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**SEMARC**  
**WØCGM**

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## THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH January 2023

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### FIRESIDE CHAT

The Fireside Chat is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. This month it is on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Webex virtual meeting at:

<https://richardroberts.my.webex.com/meet/rlobert>

The format is open and will be without an agenda or focus. It will be a great opportunity for both new and experienced hams to ask questions and share experiences. Please join us!

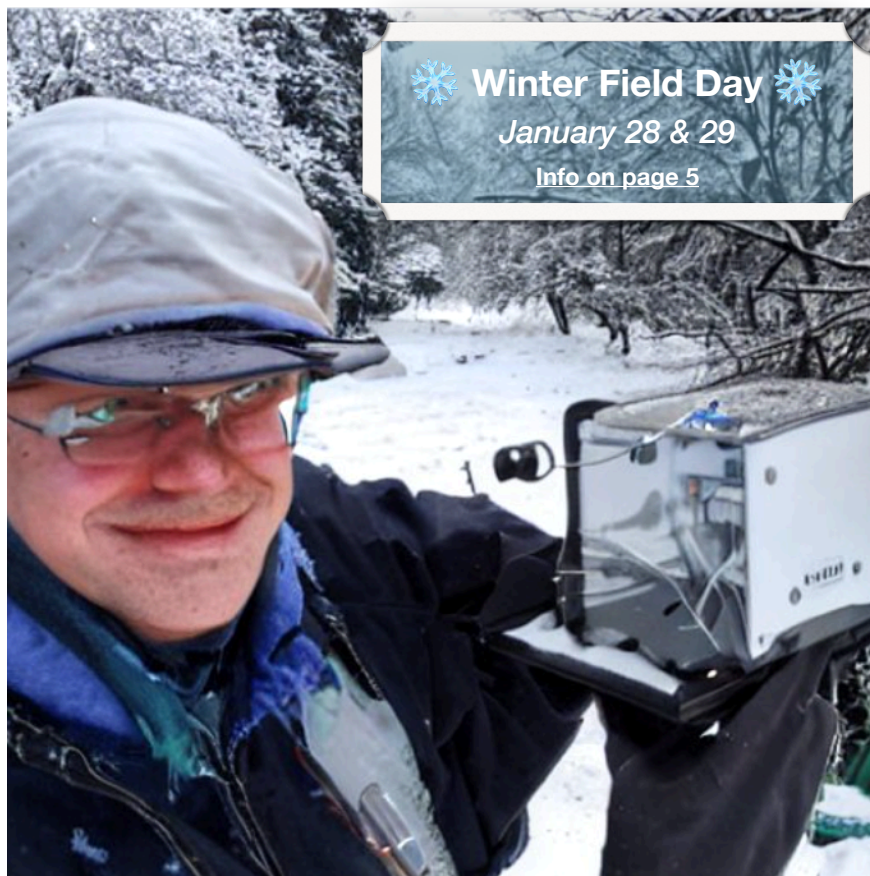
### SEMARC BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting for the board is January 10<sup>th</sup>. We plan to have a virtual meeting. Joe Hibberd will send out an email to all members the day before with instructions on how to join in on the meeting.

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Our next Annual Business meeting is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

[Cont. on page 3](#)



[Cont. on page 5](#)

### NOTICE:

146.985 Repeater is out of service for repair and users should switch to the 147.18 South with 74.4 tone or 147.18 north with 100 tone till further notice. Our Wednesday will be held there.

Dick, NØUC

South East Metro Amateur Radio Club

Dick Roberts, NØUC

1655 - 68th Street West

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077-2222

651-208-0889 [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

### MEMBER MEETING PROGRAM SURVEY

The Board is always looking for program ideas for the member meetings. What would you like to see for programs this year? Please send your ideas to Dick Roberts [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net) and he will bring your ideas to the Board meeting.

### ARES REPORT

Just a reminder that our ARES repeater frequencies are 147.180, PL 74.4 in Newport, or PL 100 in Forest Lake.

### INFORMAL CW ROUND-TABLE NET

Every Wednesday evening at 1900 hours on 28.110 MHz

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT 2M NET

Our club holds a 2-meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. It is an informal, but controlled, net on the 146.985 repeater. We are in the need for several alternate Net Control Stations who can fill in when one of the scheduled NCS is not available.

