



ZERO BEAT

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



Since 1932

Volume 49 Issue 6

SEMARA-W1AEC

June 2013

2013 Scholarship Award

The Scholarship Winner is Kyle Everett from Fairhaven



KYLE EVERETT



SONNY-K1USW READING THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO MARK, KYLE AND JOANNE EVERETT

Sonny-K1USW, chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced *Kyle Everett*, the recipient of the \$500 SEMARA 2013 Scholarship Award.

Kyle's credits include: winning the Abigail Adams scholarship and the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor council scholarship; having perfect attendance all 4 years of high school; ranking 6 out of 159 in his class, having a 4.66 GPA; being a 12 season varsity athlete; belonging to Fairhaven High School drama club; playing in the school band, jazz band, orchestra, and marching band; and having a letter of recommendation from the Head Track and Field Coach.

He is enrolled in the Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of Rhode Island.



PRESENTATION OF THE \$500 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CHECK.
(ON THE LEFT) SONNY-K1USW, MARCEL-W1MLD, MIKE-KB1NB
(ON THE RIGHT) KYLE, JOANNE AND MARK EVERETT

Following Sonny's opening words, Kyle read his winning essay to the assembled membership. Finally, **Mike-KB1NB** handed Kyle the \$500 check. **Marcel-W1MLD** and Kyle's parents witnessed the event,

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54 Donald Street
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2013 SEMARA OFFICERS

President

Marcel Dumont—W1MLD

Vice President

Joe Krisnowsky—N1IXC

Secretary

Marc Dumont—KB1ODE

Treasurer

Mike McDonald—KB1NB

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Directors:

Andy Reuter—WA1FNM

Dave Dean—K1JGV

Eric Pierce—N1WCO

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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)

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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

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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 we all owe **Marcel-W1MLD** a ton of thanks. He is my **hero!** It's a good thing he is so well connected and knows folks with a bucket truck.



MY HERO! MARCEL-W1MLD WORKING ON THE DAMAGED BEAM.



BUCKET TRUCK - JUST WHAT IS NEEDED TO WORK ON ANTENNAS!

POINT TO PONDER

"Well done is better than well said."

- Benjamin Franklin

Official Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2013



The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by the President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** with salute to the flag. The roll was called with 32 members and 0 guests present. A moment of silence was held for those who passed or were injured in the Boston Marathon Attack, as well as the First Responders.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, **Mike (KB1NB)** reported total monies available of \$58,936.00. Al from NETCOM also attended the meeting. After some discussion, NETCOM and SEMARA are nearing a figure on monies owed to SEMARA. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Marty (KA1YFV) reported all was in good condition, with thanks to **Ray Arruda (KB1EVX)** for help with grounds maintenance.

Scholarship

The annual SEMARA Scholarship was awarded. This year's recipient was **Kyle Everett**. Kyle read his winning essay and was presented with a check.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARES, RACES, SKYWARN

Rob (KD1CY) spoke about his recent experiences volunteering at the Boston Marathon and amateur radio operations during the event. He also spoke of upcoming SKYWARN classes, the ARES meeting being delayed by one month as a result of the Boston Marathon Bombing and updates on the hospital network changes.

Ed (KA1RSY) spoke of how local ARES was activated during the event and had 30 check ins available if needed.

Radio Events

Bob (K1KVV) mentioned several events this coming month including the NE QSO party during the weekend with a special MVY category. (See NEQP.org)

Repeater

The President, **Marcel (W1MLD)** read into the record an email from **Rick (W1RJJC)** detailing work done the past month on the repeaters and projected work to be completed in the near future. The website will also be updated to reflect current status updates.

RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Two membership applications were received this past month from **Donald Thompson (KA1KU)** and **Melville G.**

Davey (AB1JJ). A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to act on both applications at the same time and accept the applicants as life members.

OLD BUSINESS

There was some discussion with Al from NETCOM about scheduling time with the crane within the next month to install the Log Periodic antenna.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris (W1EAV) requested, for **Rick (W1RJJC)** who could not attend the meeting, equipment for repairs including Anderson Power Pole distribution equipment and a crimp tool. A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved to spend up to \$200.00 for needed equipment for the repeaters.

