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THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH December 2023

PAGE

CONTENTS:

2	Merry Christmas
2	NOTICE: 146.985 Repeater
2	146.985 Repeater Update
3	Membership Renewal
3	Stillwater Amateur Radio Association
3	VE Session Report
3	Planning Calendar
4	National Veterans Month
4	Solar Indices
4	SEMARC Operating Events – 2023
4	Did you know ...
5	SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

PAGE

CONTENTS:

7	Amateur Radio License Plates in Minnesota
8	Volunteers On The Air (VOTA)
8	SEMARC at Groups.io
8	Winlink Training Net
9	Membership Meetings
9	New Club Members
9	Club Apparel
10	WCARES Activities This Year
10	Washington County ARES
10	METRO SKYWARN
11	This Months Worldwide Contests



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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://
richardroberts.my.webex.com/meet/
rrobert](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 December 12th. 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 January 9th. No program has been planned at this time.

Merry Christmas



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.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewals for 2024 are due by December 31. A renewal form is available at http://www.semarc.org/_files/Forms/Member_Appl_2024.pdf

You can mail it to the official club address noted on the form. New members who joined at our VE sessions in October and November this year are good through 2024.

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 1 candidate who received his technician ticket.

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, 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.

Planning Calendar

December 12 th (T) Board Meeting	January 9 th (T) Club Meeting
December 16 th (S) No VE Test or B'fast	January 20 th (S) VE Test & B'fast
No Club Meeting in December	January 30 th (T) No Business Meeting

SEMARC VE Sessions

VE exam sessions are held **every 3rd Saturday** (except December). The next VE session is on **January 20th**. 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.

National Veterans Month

November is officially National Veterans Month. We have a lot of veterans in the club, so I want to share my favorite military joke.

How do the 4 major branches of the military handle a snake in their tent?

The Army stomps it to death with their boots.

The Navy drops a heavy chain on it.

The Marines pick it up and bite the head off.

The Air Force says "What's this tent doing in my hotel room?"

Submitted by Joe Hibberd W3QLC, a U.S. Army Veteran.

Go Army. Beat Navy.

Solar Indices

All,

I ran across well laid out solar indices dashboard that depicts MUF at specific ionosondes, solar flux, solar wind speed, Kp, Ap, Bz, wind density, and other useful propagation information in a graphical format. I thought I would share with the group.

This site has other useful dashboards/links as well.

[Solar Indices & HAM Radio Propagation - Solar Indices - Dashboards - Grafana \(gafner.net\)](#)

Note: This is a non-US site, so dates are given in DD/MM format

Dave KA8VHF

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.

SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, January 27th, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. to (??)
John R. Albers Center
Cretin-Derham Hall High School
555 Hamline Ave. S
St. Paul MN 55116

From the intersection of Randolph Ave. and Hamline Ave. S, take Hamline southward for 3 blocks. The parking lot entrance is on the west side of Hamline Ave. opposite Watson St.

Doors open at 8:30 for equipment check in, the sale starts at 9:30.

We offer Sellers an option of listing **worthy** equipment for the LIVE auction or a Silent auction for the smaller or less important items. The Silent Auction will end at 12:00 so result tabulations can be finished on time.

If you would like to donate Ham related items to be sold at the auction, or if you would like to have items listed and advertised before the auction, or if you have any questions about the auction, please contact Dale Maroushek, at n0pey@arrl.net 651-777-5309.

Limited refreshments will be available. Volunteer Auctioneers and Helpers are welcome and needed.

SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB AUCTION RULES

Rule changes for 2024

Please read and familiarize yourself with these rules. As with any event involving the exchange of funds there are certain rules that must be followed.

**The net profit collected by the Saint Paul Radio Club will be donated to
The ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund!**

Registration of equipment and issuance of bidder numbers and lot tags starts at 8:30 a.m. There is no charge for buyers or sellers.

Most items will be placed in the silent auction; Sellers may elect to place more significant items in the live auction. Registration will be limited to 20 lots per seller. Auction officials may combine lots of similar equipment by the same seller with their permission.

A seller may set a minimum bid for silent auction items to be printed on the bid slip. Lots not receiving the minimum bid will be returned to the sellers without charge and sellers must take all unsold items with them.

SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

A seller may specify a reserve price for Live auction items. If bidding does not reach the reserve, the bidder will be offered the item at the reserve amount. If they decline, the seller will be offered an opportunity to remove the reserve and complete the sale. Lots not receiving the reserve bid will be returned to the sellers without charge and they must take all unsold items with them.

Minimum incremental bidding is set at: \$1 to \$25 - \$1, \$25 to \$100 - \$5, \$100 and up - \$10, subject to the Auctioneers discretion.

The live auction will start about 9:30 and continue until each lot is sold (or is to be returned to the bidder) or until terminated by ruling of the SPRC President and/or the Auction Committee Chair. Bidding in the silent auction will end at noon.

Buyers may be required to show proof of a current, valid Amateur Radio License for the purchase of transmitters and amplifiers.

Sellers will be charged a 10% commission on all items sold (see Estate Sales and Donations exceptions, below).

All buyer and seller transactions with the Saint Paul Radio Club must be completed on the day of the auction. Personal checks will be accepted with proper identification.

No equipment will be allowed off the auction premises without proof of ownership. Items will be checked against your paid sheet at the exit.

The St. Paul Radio Club does NOT warrant the condition of any item placed at auction, will not be responsible for items lost, stolen or damaged and reserves the right to limit quantities. Personal sales or exchange of items will not be permitted until after the Auction is completed.

You may donate items to the SPRC to sell (ask registration how).

Estate Sales and Donations

1. Items may be donated to SPRC for use in our educational or public service activities or for inclusion in the auction. In this case, 100% of auction proceeds go to ARRL.
2. Items from the estate may be brought to the auction by the family or representative and normal seller terms apply.
3. If SPRC agrees to disassemble, inventory, and transport the gear to the auction, the seller's fee is 25 percent of sold items. SPRC will provide a printout of sold items. Seller may donate unsold items to SPRC or arrange for their return.

Amateur Radio License Plates in Minnesota

Prior to 1996 “ham” radio license plates looked just like standard Minnesota license plates. But I noticed Wisconsin ham radio license plates contained the words “Amateur Radio” at the bottom, and I thought that Minnesota plates should have the same designation. I researched Minnesota Statutes (which I often did for work purposes) and found the authorization for allowing our FCC call signs to be on our automobile license plates.

In 1995 I drafted a proposed state legislative bill to include the words “Amateur Radio” as in done in Wisconsin. I presented the proposal to our state senator, Gary Laidig, who was a neighbor of mine. He agreed to sponsor the bill, but suggested I contact state representative Mark Holsten to sponsor the companion bill in the House of Representatives. Mark lived within a mile of our house. I met with Mark in his office and he agreed to carry the bill.

Before a bill can be voted upon, it must go through one or more legislative committees. Gary’s and Mark’s bills were assigned to their respective Transportation Finance Committees. When the Senate committee was scheduled I sat next to Gary. We were near the bottom of the agenda so Gary went out into the hallway to make some phone calls. While he was out our bill was called up. I sat at the presentation table, but no Gary! Luckily, Senator Jane Krentz also sat on the committee, so she sat next to me to introduce the bill. I had known Jane for years because she attends our church. The bill passed the committee and later passed the Senate vote without comment or amendments.

On the House side, Mark introduced the bill in committee, but the chair of the committee stated he opposed “all of these changes for special license plates” he was seeing. He opposed the bill, and so it died in committee. But I learned that a bill introduced during the first year of a biennium (financial cycle) was still alive for the second year. During the winter of 1995 I decided to do some political maneuvering, so I wrote a letter to all 35 of the ham radio operators in the house district of the committee chairman asking them to write to the chairman requesting he approve the bill. I got the addresses of the hams from the ARRL. They even printed the mailing labels!

In the spring of 1996 the bill was brought up again in the House Transportation Finance Committee. The chairman recommended approval of the bill and it passed the committee without comment or amendment! The bill passed the House of Representatives and was signed by the Governor on April 12, 1996.

If you are interested in getting one (or more) amateur radio license plates for your vehicles, visit [e-Services - Vehicle Services - Vehicle Services \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/e-services/vehicle-services) and click on “Change My Plates”.

For more information about ham radio plates, visit [License Plates - Specialized Plates-Amateur - HAM - Radio and Citizen Band Radio \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/licenses/specialized-plates-amateur-ham-radio-citizen-band-radio)

Joe Hibberd W3QLC

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/O 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 @w0cgm
-

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 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 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** 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!



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](#)