If you are interested, please contact:

Dick Roberts at  
[n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

### THE DIGITAL CORNER

Digital Net follows SEMARC net on Wed pm.

Go to [www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com) for software & help.

Fldigi v. 3.23.09 Flmsg v. 2.0.17  
Flamp v. 2.1.03 Flwrap v. 1.3.4

Meet on 146.985 and QSY to 144.950.

Mode is BPSK125. Other modes possible.

Sign up with N0UC  
[n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net) for net bulletins & help.

## Stillwater Amateur Radio Association

SARA has graciously welcomed SEMARC members to attend their events, and more...

[Round Robin Ragchew on the SARA repeater](#)

147.060 - info to access the repeater is here [W0JH Repeater](#)

Tuesday's - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm      Wednesdays - 9:00 pm - 9:30 pm

[Social/Special Meetings](#)

Thursday Evenings: Social and informal "Eyeball QSO"  
sessions from 6PM to 8PM

## December VE Session Report

### No test in December

Any questions call the club hot line at 651-769-0358 or email [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com).

VE News, we will be normalizing VE operations as it relates to COVID. For the time being I will still preregister candidates and VE's. That means no walk-ins but we also will not have head count restrictions. I also have incorporated a self-survey and ask anyone that answers yes to any of the questions to call me.

Thanks to all VE's that helped us get through this tough COVID time.

Dan Franz, WD0GUP

## Planning Calendar

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	(T) Fireside Chat	February 7 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Fireside Chat
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Board Meeting	February 14 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Board Meeting
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Fireside Chat	February 18 <sup>th</sup>	(S) VE Session & B'fast
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	(S) VE Session & B'fast	February 21 <sup>st</sup>	(T) Fireside Chat
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	(T) Annual Business Meeting	February 28 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Club Meeting

### SEMARC VE Sessions

VE exam sessions are held every 3rd Saturday (except December). The next VE session is on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Exams are held at 9:00 am at Zion Lutheran Church. Call 651-769-0358 for information, to register or to arrange for special needs. Information is posted on the webpages also.

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## 2023 SEMARC Annual Business Meeting

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The Annual Business Meeting is held every January. This year it will be held on **Tuesday, January 31** at Zion Lutheran Church, our regular meeting location. In response to member concerns about the cost, the Board of Directors decided to hold the meeting at the church and to have the meal catered by Lunds & Byerlys. An email will be sent in mid-January to determine the number of people expected to attend. We are planning on having a guest speaker at the meeting. Please put January 31 on your calendar.

Joe Hibberd W3QLC - SEMARC Secretary

### Annual Meeting

As you have noted...and will be reminded, the Club's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Zion Lutheran Church. The annual meeting is a chance to bring in the New Year with fellow members and their guests; reflect on our accomplishments in 2022; thank all who have helped make the club successful; consider leading/assisting or designing/developing and implementing a new activity to be shared in 2023.

We will gather at 6:30, beginning with a small meal and the chance to visit with each other, followed by a short business meeting and a guest presentation, which you can read about later in this issue. Our Secretary, W3QLS has sent everyone a link to a short survey monkey site so we can plan accordingly. Please help us by responding to the survey.

Hope to see many of you there. Happy New Year!

### Presentation

Bob Gagne, N0GRK, will give the presentation at the annual meeting. His topic will include slides of the operation at KSTP, where Bob served as Director of Engineering from 1996 to 2006. Of course, he's still on call to consult and troubleshoot at the station.

He has a full professional radio history, including, engineering, announcing, ownership and management of a number of stations across the mid-east and Midwest. Like a number of us, his first brush in the business came on a campus radio station. Who can't like that? In my brief discussions with Bob, it is clear that, in addition to his engineering skills, he has some great stories about his professional life. Let's all make sure to try and tease some of those out of him at the meeting.

Bob holds an extra class license and has been a ham for 40 years.

