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THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH November 2023

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FIRESIDE CHAT

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>

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 November 14th. 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 November 28th. No program has been planned at this time.

Happy Thanksgiving

SEMARc members
wish all to have a wonderful
Thanksgiving.

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](#)

Two Meter Tuesday (TMT) 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

[Social/Special Meetings](#)

Thursday Evenings: Social and informal "Eyeball QSO" sessions from 6PM to 8PM, usually at the Stillwater Public Library.

See radiohm.org for weekly updates

VE Session Report

We had 2 candidates, one tech and one extra upgrade.

We are now at our new location

[St Luke Lutheran Church, 7000 Hinton Ave S, Cottage Grove](#)

See you there,

Dan..

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

November 14th (T) Board Meeting

November 18th (S) VE & B'fast

November 28th (T) Club Meeting

December 11th (T) Board Meeting

December 21st (S) **NO VE TEST**

No Club Meeting in December

SEMARC VE Sessions

VE exam sessions are held **every 3rd Saturday** (except December). The next VE session is on **November 18th**. Exams are held at 9:00 am at [St Luke Lutheran Church Cottage Grove](#). Call 651-769-0358 for information, to register or to arrange for special needs. Information is posted on the webpages also.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

SEMARC VACANT VP POSITION AND ELECTIONS COMING UP

We have had the vice president position vacant for a few months now. No one has stepped up at the last two general meetings, but we need to fill this position for the remainder of 2023. Most of the work that the vice president does has already been completed for the year. Please let me know if you are interested in stepping up to help the club and take over this spot for the last three months of 2023.

The description of the vice president's duties is as follows:

The Vice President shall organize club activities, plan, and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance club interests and activities as approved by the club. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in their absence and perform all appropriate duties as may be requested by the President.

I also need members for the nominating committee for elections of 2024 officers. Please contact me soon if you can help. Our policy and procedures say the following:

7.01 A Nominating Committee of at least two (2) members shall be responsible for recruiting candidates to all offices subject for election. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Nominating Committee at their October meeting.

7.02 The Nominating Committee shall contact all candidates and must obtain their consent before offering their names in nomination.

7.03 The Nominating Committee shall provide nominations to the Board of Directors for approval by the November Board meeting.

Dave Larson, KEØHAL

SEMARC Operating Events

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.

[Watch here for upcoming events.](#)

Club lead is Dan, WD0GUP

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.

Autumn Brings Action

Well, the leaves are changing, the temperature is dropping, there are only a few more weeks for antenna work....it must be Fall. 🍂

This is the season that kicks off a number of operating events and a host of contests. Both will stretch well into spring of next year, so now's the time to plan for your on-the-air ham activities. SEMARC will be active in a couple of events/contests, too.

But you may be thinking, "I have only 100 watts and a wire". How can I play with the guys who have the heavy iron and a kilowatt that pumps the AGC on my receiver? Choices. Choices about the bands, times, days/nights, modes of operation AND the events you want to play in and enjoy!

In just the next month from the date of this draft article, there are a range of events/contests: the FT4 sprint; the Zombie shuffle; the SSB and CW sweepstakes; the Ham Spirit SSB Contest; the Phone weekly contests. Everything you could want, PLUS special events and POTAVOTA activations in CW, FT4 and FT8, SSB, RTTY, QRO and QRP.

The big guns also stress BIC time (butt in the chair). My butt and attention span no longer can meet heavy expectations in that regard, so my planning is a little different.

Depending on the contest/activity, I use the following approaches;

1. Stay away from the starting gun in major contests; you'll just get pummeled;
2. Try to work 15 and 10 meters, where the action is a little easier and a long wire will give you some advantages;
3. Set a goal for yourself- improving your operating skills, making 100 Qs, working all states or sections, improving your ability to copy phone signals on crowded bands, trying new modes, etc.;
4. Listen on the bands the day before the chosen contest or event, so you'll have a better knowledge of which bands might work for you, and what the propagation will likely be to different parts of the country or globe;
5. (and a McInerney favorite) jump in near the tail end of the contest, when the big guns will be looking to add more Qs and more multipliers and are looking for "fresh meat". They will wait for you, especially since a new contact or section/province/state/country adds lots of points to their scores!

Most of all, have some fun, appreciate your fellow hams and improve your operating skills. Check the WA7BNM link that Roger, our Editor embeds in each issue.

Brian. N0BM

Volunteers On The Air (VOTA)

"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>

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 @wØcgm
-

Winlink Training Net

On April 6, 2022 we began 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.

Membership Meetings

Are held in Cottage Grove

[St Luke Lutheran Church, 7000 Hinton Ave S, Cottage Grove](#)

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.)

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.

WCARES Activities This Year

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

Joe Hibberd W3QLC
Emergency Coordinator
Washington County ARES

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 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.

Joe Hibberd W3QLC

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!



WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

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



Current Worldwide Contests

[click map for list](#)

