



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 48 Issue 7

SEMARA-W1AEC

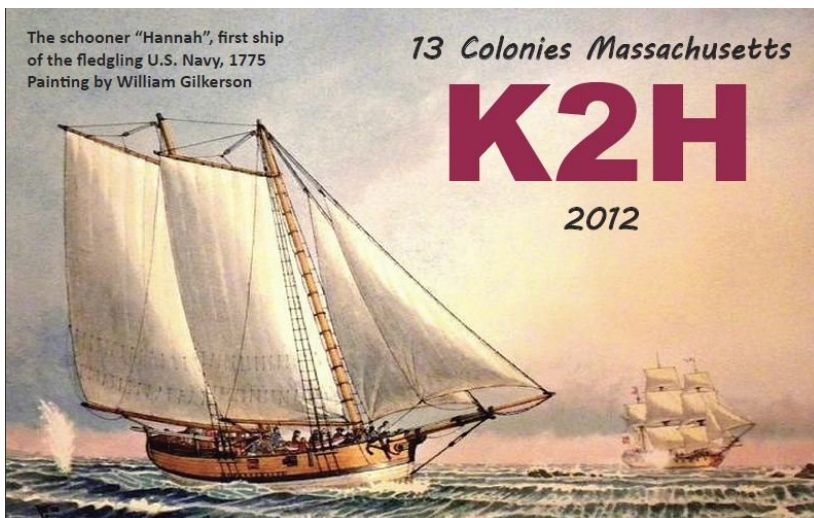
July 2012

K2H - 13 Colonies Special Event



“God Bless America” is heard at the end of almost every contact made with one of the 13 Original Colonies Special Event Stations K2A, ... K2M or the affiliated WM3PEN. This event seems to bring out a feeling of patriotism in many participants.

W1AEC is one of four Massachusetts clubs using K2H (Massachusetts) in a coordinated effort. We coordinate so there is never more than one station using K2H on a particular band and mode (phone, CW, or digital) at the same time. We operate in one hour time slots. We are self scheduling and use a *master* on-line spreadsheet. This way, we can see if another club is operating in a particular slot. If not, we can schedule ourselves to fill in. This system is new this year and should give us the ability to be *frequency agile* to accommodate the occasional sunspot activity or coronal mass ejection in addition to the familiar lightning related thunder crashes.



The event period was extended through midnight on Saturday, July 7. This permits the stations affected by the Friday, June 29, disasterous wind storm in the mid-Atlantic states to participate.

Special Event Station Check List

K2A - NY K2B - VA K2C - RI
K2D - CT K2E - DE K2F - MD
K2G - GA K2H - MA K2I - NJ
K2J - NC K2K - NH K2L - SC

WM3PEN - Phila.

(More on page 7)

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 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 54 Donald Street
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 (508) 997-7070

EDITOR: Bob Kelley—K1KVV
 E-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)

2011 SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Marcel Dumont—W1MLD
 Vice President
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC
 Secretary
 Marc Dumont—KB1ODE
 Treasurer
 Mike McDonald—KB1NB

Directors:

Andy Reuter—WA1FNM
 Brad Paiva—W1BEP
 John Walsh—WA1LSH

Trustees: (year term is up)

Henry Blanchett—W1GYL (2012) ch.
 John Walsh—WA1LSH (2013)
 Louis Mester—W1CH (2014)
 Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC (2015)
 Dick Halliwell—K1AHA (2016)

STANDING COMMITTEES**Building and Grounds**

Marty Jordan—KA1YFV
 Tony Lessa—KB1UAM

Scholarship

Sonny Eddleston—K1USW – chair
 Chuck Moszczenski—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/ACS

Rob Macedo—KD1CY

QSL Manager

John Nery—WA1ESO

Radio Events

Bob Kelley—K1KVV

Tech Talk

Brad Paiva—W1BEP

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

that we could have a pretty active club.

Since there has been so little activity as of late, this may not really be of concern to all the members. However, I personally would like to know how things are supposed to work. I hate feeling stupid when it's not my fault.

