



THE TELEGRAPH

March, 2025

February Meeting

Members enjoyed K0JDD's presentation on his journey to learn code, "From no code 2 know code". Lots of insight, good tips and cautionary tales and great internet resources for members to find and use. A great recollection by Dave, KA8VHF, breaking a mental barrier and beginning to copy words in his head while on a drive to Chicago and listening to his radio. You just never know when a breakthrough will occur.... but for it to happen, you've got to be on the air. Don't forget the Wednesday evening SEMARC code group gathering.

The March meeting will see the return of NOUC to the podium, discussing the characteristics of coax and other transmission lines, considerations for those anticipating buying coax or improving their stations. Dick will also comment on matching transceivers to the antenna system. Knowing Dick, there will be a variety of things to look at and handle during the presentation. Come attend and test/improve your knowledge of transmission lines.

Operating Events

The new operator event tentatively scheduled for March at the Fire Station has been delayed, although it remains on the calendar for 2025.

It will be a chance for newer/less experienced amateurs to set up and operate a station. It will involve choosing and setting up antennas, deciding what modes and frequencies to use, setting up the station equipment, logging, and interconnecting all equipment necessary for a successful operating event. We may choose to use the date set for Armed Forces Day in May for this event. Our decision will require the commitment of a number of new/less experienced ops to show up at the Fire Station.

Members are reminded of two other events in the upcoming months. The first is an operating event – an invitation by John, K0JDD to join him at his QTH on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, to participate in the CQ World Wide Prefix Contest. CQ WPX is an event/contest where the intent is to work as many other stations and call sign prefixes as possible. It's fun and a gracious invitation to work John's station.

His QTH is at 4118 Woodlane Drive, Woodbury MN. John's shack is outside of his home: you can spy it just under the tower. (It's an actual ham shack). Registration is not required. Just show up, learn about HF operating and contesting. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 5:00PM.

At the February meeting, KA8VHF reminded members of Skywarn training and certification/re-certification. Dave indicated that the training session will be held on May 3 at the Church. KA8VHF has coordinated these sessions with Skywarn staff for years and it is much appreciated. For additional information, check the Metro Skywarn web site or reach out directly to KA8VHF at finster99@comcast.net. If past years are any indication, session spots will fill quickly. Public service has been an important component of the Club ... ARES, Skywarn, service agreements with Washington county, Cottage Grove and two other townships. Continuing education is a must for us all to stay current.

Periodic Opportunities to Meet, Participate and Socialize

Lots of ways to connect with other and potential members: monthly meetings, special operating events, Board Meetings, First Tuesdays, Wednesday night nets, serving as volunteer examiners.

Chuck, NA0L, does an FB job keeping members informed of activities with his weekly mailing. If (bad member) you've deleted one of his emails, no problem. Just check the SEMARC website or contact one of the Board for help.

Programs

The program committee, (K0JDD, NOUC and NOBM) are always on the lookout for good programs. There are still spots available for 2025. If you have any good ideas for topics and speakers, contact either of the three. Be prepared to offer the right information to a committee member or be authorized to extend an invitation yourself, on behalf of the club. After all, many hands make for lighter work.

RF Exposure Safety

With nicer weather approaching and plans to update or check your antenna systems, members are reminded of their obligations regarding RF safety requirements. In May 2023, the FCC required amateur stations in the US and its possessions to evaluate their operations/antennas for RF exposure. Stations should perform those assessments on a yearly basis.

There are a number of sources to assist in making the RF safety assessment: the ARRL RF exposure calculator; a similar utility on the RSGB website; miklor.com and other club sites. Whichever site or calculator you use to assess RF exposure, you will need to input the following: frequency of use; mode/duty cycle; typical time of transmit and receive: input power; distance to the antenna.

The assessment should be for all modes and frequencies used by the amateur and amateurs are required to have the documentation readily available in their shacks.

So, if you haven't ever performed an assessment, haven't done one in a while, changed the position and type of your antennas, bought an amplifier, etc., spring is a good time to check RF exposure safety. If you have any questions about the process, ask at a meeting or get the advice of a member you trust.

Member Profiles

Our member profiled in this edition of the newsletter is Lincoln Meiers, a Technician class licensee, whose call sign is KFORMX. He became interested in amateur radio after some exposure to it and concluded, "it looked like a fun and interesting thing to do."

We all know that feeling, don't we?

Lincoln has enjoyed meetings and is looking forward to activities that allow him to volunteer and practice his radio skills. In addition to amateur radio, Lincoln is on the cross country and Nordic skiing and track teams at school.

He is active in Youth Government and Robotics at school. He also enjoys gaming.

Lincoln, welcome to the hobby and to SEMARC! We look forward to having you active in the Club.

73

AR (end of message in CW)