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Affiliated

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



**SEMARC**  
**WØCGM**

[www.semarc.org](http://www.semarc.org)

## THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH July 2023

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### FIRESIDE CHAT

#### On hold until Fall

The Fireside Chat is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. They are held at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Webex virtual meeting at:

[https://  
richardlroberts.my.webex.com/  
meet/rrobert](https://richardlroberts.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 July 11<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.

### REGULAR MEMBER MEETING

Our next regular member meeting is July 25<sup>th</sup>. No program has been planned at this time.

[Cont. on page 3](#)

### Pope Francis from CubeSat

As I was skimming through the ARRL Letter from June 8th I found this article on transmissions from a CubeSat launched on June 10, 2023.

The transmissions, which are messages from Pope Francis, will be broadcast on 427.5 MHz.

More info at [The ARRL Letter for June 8, 2023](#)

### 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](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 [WØJH 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

## VE Session Report

1 Candidate, came as a general, left as an extra.

Dan Franz, WDØGUP

**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](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Dan Franz, WDØGUP

### 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, WDØGUP

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

## Planning Calendar

July 11<sup>th</sup> (T) Board Meeting  
July 15<sup>th</sup> (S) VE Session & B'fast  
July 25<sup>th</sup> (T) Club Meeting

August 11<sup>th</sup> (T) Board Meeting  
August 15<sup>th</sup> (S) VE Session & B'fast  
August 29<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 June 15<sup>th</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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## Volunteers On The Air (VOTA)

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“As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST (see announcement link below), ARRL is celebrating a year-long operating event honoring all ARRL volunteers: Volunteers On the Air.”

<https://www.ARRL.org/VOTA>

**W1AW/0 Minnesota Signup**

<https://ok.arrl.org/w1awmn/>

<https://contests.arrl.org/docs/2023-VOTA-State-Activations-Schedule.pdf>

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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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## Upcoming SEMARC Events

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The July membership meeting will be featuring a real-time 2 station WinLink demo – immediately after the regular meeting. We will have a computer displaying on a large screen while 2 HT stations (each with a computer) connect; and possibly we will have an external antenna to reach a local gateway. A quick walk-through of the software, a direct peer-to-peer connect, and lastly a station to a gateway connect. All within 60 minutes, because Paul K knows what he is doing.

Joe W3QLC

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## Hamfests 2023

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Additional hamfests can be found on the ARRL hamfests page:  
<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

**07/08/2023**

MAGIC Tailgate event

Location: Roseville, MN

Sponsor: MAGIC

Website: <http://www.magicrepeater.net/fest.htm>

**08/05/2023**

[Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest](#)

Location: La Crosse, WI

Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://rarc.qth.com>

**08/12/2023**

[CVARC 2023 Hamfest](#)

Location: Chippewa Falls, WI

Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

**8/19/2023**

Brainerd Tailgate Hamfest

Location: Brainerd, MN

Sponsor: Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://brainerdham.org>

**09/16/2023**

[Lake Elmo Tail Gate Hamfest](#)

Location: Lake Elmo, MN

Sponsor: Metro Area Repeater Association

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## Membership Meetings

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Are held in Cottage Grove

### Zion Lutheran Church 8500 Hillside Trail South

We meet on the LAST Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **Except June & 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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## 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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## 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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## SEMARC HAPPENINGS

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The club just completed an active calendar of programs and activities for the second quarter of the year. From an operations viewpoint, we provided emergency flood support for Lake St. Croix Beach, successfully celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club, had a GREAT Field Day and supported the Prairie Island REP Drill. I'm sure you will receive reports from Dave, KD0IRF about our phenomenal performance during FD. John, W3QLC should summarize similar performance during the REP drill and perhaps comments on improvements for the future. Maybe that info will be in this issue of the Telegraph. I haven't checked with either of them.

Third Quarter shapes up to be another active one. Paul KF9CP, along with ChuckNA0L present a July program on Win Link, VARA and how to set up to use this potentially effective tool for emergency activations. August has Dan, WDOGUP, leading an interactive presentation on two-meter directional antennas for fox hunting. Get the chance to build a tape measure beam. Timely, as a hunt is scheduled for the last quarter of this year. I am still searching for a September program. All suggestions are welcome.... shoot me an email, but be prepared to help. :>)

Two POTA activations are scheduled for this quarter. The first for August 17 and the second for September 16. Mark your calendars, please. Dates may vary depending on other circumstances but I am trying my best to lock these in. One activation will be during the week; the other on a weekend. We are trying to accommodate both retirees and still-employed members. Stay tuned for further news.

As always, suggestions and offers of assistance are welcome. Many hands make for light work.