He and his spouse Debbie have lived in Maplewood for the last 23 years. Prior to that, they lived in White Bear Lake. Bob and Debbie have three boys and daughter; one of the boys is also a ham. They also enjoy a family cabin in Finlayson, where Bob assures me, it is radio quiet for operating. Let's welcome him back to the club!

Thank you, Bob!



## ❄️ Winter Field Day ❄️

WFD Info - <https://winterfieldday.com/>

WFD Rules - <https://winterfieldday.com/rules.php>

### Where:

To be held at Fire Station #3 in Cottage Grove  
7500 Langley Avenue South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

### When:

01/29/2023 - 01/30/2023

Setup begins around 10:00 am on Saturday - Concludes after 1:00 pm on Sunday

Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours during the last full weekend in January each year from 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Saturday to 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Sunday. For 2023 the dates are January 29th and 30th. Station set-up may commence no earlier than 1900 UTC (2pm EST) on the Friday before. Station setup may consume no more than 12 hours total. How & when you schedule/spend those 12 hours is up to you.

**Bands:** All Amateur bands, HF, VHF, & UHF except 12, 17, 30 and 60 meters.

**Modes:** Any mode that can faithfully transmit the exchange intact without a conversion table...

CW, SSB, AM, FM, DStar

Suggested Frequencies: (to make it easier to find each other)

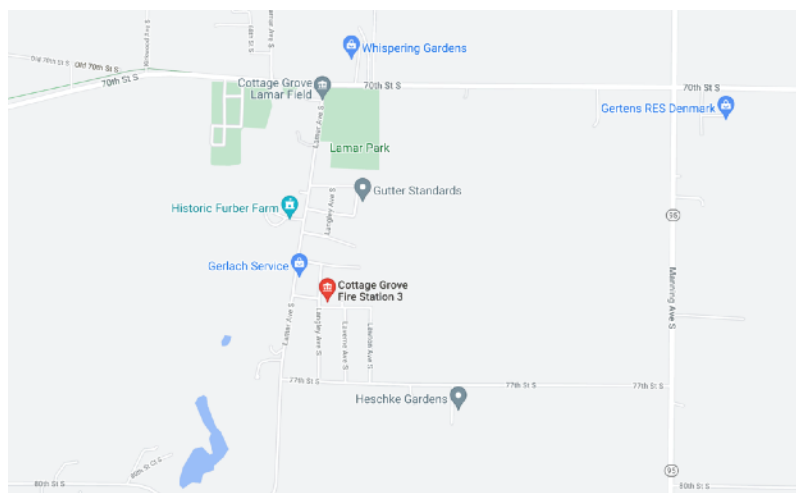
HF CW – 1.810 - 1.820, 3.530 - 3.550, 7.030 - 7.050, 14.035 - 14.055, 21.030 - 21.050, 28.030 - 28.040

HF SSB – lowest 30 kHz of the US General Class Phone bands (160m-15m), 28.400-28.425MHz (10m)

6m/VHF/UHF – adjacent to, but not on, nationally recognized simplex calling channels

**Category:** Most likely as in the past, 2I (Indoors) Minnesota

David S Blume, KDØIRF



(Click map for a larger interactive map)

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## Hamfests 2023

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### Hamfests 2023

Updated: 12/24/2022.

From The ARRL Website: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

#### 02/18/2023

St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club's "Cabin Fever Reliever"

Location: St. Cloud, MN.

Sponsor: St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club.

Website: <http://w0sv.club>

#### 03/18/2023

Midwinter Madness.

Location: Buffalo, MN.

Sponsor: Maple Grove Radio Club.

Website: <http://k0ltc.org>

#### 03/25/2023

11th Annual Milwaukee Area Swapfest.

Location: Milwaukee, WI.

Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

Website: <https://www.w9rh.org/club-events/swapfest-2>

#### 05/06/2023

ORC 43rd Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest.

Location: Cedarburg, WI.

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

#### 06/03/2023

Aurora '23..

Location: Plymouth, MN.

Type: ARRL Convention.

Sponsor: Northern Lights Radio Society.

Website: <http://www.NLRS.club>

#### 06/17/2023

Spring Tailgate Ham Fest.

Location: Plymouth, MN.

Sponsor: Twin City FM Club.

