ¹⁰

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

VE Sessions

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

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

- SEMARA – 10:30 AM** **December 3rd**
Larry Houbre-AA1FS
<exams[at]semara[dot]org>
508-991-6055
- Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM** **October 17th**
Skip Denault-KB1CNB
<skip[at]newtestamentschool[dot]org>
774-644-3469
- Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM** **October 8th**
W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
<BenFleck[at]verizon[dot]net>
508-540-2583
- Providence, RI – 7:00 PM** **October 13th**
Louis Mester-W1CH
<W1CH[at]arrl[dot]net>
401-263-6045

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

- 2 Oct Queens NY HoSARC
Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599
- 9 Oct Wallingford CT Nutmeg Conv
John N1GNV 203 440 4468
- 16 Oct Cambridge, MA Flea @ MIT
www.swapfest.us
- 29 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC
Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

What is Near Vertical Incidence Sky-wave (NVIS) propagation using high elevation angles.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING
7 PM First THURSDAY of the month
SUNDAY RAGCHEW
7-10 AM

MOST-OF-THE-TIME (call ahead)
Meet at the clubhouse at 11:00 AM FRIDAYS
Leave for LUNCHEON at 11:30 AM