The topics of a *Chicken Dinner* for members, and a SKYWARN class for members were discussed. A motion was made to schedule a chicken dinner and SKYWARN class with a date to be announced. This motion was later rescinded and a motion was made to schedule a chicken dinner for members and families near the end of July. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved to schedule a SKY-WARN class (date TBA) for September, possibly involving a dinner.

Mike (KB1NB) mentioned that **Ed Duclos (WA1ZCB)** would like to donate equipment to SEMARA. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept any and all equipment offered to SEMARA and attempt to put the equipment into service.

The membership was also reminded about the upcoming tailgate/ flea market on the following Saturday.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Vice President, **Joe (N1IXC)**, thanked **Mark Mahoney** and **Paul Teixeira** for bringing the EMA EOC vehicle to SEMARA for a tour. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to send a letter of thanks to them, as well as to **Ed Duclos (WA1ZCB)** for donations.

ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc M. Dumont (KB1ODE), Secretary



Club Notes



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 RAC-ES/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.

1875 kHz (LSB) Net is held Fridays at 7PM. **Dave, K1JGV** is net control with **Dick, K1AHA** as back up.

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 ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS MEETING

First THURSDAY of the month @ 7 PM

Sunday RAGCHEW 7-10 AM

Thursday COFFEE CROWD

Dunkin Donuts @ Bliss Corner, 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

At the May business meeting, two applications for membership were received.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept both as life members.

The new members are:

Donald Thompson – KA1KU (E) and
Melville G. Davey – AB1JJ (E).

Welcome to the club!



No Tech Talk before June Meeting

Nothing scheduled at press time.

The May 50/50 raffle was won by
Fred (N1TF).

The split was **\$25.50/\$25.50.**

NEXT VE SESSION @ SEMARA

June 1, 2013

Clubhouse @ 10:30 AM
Contact: Fred Bacon-N1TF
[exams\[at\]semara\[dot\]org](mailto:exams[at]semara[dot]org)
508-748-0047



SEMARA News

13 Colonies Special Event

INDEPENDENCE WEEK: JULY 1-6, 2013

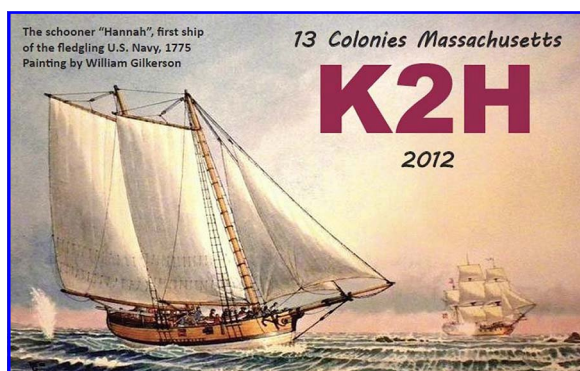


CT-DE-GA-MA-MD-NC-NH-NJ-NY-PA-RI-SC-VA

In 2013, the 13 Colonies special event stations will operate from July 1, 9:00 AM ET (July 1, 1300Z) to July 6, 12:00 PM (midnight) ET (July 7, 0400Z).

The theme for 2013 is "**Banners of the Revolution.**" The certificate (above) is printed on heavy card stock. Stations working one state or, as many as all 13, will be eligible for the certificate. A "Clean Sweep" indicator will be affixed, for those lucky enough to "Q" all 13.

A special endorsement will be attached for stations contacting our sister operation, **WM3PEN**, in Philadelphia, PA.



Special Event Call: K2H

WESTFORD, MA – CLUB CALL: WB1GOF

Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford handles QSLs for Massachusetts

GLOUCESTER, MA – CLUB CALL: W1GLO

Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association

Want to be a **K2H** operator? More details at 13colo-

ARRL Field Day

www.arrl.org/contests

Jun 22, 1800Z - Jun 23, 2100Z
1.8-28 50+



Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air?

Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations for 24 hours in June.

