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THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH April 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, April 4th and Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Webex virtual meeting at:

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

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 April 11th. 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.

REGULAR MEMBER MEETING

Our next regular member meeting is April 25th. No program has been planned at this time.

ChatGPT

With all the talk, and controversy, today about AI and ChatGPT I thought I would give an example of ChatGPT text generator and Dalle2 image creator. Nothing earth shattering here but it is surprising how complete and comprehensive ChatGPT is.

You can see the results of ChatGPT on Page 9 [Experimenting With ChatGPT](#).

A couple musician friends of mine have said there are musicians that have already used ChatGPT to write songs that have been recorded and sold.

The image on the front page is not real. It was generated using the term 'Ham Radio Operator' by Dalle2 graphic generator from OpenAI <https://stablediffusionweb.com/> click on **Playground** to try.

NOTICE: 146.985 Repeater

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

~ 146.985 Update ~

The repeater has been relocated to FS3 (Cottage Grove Fire Station #3) but not installed waiting for paperwork from the city. When spring arrives, snow melts and paperwork catches up with verbal permission, we will install the new repeater antenna.

This will allow us to turn the 146.985 back on for use.

Once on we will plot the new coverage area hopefully returning handheld usability to our group.

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

Cont. on page 3

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 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

THE DIGITAL CORNER

Digital Net follows SEMARC net on Wed pm.

Go to 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 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 Wednesday's - 9:00 pm - 9:30 pm

[Social/Special Meetings](#)

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

February VE Session Report

2 candidates upgraded to General and 1 upgraded to Extra.

I am looking for Extra's or soon to be extra for VE's.

I am not in trouble, but am short of VE's for testing session. We provide all the training. There is an open book test from the ARRL that needs to be taken.

Contact me @ 651-247-2164 or wd0gup@hotmail.com with any questions.

Dan Franz, WD0GUP

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

Any questions call the club hot line at 651-769-0358 or email wd0gup@hotmail.com.

Planning Calendar

April 4 th (T) Fireside Chat	May 2 nd (T) Fireside Chat
April 11 th (T) Board Meeting	May 9 th (T) Board Meeting
April 15 th (S) VE Session & B'fast	May 20 th (S) VE Session & B'fast
April 18 th (T) Fireside Chat	May 16 th (T) Fireside Chat
April 25 th (T) Club Meeting	May 30 th (T) Club Meeting

SEMARC VE Sessions

VE exam sessions are held every 3rd Saturday (except December). The next VE session is on April 15th. 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.

Minnesota Section Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE Visits



SEMARC was pleased to have Minnesota Section Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE give a presentation about the ARRL at the SEMARC club meeting on March 28th.

He stated the focus this year will be on local clubs. He described the following programs:

- **Club Commission** – Clubs can receive a commission for club members joining or renewing ARRL membership;
- **Club Development** – Webcasts held on Thursdays at 1800 hours Central Time. Various topics are discussed. Past webcasts are available at <https://learn.arrl.org/>
- **Club Revitalization** – Clubs are encouraged to update their websites to attract younger hams and those not licensed. He encouraged websites to have online payment for dues and other items.

Other announcements were:

- A **Minnesota Section Conference** will be held on October 14 in the metro area. Location TBD.
- 2023 is the "Year of the Volunteer" (VOTA). Members are encouraged to work W1AW/# stations.
- **W1AW/Ø Minnesota** will be held May 10-16 and August 2-8.



Membership meetings are held in Cottage Grove at the

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.)

New Club Members

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

Club Apparel

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. 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.

Did you know ...

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

Visit www.semarc.org/P10_UL.htm.

Just Droning On...

No, not another endless ham radio discussion. Our own Chuck Hanson, NA0L will be program presenter at the April meeting. Most of you recognize Chuck as a Board member and photographer of all things active at SEMARC.

But more! Chuck is an avid flyer of recreational drones. I first met him at a radio in the parks activity at Fires Station #3 in old Cottage Grove, where he was flying a drone. We had a little chat about that hobby and some of his drone exploits.

Well, now you get to hear more of this increasingly popular hobby. It's pretty complicated, I admit. After a brief tour through the FAA rules, my head began to spin. Never fear, Chuck will discuss federal and state rules about recreational drone flying, talk a little about antennas, how he was attracted to the hobby, and anything else on his mind regarding drones.

Be prepared for an interesting discussion, and thanks to Chuck for his willingness to make the presentation.

N0BM

Hamfests 2023

Additional hamfests can be found on the ARRL hamfests page:

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

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>

METRO SKYWARN CLASS DATES FOR 2023

Metro Skywarn Class Dates for 2023

Metro Skywarn will have 6 in-person and 5 online classes. These classes will be identical so you need to take only one class. Classes will be 3 hours in length.