For example, someone asked me why the TS-570S, which has a built-in tuner, was connected to another tuner that was inserted between the rig and the antenna patch panel? I don't know. Perhaps someone didn't know about the built-in tuner? Or, perhaps the person who inserted the second tuner in the antenna line wasn't interested in the tuner at all? Could it be that the tuner was supposed to be in *bypass* mode and only the cross-needle SWR readings were being monitored?

Who knows? Certainly not the folks who told me about the problem, "the rig doesn't work." Of course with my extensive trouble-shooting experience, the first thing I did was to remove the redundant tuner. The rig worked just fine!

This brings me to my main point. The club rigs need to be put into a fixed, stable configuration and left that way so they are ready to go: turn the power supply on, connect a jumper to the antenna patch panel, find a clear frequency, then transmit.

By the way, does anyone know how the two 'hidden' computers in the desk are supposed to work? Are they connected to the internet? That would be nice when using the logging programs to check your QSL information. And in contests, it would be nice to verify the QTH information in these times of 'floating' call district number assignments.

Do you have other things we should be doing to make it easier to get on the air from the clubhouse? Please let me know at my email address in the sidebar.

POINT TO PONDER

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

~Thomas Edison

HAMMIN' AROUND

Question* G8A10 What is meant by flat-topping of a single-sideband phone transmission?

- Signal distortion caused by insufficient collector current
- The transmitter's automatic level control is properly adjusted
- Signal distortion caused by excessive drive
- The transmitter's carrier is properly suppressed

* 2015 Element 3 General Class Question Pool (good thru 2015-06-30)

Answer on page 8.

Club Notes

July is the month for lots of patriotic activity. That's why we take part in the 13 Colonies event with three other Massachusetts clubs to put Massachusetts on the air.

Are you ready for increased *radio activity* at **Whiskey One Atomic Energy Commission**? See the listing on page 8 for some great radio events to get involved in.

See our website for the latest postings: <http://semara.org>.



VE Results - June 2

Two applicants passed their *Extra Class* license exams:

Richard J. Metcalf, KB1TEH;

Donald D. Thompson, KB1YBG.

Congratulations and enjoy your new privileges!



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 ACS 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.

3868 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>)



2012 Field Day

There was an attempt to operate as class 1-D on Saturday. Was there any other activity at SEMARA? Inquiring hams want to know - don't you?



Sudoku

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

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

Tech Talks. Reserved for announcements about the Tech Talk. **Brad (W1BEP)** is in charge.



NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION
 August 4, 2012
 Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM
 Contact: Larry Houbre-AA1FS
[exams\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:exams[at]semara[dot]org)
 508-991-6055



Official Meeting Minutes



June 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 22 members and 0 guests present. This was followed by a moment of silence for **Carl Bredberg (K1KID, SK)**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported a total balance of \$38,206 after income and expenses. There was also some discussion regarding the NETCOM balance and payments as well as interest in the spare building in the back to be attached to the main building as a radio room.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds - Marty (KA1YFV) reported that new lawnmower was working well. **Marcel (W1MLD)** states that the new tractor is a Husqvarna 42 in deck 22 hp tractor purchased from Goldstein's in Westport. **Joe K (N1IXC)** also mentioned the need for a building "Clean up party" soon.

Technical - Marcel (W1MLD) stated that he received email from **Rick (W1RJG)** regarding prices for a rotor and mounts for the antenna.

Scholarship - Sonny (K1USW) mentioned a small change to the scholarship applications this coming year that will require submission of a digital copy in addition to a printed copy of the essay.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN - Anthony Lessa (KB1UAM) mentioned there were several check ins for the RACES net and that both simplex and repeater worked well. He also mentioned the RACES-ACS change may take place this coming July.

Activities - Eric (N1WCO) volunteered to chair the Flea Market this September. Discussion followed. There was also discussion regarding SEMARA VE's ad VEC's.