Website: <https://TCFMC.org>

#### 08/26/2023

Northern Plains Regional Radio Council Hamfest.

Location: Brewster, MN.

Sponsor: Northern Plains Regional Radio Council.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPRRC>



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## AERO Training

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AERO will have the courses on the following dates.

**AERO 201:** Introduction to Net Control for EmComm – Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

**AERO 202:** Advanced Net Control for EmComm – Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Location to be determined. Likely at Bloomington Plaza.

Questions please contact:

**Ryc Lyden, KD0ZWM, AuxComm, AHIMT**

MNARES ASEC-Liaison

Bloomington AuxComm Director

AERO Lead Instructor

Mobile: 651-434-4399

Email: [ryclyden@google.com](mailto:ryclyden@google.com)

<http://www.minnesotaares.org/ares/index.php>

[MNARES Facebook](#)

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## Membership meetings are held in Cottage Grove at the

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**Zion Lutheran Church 8500 Hillside Trail South**

We meet on the LAST Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **Except December**

Watch for updates and more information in the Sunday Bulletin email message.

New members, especially those who passed one of our VE exam sessions, are encouraged to attend so that we can meet you in person.

We hope to see you there.

(As is our tradition anyone with a birthday in the meeting month is asked to bring cookies or other snack to share.)

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## New Club Members

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### New Club members can:

Keep in touch, post amateur related articles, sell amateur related items or asked for help and/or questions of other members.

This is a private network for our member's only and does not allow incoming or outgoing traffic to other networks.

Members will be getting an email requesting them to join and they can opt in or out. This will occur in the first week of November

Dick NØUC

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## SEMARC Operating Events – 2023

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The new year fast approaches and we are soliciting suggestions for operating events in 2023. Presently, we are committed to: Winter Field Day (January); Field Day (June).

One other suggestion has been made that we celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club during the month of May. Presently that event is suggested to be a distributed event, with members of the club operating their home stations using the call WOCGM/35. It also could be a club event at Fire Station #3.

We propose that members operate the Minnesota QSO Party from their home stations in February. Although there is no club category, as in Field Day, there is no reason why we can't have a group effort, perhaps with club bragging rights for the members with the best total scores for the Party. There are many stations who participate in the QSO Parties across the U.S.

With minimal antennas and a 100-watt transceiver, it's possible to work WAS in an eight-hour period.

It seems to me that there is an opportunity for one or more other operating events for the club members to enjoy; maybe one in July and another in August...or one in August and one in September. Maybe POTA, maybe not. Maybe one like we have operated in the past- from the State Capitol, Fleming Field or Mounds Park, maybe not.

Consider what club events you'd like to see and speak with any member of the Board about your recommendations. As always, the monthly member meetings are a great place to discuss operating events, too. Let's generate as much interest and participation as we possibly can and make it EASY for newer hams to gain experience and have some fun. (maybe even at the experience of some of us old-timers!)

Speak up and make the club radio-active!

Brian N0BM

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## Did you know ...

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The SEMARC webpage contains links to many websites that are helpful to new hams and experienced ones.

Visit [www.semarc.org/P10\\_UL.htm](http://www.semarc.org/P10_UL.htm).

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## METRO SKYWARN

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### Metro Skywarn Weekly Radio Check-In

**Wednesdays 8:30pm – 8:45pm**

Join Metro Skywarn for our weekly amateur radio check-in at **8:30 p.m. every Wednesday** during our active Net Control Station rotation schedule (thru October 16th).

These check-ins will be done on the **146.700- PL 127.3** WCOHC Downtown Minneapolis repeater.

This is your opportunity to **test your equipment** out outside of an active severe weather net. You can also ask the net control operators questions and just say hello!



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## N3FJP Software - Study Buddy & Winter Field Day Upgrade!

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Hi All,

Kimberly, Chris and I hope that you are having a very Merry Christmas and wonderful Holiday season!

### Amateur Exam Study Buddy is Now Available!

When our sons Chris and Brad were young and started showing interest in Amateur Radio, to help them along with their studies, I wrote a simple program to cycle through all the questions in the Technician question pool. While I was at it, I realized the program might be useful to others as well, so I provided it freely and also included the General and Extra question pools, too. Roughly two decades later, we are still receiving e-mail from folks using the software, reporting our study program has been an integral part of their success in obtaining their Amateur Radio license, as well as upgrading to General and Extra!