So, what will happen at SEMARA? I suggest that we operate as Class E: at our clubhouse, using emergency power. I also suggest that we don't START to set-up before 1800Z. If we know what we're doing, that should no present a problem. (The rules say we can start setting up earlier, but where's the challenge in that?)

How many *simultaneous* transmitters can we run at a time? Let's aim for *TWO*. Then our exchange would be 2E MA - simple, huh?

Read over the rules to see what you can come up with to score lots of points. Contact me at [editor \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:editor@semara.org).

In short, it's up to us. What do we want to do this time around? At the very least, let's have a picnic and cook on a grill. Who will step up to be top chef?

Volunteers will be rewarded with toasted buns.



Some Operating Aids

For the special event station, since there are multiple operators in different locations, an interactive Gogle spreadsheet is used to coordination the times/bands/ modes of operation among the participants.

"Don't hide your light under a bushel (basket)."

Self-spot yourself on www.dxsummitt.fi

This works well if you want people to find you in all the QRM, especially when you are trading off operating periods.

SEMARA News (cont.)

Review of dB and Power Levels

From the Technician Question Pool.

T5B09 What is the approximate amount of change, measured in decibels (dB), of a power increase from 5 watts to 10 watts?

- A. 2 dB C. 5 dB
B. 3 dB D. 10 dB

Going from 5 W to 10 W is a **doubling** of power - a factor of 2. Do you need to use complicated formulas and logarithms to figure out the answer? No!

Just remember that a factor of 2, a **doubling of power**, is equivalent to **3 dB**. Therefore, the change in dB is **answer B: 3 dB**. Absolutely no math required! .

T5B10 What is the approximate amount of change, measured in decibels (dB), of a power **decrease** from 12 watts to 3 watts?

- A. 1 dB C. 6 dB
B. 3 dB D. 9 dB

Work the problem backwards. We know that each doubling of power is equivalent to a 3 dB change. Cutting the power in half works the same way. If we begin with 12 W, halving it to 6 W. That is (-) 3 dB . Then we halve that again, making it 3 W. That is another (-) 3 dB, right? So 3 dB + 3 dB = 6 dB, which is **answer C**.

T5B11 What is the approximate amount of change, measured in decibels (dB), of a power increase from 20 watts to 200 watts?

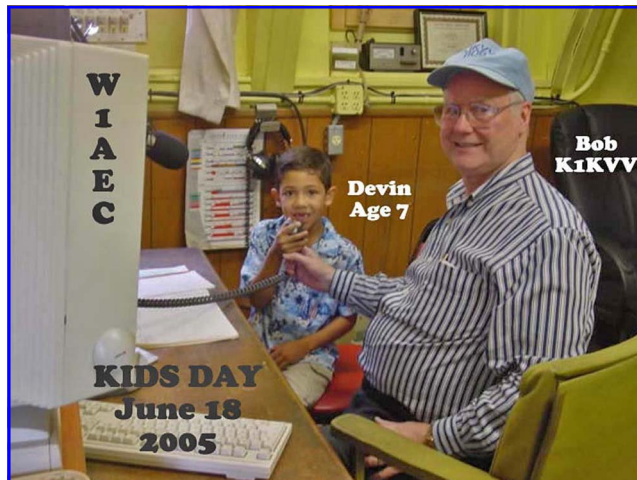
- A. 10 dB C. 18 dB
B. 12 dB D. 28 dB

This question is easy if you remember that a change in power by **a factor of 10** is **10 dB**. Going from 20 W to 200 W is a factor of 10 power increase, or **answer A. 10 dB**.

We can also **guesstimate** a likely close answer. Begin by doubling the 20 W to get 40, double the 40 to get 80, and do it again to get 160 W. Doubling the power 3 times, is $3 + 3 + 3 = 9$ dB. Since we want 200 W, not 180 W, look for an answer that's a little larger than 9 dB. Here is where taking a smart guess comes in handy. If we double the 180 to 360, that gives 12 dB, much too big. So, we look for an answer that is between 9 dB and 12 dB. The only answer available in the answer list is 10dB, **answer A: 10 dB**. We have just gotten another question correct using no complicated formulas - only simple mental math!