Radio Events - Bob (K1KVV) mentioned several events including *Kid's Day* (June 16), and *Field Day* (June 23). Information is in *Zero Beat*.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from the Dartmouth Police Relief Association looking for a donation. A motion was made, seconded and passed by majority vote to make a donation on \$50.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Joe K (N1IXC) asked about the status of the generator and was informed that the grant has been submitted by the Police Department and approval was pending. **Marcel (W1MLD)** stated that the plumbing issue in the bathroom was to be repaired on June 8.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned recent participation in the NE QSO Party net a total point balance of 10,164 points for SEMARA operators. In friendly competition, FARA had a total 33,174 points.

Andy (WA1FNM) spoke of the need for VE's and VEC's. It was decided to compile a list of available examiners and coordinators within SEMARA, proceeding from there.

It was also mentioned for members to only place recyclable cans in the proper receptacle and to remove pull tabs and place them in the appropriate container for donation.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary



50/50 raffle

The raffle was won by **Les Dole (KB1OPY)**.
The split was \$16.00/\$16.00.

SEMARA News

Carl E. Bredberg, K1KID, SK

Carl E. Bredberg, 67, of Wareham, died June 4, after a long illness.

Carl joined SEMARA in September 2000. He loved operating low-power (QRP) morse code (CW).

He is survived by his wife, Carol; 3 sons, Carl Bredberg of Westboro; Glen Bredberg of Middleboro, and Eric Bredberg of Attleboro; a sister and 6 grandchildren.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his family for their loss.



The Lunch Bunch



**RAY, KB1EVX AND CHUCK, KB1FRL
AFTER A FINE LUNCHEON AND LIGHT
CONVERSTION (PHOTO BY BOB, K1KVV)**



**CARL, K1KID AND ED, WA1ZCB
QRP CW DUO**



**ED, WA1ZCB AND CARL, K1KID
OPERATING QRP AT ONE OF SEMARA'S HAMFESTS**

The Friday LUNCH BUNCH has changed their gathering-leaving time from 11:30 AM to 12 noon.

The group gathers at the clubhouse prior to 12 noon to decide which fine dining establishment will be honored by their presence. Phone the club or call on the repeater to let them know you will be joining them.

A note with the destination of choice will be left on the first table at the clubhouse for latecomers. The group leaves for LUNCH at 12 noon sharp.

Emergency Communications Night

The first Monday of the month is "Emergency Communications Night." Check into the local RACES Net and then check into the ARES Net on the MMRA Repeater System.

The monthly RACES Drill meets at 7:30 PM on 147.000. All are welcome to check in after the cities and towns.

The monthly ARES Net meets at 8:30 PM. SEMARA is linked on IRLP 9123/Echolink Conference *NEW-ENG* Node: 9123.

Hope to hear you, 73, Joe K (N1IXC)

SEMARA News (cont.)

Update on RACES

Update on RACES to ACS transition.

As you know, we have been working with MEMA to affect changes to the RACES program since last fall. Their main premise is for us to reduce the local government use of AR resources providing gap communications in an emergency. They were concerned that Amateur Radio (AR) is still married to the old Civil Defense model, and that AR needed to fit better in the 21st century modern communication and response doctrine environment.

MEMA's main goal is that AR should rather focus on situational/incident reporting as part of our response activities under the ESF-2 umbrella, based on what is done in the highly successful SKYWARN model. They also liked the potential of folding AR personnel with other volunteers into an Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS). We formed a stakeholder committee that met several times with MEMA personnel we were told were authorized to negotiate with us, and we were led to believe that progress was being made.

Then, inexplicably, the rapid progress to implement the program came to abrupt halt. MEMA claimed that the AR leadership was telling its membership that "the state was terminating AR" and that "MEMA was going to close their regional offices." Both claims were manifestly untrue. The implementation date slipped from the 1 April date they requested to late April/mid-May. When it became obvious to me that even a 1 July date would not be met, I requested a meeting to clarify status. Not only was my request not honored, I received no response for nearly three weeks. Frankly, I would have been satisfied with MEMA to use 19th century protocols that encourage notes to be responded to. In my judgment, no one is too busy to show good manners.

After all this effort, I was finally told that MEMA desired to "... continue to use MRAS assets as we have in the past, until the Fall." So we will do that with some caveats I will explain in the next section.

Continuation of present RACES organization.

