



## THE TELEGRAPH First Quarter, 2026

### Meeting Updates



The **annual member meeting** occurred as scheduled in January. Members elected the recommended slate of candidates forwarded from the November member meeting. Thanks to all who agreed to serve: WDOGUP, NOUC, NAOL, KDOI RF, KBOSED, KEOHAL and KODTM. We will have a discussion in seven months about who the leadership will be for 2027. Give some thought about serving on the Board. More hands make for a lighter workload.

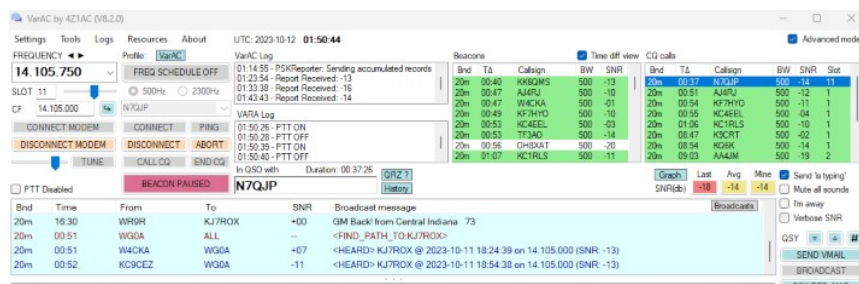
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The **February meeting** featured a discussion led by Gary, WKOX on radiation...the nuclear kind. Gary provided a great explanation of naturally occurring sources of radioactivity. He detailed how degradation at the atomic level resulted in lengthening the radioactivity of an original source by the formation of byproduct source that was also radioactive. Gary discussed the local presence of radon gas and its health effects; he finished with a neat demo on the use of his Geiger counter.



March followed with a presentation on **amateur radio digital modes** by Brent Petit, WGOA. It was an offshoot of a presentation he made at the last MN State Convention in the fall. It clearly showed how even those with a Technician license could be active in the hobby. FT8, FT4, VARA, JS8call, meteor scatter, etc. Gary was kind enough to provide a copy of his presentation, which has already been uploaded to the SEMARC website. If you get the chance, take a look at it; it's just fascinating.



## Future meetings

April's meeting topic is **WSPR**.... everything you always wanted to know about the mode, presented by John Dean, KOJD. The meeting will be preceded by WSPR Week, where club members are asked to familiarize themselves with the mode, use it and review the propagation information that it provides. We expect that John will also provide a summary of the experience of members who used the mode. Just make sure you are setup so that your results are reported to WSPRNet or PSK Reporter.

Following in May, is a presentation by Darreck Lisle, K0OOI, EC for Washington County. Darreck will discuss two main topics: use of Mesh systems (**MESHTASTIC**) in public service; and an update ad plans for the annual **REP drill** for Prairie Island. It'll be a good opportunity for members to learn something new and prepare for what will be expected at the REP drill.

## Operating Events

All sorts of operating events occurred during the first calendar quarter of 2026.



First up, **Winter Field Day 2026**. Again, Dave, KD0IRF chaired this event. The club operated a two-transmitter event from Fire Station # 3. We were fortunate to have several new hams join or stop by during WFD. AS usual, it was an enjoyable time. The Club made 330 Qs; unfortunately (in the mind of at least one member), there was some disappointment, as Phone Qs outnumbered CW Qs - aided greatly by Dwayne, NOWUE, who brought along his Yaesu rig with an outboard voice keyer. Way to go, Dwayne.

February saw several members participate from their home stations in the **MN QSO Party**. All reputed to have some fun! A casual survey indicated more than 350 QS were made by the participants. The exchange required MN hams to send their first names and county designations as part of the QSO Party exchange. Dwayne, N0UWE bemoaned the confusion caused by his first name and is contemplating changing it to AI for the next QSO party. :->



March saw the operation of **W1AW/0**, once as a group at Fire Station # 3 and individually at operators' home stations. NOUC reports that we made more than 800 Qs, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S in an event designed to allow the issuance of a WAS 250 award to members of the League who did, indeed, work all states as part of the celebration. W1AW/0 will be back in MN this fall. Check out the dates on the ARRL website and plan how you wish to participate!

## **Future Operating and Other Events**

Be ready for the next calendar quarter. First up is **WSPR week** described above. Second is the **April Foxhunt**, scheduled for April 25. WDOGUP indicates that the hunt returns to Cottage Grove this spring.

On May 30, SEMARC hosts **Skywarn training**. Register through Event Brite. Thanks to Dave, KA8VHF, for arranging the training. For as long as I can remember, Dave has scheduled the training sessions. Good PR for SEMARC.

Last, but not least, annual **ARRL Field Day**, scheduled this year for June 27-28. This event does double duty as an operating event and a summer feed for club members. FD this year will again be led by Dave, KD0IRF. There is always room for members to assist in areas of set up, take down, operating and logging and providing other support. Put this event on your personal calendars and think about how you can contribute to the club effort and have some fun.

## **Periodic Opportunities to Meet, Participate and Socialize**

Members should stay informed about activities two ways: NAOL's weekly Sunday Bulletins and the Telegraph. Some of these opportunities are regular and well acknowledged; others require a little more planning. For the club to be successful, we all need to tackle those opportunities, enjoy them and, if possible, volunteer to lead or support them. Think about that in 2026.