We will be requiring pre-registration to ensure the rooms are not packed. Masks are welcome, but not required. If you are ill, please stay at home. We will ask you to go home if you are visibly ill.

Walk-ins will be allowed if there is capacity at the start time of the class. If you arrive late, your seat may have been given to someone else. Anyone arriving over 15 minutes after the start of class will be asked to reschedule.

We are happy to announce that for both in-person and online training sessions, the National Weather Service (NWS) will be issuing Skywatcher IDs to those spotters who do not have an amateur radio license, are not planning on becoming one, and who request one.

If you did not take training last year, you are due this year. If you took a class last year and still want to attend this year, you are welcome to join!

If you are unable to attend, please, please cancel your registration so someone else can register for your spot.

The schedule is located here: <https://metroskywarn.org/calendar/>

A direct link to registration is located here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/metro-skywarn-inc-7885991211>

We look forward to having you in class!

Theresa Caspers
Education Coordinator
Metro Skywarn

METRO SKYWARN

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** WC0HC 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!

Donation to SEMARC Club from Steve Howard

Steve Howard has given me books and equipment he wanted to gift to members that would want and use.

All of these items are free to any club member who will put them to good use.

Books:

1. Basic "Atom" Syntax Manual and Disk
2. Practical Electronics for Inventors by Paul Scherz
3. The Microcontroller beginner's Handbook by Lawrence Duarte
4. Barron's Electronics the easy way
5. Basic Electronics Theory by Delton Horn
6. The Basics of Interpretation and use of Schematic Diagrams by J. Richard Johnson
7. Test Procedures for Basic Electronics by Irving Gottlieb
8. 5 book Parallax Inc. training course on Microcircuits with Lab experiments and testing Station older version ()

One diskette (CD) ARRL Antenna Book Supplement

One CD containing "SuperVoice" software

One MicroHAM CW Keyer Hardware and cables. High end CW keyer for radios without built in keyers but can be used with any radio. Uses USB to drive hardware. Hardware has several different outputs available.

One Byonics Tiny Trak 3 and cables.

One BUX COMM PSK31 Interface model R-5 with cables

One West Mountain Radio "RIGblaster Plus" has manual, CD software collection, power supply, cables and power pole supply cable. All in like new condition.

One DeVry institute bread boarding testing station which included a power supply and frequency outputs.

Contact Dick Roberts at SEMARC.W0CGM@gmail.com

73,

Dick N0UC

Experimenting with ChatGPT

Experimenting with [ChatGPT](#)

Asked - Explain what a POTA event is.

Parks on the Air, or POTA for short, is a program designed to promote amateur radio activity in the great outdoors. The program was started in 2017 and has quickly grown to become a popular activity for amateur radio enthusiasts around the world. In this article, we'll take a closer look at what a POTA event is and why it's a great way to enjoy ham radio.

First and foremost, POTA events take place in state and national parks, as well as other protected areas. Participants set up portable stations and operate their radios from within the park boundaries. This allows operators to enjoy the natural beauty of the outdoors while also engaging in their favorite hobby.

To participate in a POTA event, operators must first register on the POTA website and obtain a park number. Once registered, they can then plan their trip to the park and start making contacts. Each park has its own unique identifier, which operators must include in their transmissions in order to earn credit for working that park.

POTA events are typically scheduled in advance and announced on the POTA website, as well as on various social media platforms. Operators can also arrange their own POTA activations at any time, provided they follow the program rules and regulations.

One of the main benefits of participating in a POTA event is the opportunity to work rare and exotic parks. Many parks are located in remote or hard-to-reach areas, which makes them rare and sought-after by ham radio operators. Working a rare park can be a great achievement and a source of pride for many operators.

Another benefit of POTA is the sense of community it provides. Operators often work together to plan activations and share tips and advice on the best equipment and techniques for working parks. The program also offers an online leaderboard, which allows operators to track their progress and compare their performance with other POTA enthusiasts.

Finally, POTA is a great way to promote the hobby of amateur radio to the general public. Many park visitors are curious about the radios and antennas they see and are happy to learn more about ham radio and its role in emergency communication and public service. By demonstrating their equipment and explaining the workings of amateur radio, POTA operators can help to build awareness and interest in the hobby.

In conclusion, POTA is a fun and exciting way for amateur radio operators to enjoy the outdoors, work rare and exotic parks, and promote the hobby to the public. Whether you're a seasoned operator or just starting out, POTA events are a great way to connect with other hams and explore the natural beauty of the world around us.