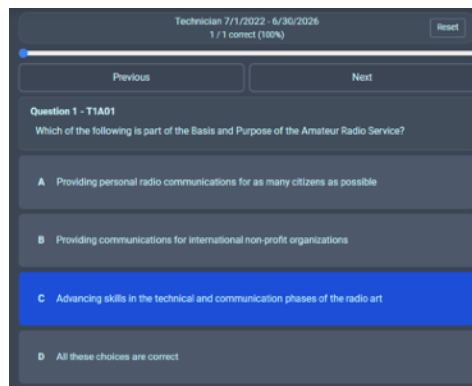
Since the original program was written in VB6, which is no longer supported, Chris and I have completely rewritten Amateur Exam Study Buddy! It is incredibly cool to have Chris, who originally used this software to help obtain his license, now take the lead in rewriting it! This new version functions much like the original, but is now a web based tool with a fresh new look, that will run on any browser and even your phone!

We like to think that Amateur Radio is the gift that keeps on giving! This Christmas and Holiday season, we would like to give the gift of Amateur Exam Study Buddy! This free site will help newcomers to the hobby obtain their very first license, or help existing hams upgrade to a new one! And more hams on the air gifts us all more potential QSO's and QSL cards on the wall!

Even if you already hold your Extra, please give Amateur Exam Study Buddy a good look and be sure to tell your friends about it! There isn't a manual, but the functions are basic enough that you should find it very intuitive. You can click Feedback on the home page to report a successful experience, any problems or suggestions.

You will find **Amateur Exam Study Buddy** here:

<https://study.affirmatech.com/>



### Winter Field Day Upgrade Required!

Winter Field Day is only 33 days out! Please be sure to upgrade to version 2.8.5 of our Winter Field Day software in advance, which we've modified for the new Canadian section abbreviations and latest rule changes. In case you missed it in our last announcement, there are several Canadian section abbreviation changes effective January 1, 2023. You won't be able to log these abbreviations or all the categories unless you upgrade.

As always, upgrades are free to registered users. If you are currently running a version of our software released after January 2021 and are Internet connected, it should detect the new upgrade and offer to retrieve it for you on start. If you have any problem with the automatic upgrade, or you are running an older version, you can install the latest version directly from the web site.

<https://www.n3fjp.com/winterfieldday.html>

And in response to the questions we always receive when we neglect to include the following in our e-mail announcements...

Cont. on page 8

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## N3FJP Software

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[Cont. from page 7](#)

### Package Upgrade Information...

If you have registered one or more individual programs and would like to upgrade to N3FJP's Software Package for full use of all our Amateur Radio software, we would be glad to apply the amount that you have registered so far as a credit towards that purchase. Please send us an e-mail directly and we'll let you know your balance.

N3FJP's Software Package includes more than one hundred programs for contesting, net management and general logging Amateur Radio applications, as well as our WX Warn weather software and Amateur Exam Study Buddy! In addition to full use of all these programs, registered package customers are also entitled to receive free passwords for any new software that we add to the package and free upgrades to existing programs. There are no annual / maintenance costs of any kind. Simply register once and you are set with N3FJP Software for life! You'll find all the details on the Register Now page here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/purchasepackage.html>

Donations are Gratefully Accepted!

And in response to the often asked question, for which Kimberly, Chris and I are very grateful...

"I know your upgrades are free, but I also realize how much time and effort coding these enhancements and new programs take and that your pricing policy doesn't fully reflect that. Can I send you something to show my appreciation for your continued efforts?"

Yes, thanks so much, your continued support in any amount is very welcome and deeply appreciated! You can use this page:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/donations.html>

Or send your contribution by mail, payable to Affimatech Inc., to:

G. Scott Davis  
118 Glenwood Road  
Bel Air, MD 21014-5533

Thank you so much for your continued support!

As always, thanks for your kind words, support, linking to our web site and spreading the word about our software. Kimberly, Chris and I really appreciate it! We hope that you continue to have a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and wonderful holiday season!!!