Brian N0BM

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## Drone Demo

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This was taken while the drone was hovering - a practice that allows the pilot to check that the components are operating normally - props, motors, camera/gimble, and the eye-hand coordination of the pilot. It takes about 30-45 seconds to roll through the basics. (I added the drone for fun, Hope you don't mind Chuck. Roger)

Chuck Hanson NA0L

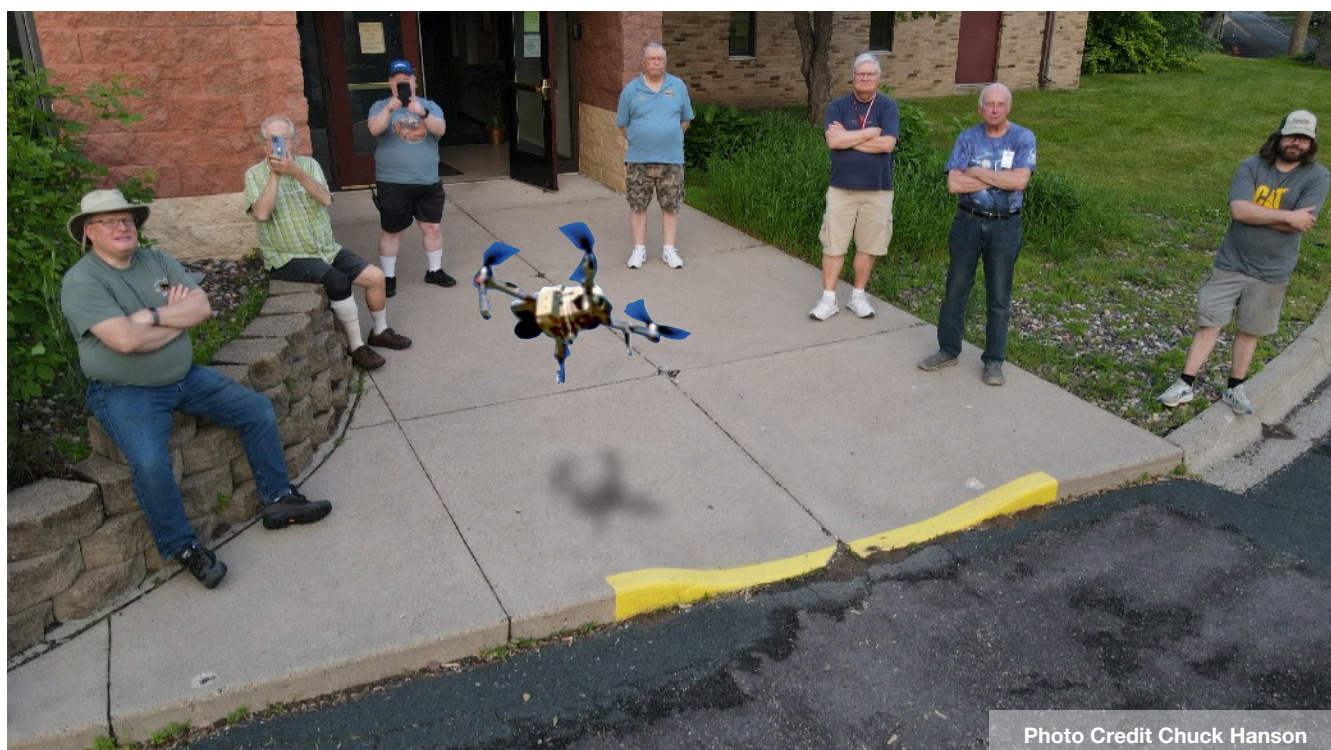


Photo Credit Chuck Hanson

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## Licensee Hit With \$24,000 Fine

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### Licensee Hit With \$24,000 Fine for Jamming Net, Failure to ID: FCC

This is from ARRL News

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/licensee-hit-with-24-000-fine-for-jamming-net-failure-to-id-fcc>

Apparently he had done this 6 years ago also.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-notice-of-violation-alleges-malicious-interference-transmitting-music-failure-to-identify>

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## Winlink Training Net

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On April 6, 2022 we began 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](mailto:joehibberd11@gmail.com) about the net [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

CU on the nets, 73

Dick NOUC

★ 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](mailto:paulkanikula@gmail.com) or you can put it out on the groups.io for the benefit of everyone.