Asked - What do I need to setup an inexpensive 432MHz EME radio station.

To set up an inexpensive 432MHz EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) radio system, you will need a few key pieces of equipment. Here is a basic list:

1. Antenna: For EME communication, you will need a high-gain antenna that can be pointed at the moon. A popular choice for 432MHz EME is a Yagi antenna with 12 or more elements. You can build your own antenna or purchase one commercially.
2. Transceiver: You will need a transceiver that can operate on 432MHz and has a power output of at least 100 watts. There are several low-cost transceivers available on the market that are suitable for EME communication.
3. Feedline: You will need a high-quality coaxial cable to connect your antenna to your transceiver. A low-loss cable with a minimum of 50 feet is recommended.
4. Rotator: To point your antenna at the moon, you will need a rotator that can handle the weight of your antenna. You can find affordable rotators on the market that are suitable for EME operation.
5. Computer: You will need a computer to control your transceiver and rotator. There are several software programs available that can assist with tracking the moon and controlling your equipment.

Overall, an inexpensive 432MHz EME radio system can be built for a few thousand dollars with some careful shopping and do-it-yourself construction.

SEMARC Operating Events – 2023

SEMARC hosts many activities during the year: on-air nets (CW, FM, Digital); meetings, both in person and virtual; special virtual meetings like Fireside Chats; volunteer exams, and, **OPERATING EVENTS!**

Operating events provide chances for club members to meet, practice their operating skills and have fun. Our operating events are also good opportunities for members without stations or who are new to the hobby, to gain lots of experience in a fun atmosphere. In each of the events described below, a club lead is identified, so that everyone knows who to contact to offer their help or find out how to participate.

Events scheduled for 2023.... (some more may be added)

FOXHUNT!!!!

Who doesn't love to chase and find the radio fox? This event requires participants to use their radio direction skills to find hidden transmitters; in the past, there has even been an opportunity for members to hunt the fox using only their cell phones. The spring hunt is scheduled to be on April 29 and begins at the Zion Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM. Club lead is Dan, W0GUP.

W0CGM/35

SEMARC celebrates the 35th anniversary of its founding in 2023. We anticipate celebrating that achievement with an on-the-air operation from May 18 to May 20. Thursday and Friday during that time span will allow individual club members to operate as W0CGM/35 from their home stations; if there is sufficient enthusiasm, we will close the celebration as a club, operating from Fire Station #3. Fun time, good club. Club lead is Brian, N0BM.

ARRL Field Day

This is the granddaddy of field operating events, where tens of thousands of U.S. hams take to the field, show their capabilities for emergency setup and work as many other stations as possible in a 24-hour period. Takes place June 24 and 25 this year. The club will gather/ operate at Fire Station # 3 in Cottage Grove. There are many ways club members can contribute to the success of our FD effort: setup and take down; safety officer; operating and logging; copying the field day bulletin; satellite QSO; running for coffee and snacks, etc. Club lead is Dave, KD0IRF...and he can use help in this effort.

POTA Activation

Many hams take to state and federal parks to activate the, as part of parks-on-the-air. In the past, we have operated from Mississippi River National Recreation Area and Afton State Park. We are holding August/September for a POTA activation; date, time and place to be determined. If there is sufficient member interest, we may have an activation each month. Club lead is Brian, N0BM.

FOXHUNT REDUX !!

Who could imagine such fun? The second foxhunt in the year. The fall hunt is scheduled for October 7 and begins at the Zion Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM. Club lead is Dan, W0GUP.

SEMARC at Groups.io

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
- Facebook - Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1525920597716897>
- Twitter - Follow us at @w0cgm

Winlink Training Net

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 Joe Hibberd joehibberd11@gmail.com about the net n0uc@comcast.net

CU on the nets, 73

Dick N0UC

★ In addition to the afore mentioned Winlink "active" training nets, there will be "passive" practice nets for participants to continue to learn how to configure their stations, and to practice their skills using the Winlink Express software. You simply send a Winlink message to net control to verify that your system is set up correctly and working. If there is not an active training net after the SEMARC Activity Net, you can assume the passive net will be running. The details needed to check into the passive net are here:

<https://paulkanikula.wixsite.com/home/winlink-net>

Any comments or questions about the passive nets can be sent to KF9CP at paulkanikula@gmail.com or you can put it out on the groups.io for the benefit of everyone.

Washington County ARES

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 K0BJJ, 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 me at joehibberd11@gmail.com.

Joe Hibberd W3QLC



WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

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



February Worldwide Contests

[click map for list](#)