Kids Day 2013

Saturday, June 15



Kids Day always runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like.

Initial exchange: *Name, age, location and favorite color*. Be sure to work the same station again if an operator has changed.

To draw attention, call "**CQ Kids Day**."

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can download this certificate for free, customized with the youngster's name, after filling out the Kids Day

The survey is found on the same page as the certificate generator.

<http://www.arrl.org/kids-day-survey-certificate>

CUT Numbers

This is **G0UKB's** succinct explanation about "**cut numbers**."

It is becoming more common for operators, in an effort to minimize ANY unnecessary effort, to use "cut numbers." Cut numbers are abbreviated forms of numbers, expressed as LETTERS:

0 = T, 1 = A, ... 9 = N

Generally all the other numbers are send as numbers, but "5NN TT4" means "599 004." *The cut numbers for zero and 9 are the most frequently used.*

However, in contests where the exchange is RST and POWER, you will often hear a station send "5NN ATT" for "599 100," or even "5NN TTT" or "5NN K" for "599 1000."

SEMARA News (cont.)

Ed Duclos WA1ZCB (SK)

Edmond (Butch) F. Duclos Jr. - **WA1ZCB** (SK), 70, passed away on May 4th, 2013. Ed fought his diagnosis of cancer with the same strength, determination, stubbornness and optimism that he faced all aspects of his life.



He was born in Fall River, MA. Ed served in the Air Force prior to working for General Motors in Framingham MA, where he was a member of the UAW for thirty years.

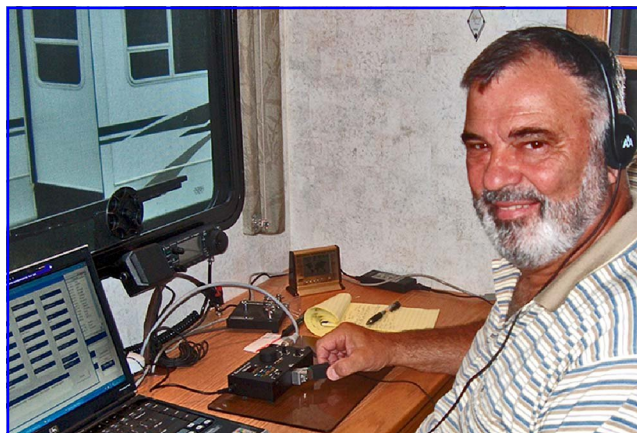
Ed was a licensed Captain and he owned and operated a successful fishing and SCUBA diving business during the 1980's and 1990's. He was avid angler who enjoyed fishing off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

A self-taught expert of all things electrical and mechanical, he loved building things, especially for ham radio. Ed was an active member of the SEMARA for about a decade, whilst he earned several CW awards..

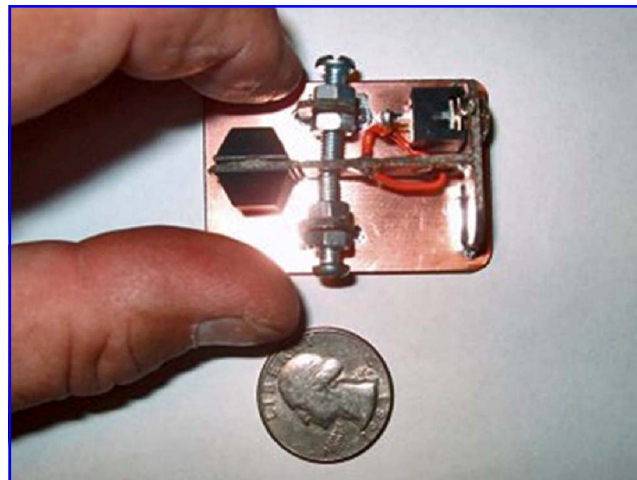
Condolences can be sent to Margo Bernard, 4 Judge St., Fall River, MA 02721-5406 and his son Keith Duclos at 18 Vernon St., Brookline, MA.

In Ed's memory, donations can be made to the *Buzzards Bay Coalition* at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/support.

May he rest in peace.