We will continue our organization and manner of "doing business" with the following notations:

State RACES: I will continue as the State RACES Officer until sometime into the Fall. I will need to be relieved as I have other commitments to attend to on the first of the year. I also believe that MEMA wants a very cursory presence in the SEOC. As we also desire more of a local/regional emphasis for this program, I welcome

this development. I am also eager to convert the SEOC to client status, requiring them to request specific services on an as needed basis (excepting Level 4 activations).

Regional RACES: For years, regional RACES Officers have been serving at the pleasure of the MEMA Regional Directors, coordinating AR communications from resident towns and cities. As of this writing, many communities insist that AR is the only way they can communicate with the state to receive needed services during a disaster.

Towns and Cities: Communities that cannot avail themselves (for any number of reasons) to more robust state systems, will use AR communications and RACES operators. We will continue this practice, but also encouraging the following practices:

1. Attempting to use state resources first, utilizing the plan published in the Massachusetts Interoperable Field Operating Guide (MIFOG). Please contact me if your EMD has not received this document.
2. Utilizing communications with neighboring towns and cities for informational exchange and mutual support. Please discuss this with your EMD, and set it up well before the next disaster.
3. Utilizing digital communications software for non-tactical communications supporting #2 above. Please contact any RACES Leader for information

Go ahead with your own ACS conversion.

Design and implement a program to integrate other communication volunteers such as ARES, REACT, MARS, CAP, and other skilled or retired communication professionals interested in volunteer work. Please contact any RACES Leader for information.

RACES net training schedule.

NO changes to schedule to the end of this year.

We will drill our tactical frequencies as we have since last Fall. The dates are the first Monday of each month (the next is 7/2), except in September when it is pushed to the second Monday due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Please exercise your resource frequencies at the same time and consider staying on a little longer and play with the ARES folks!

Exercise training with Operation "What do I do next?"

I would like you to participate in some specific communication exercises for the next three months to be prepared for a possible hurricane strike in September.

(Continued on page 7)

SEMARA News (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

This will be detailed in a separate memo I will issue tomorrow or Saturday.

Please have a fun July 4th holiday and safe travels!

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

Operating at SEMARA

You may know that the Extra Class Question Pool was replaced as of July 1, 2012. The new pool is good for four years until June 30, 2016. Even if you have passed the exam, you might want to see what material is being tested in the new question pool.

For another reason, I perused the Technician question pool to see what was in the pool relating to operating protocols. The only one I could find is this one.

T1F08 (A) [97.119(e)]

When may a Technician Class licensee be the control operator of a station operating in an exclusive Extra Class operator segment of the amateur bands?

- A. Never
- B. On Armed Forces Day
- C. As part of a multi-operator contest team
- D. When using a club station whose trustee is an Extra Class operator licensee

That's right, **A. Never!**

So what's the answer when a General Class operator makes a contact on 14.221 MHz, in the Advanced/Extra sub-band? It's a problem when the operator doesn't know it's a problem. Similarly, when a Technician Class operator operates on 20m - and the operator doesn't know it's a problem for the Extra Class licensed club station. Check it out - **W1AEC has an Extra Class license.**

Let's not get all bent out of shape by this. Perhaps we need to *qualify* members *before* they use SEMARA equipment?

Many of the concerns I had to worry about in the days of crystal-controlled transmitters are not even an issue today. Who has an independent calibration device/system for their modern solid-state rig? How does one know how to even estimate the actual received frequency when your dial reads down to 10 Hz?

Do you know how wide your transmitted signal is, especially when you use a broadcast quality microphone? *Just a point to ponder.*

2012 - 13 Colonies Special Event

Saturday, June 30, 09:00 AM ET (1300Z)

Saturday, June 7, 11:59 PM ET (0359Z July 8)

K2H participating clubs for 2012.

- **WB1GOF** - Westford, MA, *Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford - K2H QSL Manager*
- **K1ZZN** - Fall River, MA, *Raymond J. Levesque Memorial ARC*
- **W1AEC** - Dartmouth, MA, *Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association*
- **W1GLO** - Gloucester, MA, *Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association - Primary Digital Mode*

The 2012 theme is "Colonial Era US Navy Tall Ships." Old Ironsides adorns the 2012 certificate, printed on heavy card stock. Work one state or all 13 and be eligible for the certificate. A "Clean Sweep" indicator will be affixed for those lucky enough to "Q" all 13. Add **WM3PEN** as an affiliated "bonus" station. More info at 13colonies.info.

