



THE TELEGRAPH

January, 2025

Editor Retires

You probably note that this edition of the Telegraph looks nothing like its predecessor. That is because Roger Holger, AE0TE, has decided to focus his efforts other places. Roger was responsible for a colorful, informative newsletter for more than four years. We should join together in a hearty thank you for all his efforts. If you get a chance to see him at the annual meeting in January, let him know how, individually, you appreciated his work.

Roger's departure raises several issues: how the Telegraph continues, how it will be structured, who the new editor will be. New blood is always good in club efforts, and many hands make for light work. If you have the slightest interest, please discuss it with any Board member, or give our President, Dan, WDOGUP a call or email.

November Meeting

The November meeting was the last general member meeting for the 2024 year. A fine program on radio propagation was delivered by John, K0JDD. Dick, N0UC collaborated with John. In Dick's absence, John presented. No worries, though, these two have worked on two programs this year- Propagation and the organization and operation of the SEMARC repeater system.

The proposed slate of officers and directors was presented to the membership at the November meeting. Elections will occur in January.

January Meeting

As most members know, the January meeting constitutes the annual meeting of the club. This year it will be held on the second Tuesday, January 14th, at the Church. Elections will occur; the slate of officers and directors presented at the November membership meeting will be chosen. One director spot is available to replace a member who is stepping down. That new director will fill the vacancy through the 2025 year. All members are asked to consider serving as a director in that spot. It's a great chance to learn more about the club and develop your leadership skills.

Dan, WDOGUP, will coordinate the program and refreshments for the meeting. As with all things SEMARC, an extra hand or two will make setting up for the light meal easier. Please consider lending a hand and reach out to Dan to offer your help.

Chuck, NAOL promises to have a picture history of 2024 events, including some candid shots of SEMARC members doing their "things". Chuck has promised that you will look younger, thinner and better-looking than any of us have the right to be.

Operating Events

If you haven't "played" in one of our operating events, you've missed great fun and camaraderie. There are several events already planned for 2025.

The year starts with the SEMARC Winter Field Day, January 25th and 26th. This FD will be held at Fire Station #3 and all members are encouraged to join in setting up, operating and socializing. The lead for this event is Dave, KDOI RF. If you're interested, give Dave a call early in the new year. Ask him where he needs help and offer to take an operating or logging spot.

Winter Field Day is gaining in popularity, although it is uncertain if it will match Field Day in June, in terms of participation. For those of you who may have forgotten, WOCGM, under KDOI RF's leadership took the club crown for MN in Class 2A. We racked up 803 Qs and a total, point score of 3938. The Lakes Region and Arrowhead clubs trailed behind us with between 400 and 500 Qs. All other clubs, including the Mining/St. Paul Club (in 3A) ranked below us. Mining was the only other MN club in either 2A or 3A who scored more than 3000 points...and they were over 700 points below SEMARC.

Pump yourselves up for WFD, in anticipation of FD in June!

The first Saturday in February marks the return of the Minnesota QSO Party. QSO parties are always fun, more enjoyable when everyone else is trying to work Minnesota stations. Last year, we had a spirited intra-club effort in the party. We expect that all SEMARC members will operate from their home stations. The lead for this event is Brian, NOBM. Expect to hear more from him earlier in the new year.

Tentatively, we have scheduled a newly licensed member event for March. It will take place at Fire Station # 3. The intent of the event is to give less experienced members the chance to

operate HF rigs in different modes. We will also hope to have several experienced members present to answer technical questions. I know that, every year, I need to re-familiarize myself with my two-meter handheld. If you're a new member or haven't built up your operating skills, this should be an informative event for you. More to come in the new year.

Periodic Opportunities to Meet, Participate and Socialize

In addition to the operating events noted above, members can plug into SEMARC activities on a weekly and monthly basis during the year.

All members are encouraged to check into Board meetings, the second Tuesday of the month.

Monthly member meetings are great opportunities to learn and catch up with fellow members, the last Tuesday of the month.

All should acknowledge that Volunteer Exam Teams have made the entry into the hobby LOTS easier than traveling to FCC Field Offices for licensing. The SEMARC VE Team offers exams on the third Saturday of the month at the Church. Our lead examiner, Dan, WDOGUP is always alert to folks who want to join the VE Team. If you're so inclined, give him a shout.

Weekly opportunities also abound: First Tuesdays (when reactivated); Wednesday evening nets (CW, ARES, general member net, Win Link training, etc.). Every week in his Sunday mailing, Chuck, NAOL reminds all of those opportunities. Pay attention to Chuck's efforts to inform and join in. You don't have to do it every week; just join as your schedule allows.

Programs

We already have several programs identified for the new year. Any member with suggestions or recommendations is encouraged to speak with NOUC, KOJDD, NOBM or any Board member. Alternatively, speak up at a member meeting and start a discussion going. Lots of talent in the club and in the metro area.