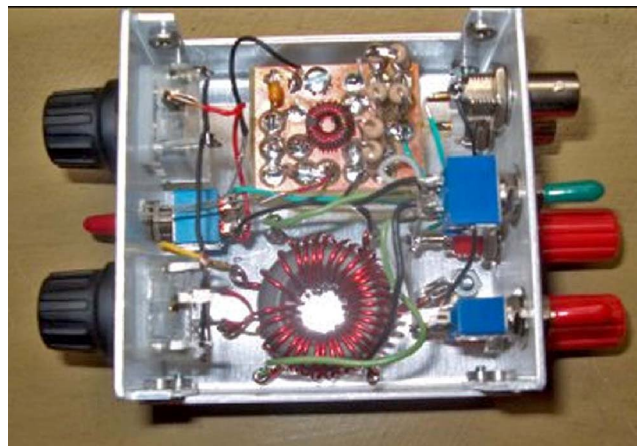
ED-WA1ZCB AT HIS RV OPERATING POSITION



ED'S HOMEMADE MINIATURE CW PADDLE



ED OPERATING AT ONE OF OUR TAILGATE PARTIES



ED'S MINI-TUNER FOR HIS QRP RIGS.

Some Radio Events

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

Ten-Ten Open Season Digital
June 1, 0000Z-June 2, 2400Z 28
www.ten-ten.org

Six Meters World Wide Club Contest All modes
June 1, 1500Z-June 2, 2359Z 50
www.6mt.com

ARS Spartan Sprint CW
June 4, 0200Z-June 4, 0400Z 3.5-28
www.arsgrp.blogspot.com

NS Weekly Sprint CW
June 7, 0230Z-June 7, 0300Z 1.8-14
www.nccsprint.com

Australian Shires Contest Phone-CW
June 8, 0600Z-June 9, 0600Z 3.5-28
groups.yahoo.com/group/vkshires

ARRL June VHF Contest All modes
June 8, 1800Z-June 10, 0300Z 50+
www.arrl.org/contests

CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test CW
June 12, 1300Z-see website 1,8-28
www.cwops.org/onair.html

Worldwide EME Contest Phone-CW
June 15, 0000Z-June 16, 2400Z 2.3G
www.dubus.org

SMIRK QSO Party Phone-CW
June 15, 0000Z-June 16, 2359Z 50
www.smirk.org

Kids Day Phone
June 15, 1800Z-June 15, 2200Z 3.5-28
www.arrl.org/kids-day

Run For the Bacon CW
June 17, 0100Z-June 17, 0300Z 1.8-28
www.fpqrp.org

Marconi Memorial HF Contest CW
June 22, 1400Z-June 23, 1400Z 1.8-28
www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.htm

ARRL Field Day All modes
June 22, 1800Z-June 23, 2100Z 1.8-28, 50+
www.arrl.org/contests

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 June 1st

Fred Bacon-N1TF
[exams \[at\] semara \[dot\] org](mailto:exams@semara.org)
508-748-0047



Fall River, MA – 7:00 PM June 17th

Skip Denault-KB1CNB
[skip \[at\] newtestamentschool \[dot\] org](mailto:skip@newtestamentschool.org)
774-644-3469

Falmouth, MA – 9:00 AM June 8th

W. Ben Fleck-K2LYE
[BenFleck \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:BenFleck@verizon.net)
508-540-2583

Providence, RI – 7:00 PM contact

Robert E Jones-WB1P
[bgjones49 \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:bgjones49@verizon.net)
401-333-4787

Coming FLEAS & FESTS

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search

1 June	Hermon ME	PSARA Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
1 June	Goshen CT	So.BARC Doc K1CTT 860 672 2659
15 June	Newington CT	NARL Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108
16 June	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Nick 617 253 3776
21 July	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Nick 617 253 3776
10 Aug	Milo ME	PARC George WA1JMM 207 441 6112
18 Aug	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Nick 617 253 3776
25 Aug	N Adams MA	NoBARC Tim KE3HT 413 822 7075
8 Sept	Newtown CT	CARA Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880
15 Sept	Cambridge MA	FLEA @ MIT Nick 617 253 3776