73, Scott, Kimberly and Chris  
N3FJP, KA3SEQ and KB3KCN

<http://www.n3fjp.com>

Serving the Amateur Radio community with contesting and general logging software since 1997.

1 Peter 3 vs 15: Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give [the reason for the hope that you have](#). But do this with gentleness and respect...

p.s. If you want to unsubscribe or need to change your e-mail address for future announcements....

If you wish to be removed from this e-mail list, or you would like to change your e-mail, please see this FAQ here for all the steps:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/faq.html#q61>

**Enjoy!**





That's really roughing it!

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## SEMARC at Groups.io

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### SEMARC at Groups.io

This is an email groups service that enables users to post and share messages to all who have signed in to the group. Sign up information is listed below under "Contacts".

### SEMARC Contacts

- Groups.io. Post your messages at <https://groups.io/g/SEMARC> If you're not a member of the message group yet, contact [SEMARC+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:SEMARC+subscribe@groups.io)
- Facebook. Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1525920597716897>
- Twitter. Follow us at @w0cgm

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## Club Apparel

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You have seen some members wearing SEMARC caps, shirts and jackets. If you would like to order one for yourself, visit our website at [ApparelOrderForm.pdf \(semarc.org\)](#), then contact our order coordinator Dan Franz at [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com). Dan will accept your order and payment, then order the item(s) from our vendor Advanced Sportswear in Newport.

If you have questions, contact Joe Hibberd at [joehibberd11@gmail.com](mailto:joehibberd11@gmail.com).

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## Winlink Training Net

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Starting on April 6, 2022 we will be holding a Winlink training net after our regular Wednesday two meter activity net for persons interested in using the Winlink programs and for ARES members to improve their proficiency in using the tool during emergency communication events. This net will start after completion of the activity and last about an hour.

The net will start on the 147.18 repeater to collect a roster and setup the instructions for the training and practice. We will then move to the MN ARES digital frequency to do the hands on portion of the net. We will be concentrating on point to point communication. Since during most communication emergencies the loss of the internet is very likely the need for P2P is high. During a communications emergency it is all hands on deck so you don't need to be an ARES member to help out. It is easier to learn now than during the emergency. We will be learning how to move traffic via P2P to a local destination or to a gateway station that has internet connectivity. The use of forms and message content is for a different training segment for another time not this net.

Before net time make yourself acquainted with winlink and winlink express. Take time to view the youtube links and install the needed software. We will be using VARA FM during the hands on portion of the nets. The links are provided below. There will be a number of questions that will pop up and we will work through those as the nets go along. As these are training nets hopefully your questions will get answers. As you have heard many times practice make perfection or as us older fellows say "practice helps us remember". If you have questions on ARES send to John Regan [jeregan3@gmail.com](mailto:jeregan3@gmail.com) about the net [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

CU on the nets, 73

Dick N0UC

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## Washington County ARES

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Welcome to the Washington County ARES website (ARES Unit 163MN01).... Face-to-face ARES activities are in suspension until further notice due to Covid-19.... Check the two ARES Digital Nets in Minnesota and participate; Info under the [Events tab](#) gives details... 60 Meter Interoperability exercises scheduled = see events tab and participate with us!!....The 147.180 Repeater is running at the Newport site (PL 74.4) and Forest Lake site(PL 100); we use this repeater for drills and activations. This covers the entire county and is in our WashCoARES Emergency Communications Plan... Support our Amateur Radio Clubs through your participation.

The ARRL, upon the recommendations of Minnesota Section Manager Bill Mitchell AE0EE and Minnesota Section Emergency Coordinator Benton Jackson K0BHJ, has appointed Joe Hibberd W3QLC as the new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Washington County. Joe will be working with former Washington County EC John Regan KA0HYR for the transition. A meeting of Washington County ARES will be scheduled for the Spring.

Anyone interested in joining Washington County ARES should contact joe at [joehibberd11@gmail.com](mailto:joehibberd11@gmail.com).

John Regan, KA0YHR



## WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

Thank you to [Bruce Horn WA7BNM](#) for the sharing of his calendar  
Main website <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>



### January Worldwide Contests