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## SEMARC Operating Events – 2023

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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)

### 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, NØBM.

### FOXHUNT REDUX !!

Who could imagine such fun? The second foxhunt in the year. The fall hunt is scheduled for October 7 and begins at 9:00 AM. [Location to be announced](#)

Club lead is Dan, WD0GUP

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REP drill for the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant. Although this is not an exclusive SEMARC effort (support from SARA), a significant majority of the ARES staff in this drill have been our members. Recently, Joe Hibberd assumed the EC duties for Washington County; it's a big responsibility. Please consider helping out in this drill. Joe led the team for the recent flood monitoring and assistance effort in Lake St. Croix Beach. He and other ops will be recognized at an upcoming city council meeting for their help. I am otherwise committed that evening, but those who will be cited for their efforts should attend. As a matter of fact, there is a rumor that a bar is close by and maybe, just maybe, folks can have a cool one and do an informal review of the deployment. OK, OK, don't be offended. I'm Boston Irish and you know the joke about some Irish lawyers...they never could pass the bar. Anyway, attendance at the Council meeting would be a good way to show appreciation for your fellow club members.

Last, a POTA deployment. I haven't yet picked the date for this field operation. I did, however, based on recommendations from other club members, drive to Spring Lake Park Reserve in Cottage Grove. It's a beautiful site with a number of places where we could operate. It's also part of the Mississippi River National Recreation Area...and a quieter radio site than or previous POTA activations from the National Recreation Area.

Please stay tuned for further developments.

73

Brian NØBM

POTA is on the docket for the summer/early fall. Dates still to be determined. Consensus is that Spring Lake Park Reserve in CG would be a great location, as it is part of the Mississippi River Recreation Area. An attempt will be made to have two POTA efforts, one on weekdays and one on weekends. Members are split between retirees and those still working. We want to accommodate as many as possible. Volunteers/help is always appreciated. Contact Brian NØBM if you wish to help.

Brian McInerney NØBM  
SEMARC Vice President

# Summer Field Day 2023













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## SKYWARN Training Saturday - April 29

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SEMARC-hosted SKYWARN training held on Saturday, April 29.

This year marked the reboot of in-person Skywarn training! I look forward to hosting this activity each year.

Theresa Caspers reached out to SEMARC as she has done with me going back to 2015 to host a session. They ran a limited number of in-person training sessions, and we were one of them. The balance of the sessions was held online.

Bob Weiler and his daughter Sarah Weiler gave this year's presentation, and it was very well received. We had about 30 attendees, with about 50% getting trained for the first time. Registering individual attendance was performed via going online after the session using a specific link for the session and providing two code words that were given during the training. It was a very efficient way of handling this, avoiding long lines and paperwork at the end.

Severe weather season is certainly upon us and as always, be mindful of your surroundings and keep an eye to the sky!

Dave KA8VHF



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## Estate Planning for Your Radio Equipment

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The ARRL has an estate planning workbook that is a resource to guide you through developing a plan to handle your amateur radio estate. It covers:

- How to handle your station and its many assets
- Exploring your desire to leave behind a legacy by which fellow hams can remember you
- Using part or all of your station assets to support amateur radio causes

Planning in advance will help your family or friends. Creating YOUR plan can be a simple, fulfilling way to share your commitment to amateur radio with future generations.

The ARRL Estate Planning Workbook is available at <https://www.arrl.org/estate-planning-workbook>

Thanks to Joe W3QLC for finding this

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## WCARES Activities This Year

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Our ARES Unit participates in SEMARC's weekly 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening 2-meter nets on the 147.180 repeater with a PL tone of 74.4 in Newport and PL tone 100.0 in Forest Lake. We also use this pair of repeaters for our monthly 2-meter net on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Joe Hibberd W3QLC  
Emergency Coordinator  
Washington County ARES

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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 me at [joehibberd11@gmail.com](mailto:joehibberd11@gmail.com).

Joe Hibberd W3QLC

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## ARRL and FEMA

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ARRL and FEMA Sign Agreement: Ham Radio is as Relevant as Ever

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-and-fema-sign-agreement-ham-radio-is-as-relevant-as-ever>

The agreement emphasizes the importance of skilled Amateur Radio Operators in times of crisis and the role of ARES leadership within the emergency communications space.

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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** 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!

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### For Sale Yaesu FT-818ND

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A nice little radio for QRP. All mode, ultra-compact portable.

HF/VHF/UHF SSB/CW/AM/FM

6 watts output.

9.6 volt, 1900 mAh Ni-MH battery included.

Weights 2.5 lbs. Measures 5.3 in wide, 1.5 in high, 6.5 in deep.

QST technical review at [PROD.REV.indd\(dxengineering.com\)](http://PROD.REV.indd(dxengineering.com))

Also included LDG Z-817 autotuner.

Both for \$650.00

Contact Joe W3QLC at [joehibberd11@gmail.com](mailto:joehibberd11@gmail.com)







## WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

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



## May Worldwide Contests

[click map for list](#)