Want to be a K2H/W1AEC operator? Contact

Bob-K1KVV, [k1kvv\[at\]arrl\[dot\]net](mailto:k1kvv[at]arrl[dot]net)

220 Tuesdays and 900Thursdays

Jeff (N1ZZN) informs us that Tuesdays and Thursdays are "220 Day" and "900 Day" respectively. These days are intended as a way to promote activity on the repeaters on those bands in New England.

Jeff adds, "The first 900 MHz handheld targeted to the ham community was released about 6 months ago, the *Alnico DJ-G29T*, and it is a dual band radio, 220 and 900, so perfect for these activity days."

Some Radio Events

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

Phone/CW/Digital

Jul 1, 0000Z-Jul 8, 24009Z 28

Ten-Ten Spirit of 76 QSO Party ten-ten.org

Jul 7, 0000Z-Jul 8, 2400Z 1.8-28

Venezuelan Independence Day Contest
radioclubvenezuelano.org/concurso.htm

Jul 21, 0000Z-Jul 22, 22100Z 50-144

CQ WW VHF Contest cqww-vhf.com

Phone/CW

Jul 1, 0000Z-Jul 1, 2359Z 1.8-28 50-144

Canada Day Contest rac.ca/service/contesting

Jul 14, 1200Z-Jul 15, 1200Z 1.8-28

IARU HF World Championship arrl.org/contests

Jul 28, 1200Z-Jul 29, 1200Z 3.5-28

IOTA Contest rsgbcc.org

Jul 28, 1600Z-Jul 29, 1600Z 3.5-28 50-144

New Jersey QSO Party njqp.hamshack.info

Digital

Jul 14, 1200Z-Jul 15, 1200Z 3.5-28

DMC RTTY Contest digital-modes-club.org

Jul 21, 1800Z-Jul 22, 0600Z 3.5-28

North American QSO Party RTTY
ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

CW

Jul 6, 2000Z-Jul 6, 2400Z 3.5-28

FISTS Summer Sprint fists.org

Jul 15, 2000Z- Jul 15, 2159Z 14

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush cq.org/contests

Jul 22, 0900Z- see website 3.5-7

RSGB Low Power Contest rsgbcc.org

Local VE Sessions

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

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

Walk-ins permitted unless otherwise noted.

SEMARA – 10:30 AM August 4th

Larry Houbre-AA1FS

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

508-991-6055



Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM July 16th

Skip Denault-KB1CNB

[<skip\[at\]newtestamentschool\[dot\]org>](mailto:skip@newtestamentschool.dot.org)

774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM July 14th

W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE

[<BenFleck\[at\]verizon\[dot\]net>](mailto:BenFleck@verizon.dot.net)

508-540-2583

Providence, RI – 7:00 PM July 12th

Louis Mester-W1CH

[<W1CH\[at\]arrl\[dot\]net>](mailto:W1CH@arrl.dot.net)

401-263-6045

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

15 July	FLEA @ MIT	Cambridge MA
	Nick	617 253 3776
12 Aug	NoBARC	Adams MA
	Tim	413-822-7075
19 Aug	FLEA @ MIT	Cambridge MA
	Nick	617 253 3776
24-26 Aug	NE Conv	Boxboro MA
	Mike	978-250-1235

Answer: HAMMIN' AROUND

*What is meant by flat-topping of a single-sideband phone transmission?
C. Signal distortion caused by excessive drive.*

Answer: Sudoku ¹⁵

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

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING

First THURSDAY of the month @ 7 pm

Sunday RAGCHEW

7-10 am

Thursday COFFEE/WORLD PROBLEMS

Dunkin Donuts @ Bliss Corner, Dart. @ 1 pm

Friday LUNCH BUNCH - QSY to 12n

Gather @ clubhouse before 12

or phone/call ahead

Leave for LUNCH at 12 noon