



THE TELEGRAPH

May, 2025

April marked another busy month for SEMARC and the action continues into the new month. As this edition of the Telegraph is prepared, many of you are renewing your SkyWarn certification at a gathering of amateurs and SkyWarn staff at the Church. Good for you, good for us and good for the hobby. Thanks to Dave, KA8VHF for again coordinating this session.

NOBM returned to the podium in the April member meeting, discussing a National Traffic System (NTS) update. The League is presently operating under a plan to better integrate ARES, RACES, NTS Digital and the present CW and SSB operations of NTS. The League is calling this NTS 2.0 in the parlance of systems updates.

The overall objective of NTS 2.0 is to serve as the wide area message communications service for ARES, RACES and SkyWarn.

One of the more intriguing aspects of the change is the Radiogram Portal, which allows members of the public to, online, compose a limited message to friends, colleagues and family, across the country. The Portal will frame the message and the intended recipient (s) into the ARRL Radiogram format. "Radiogrammers", veteran traffic handlers, are individually approved by the League to enter the Portal, take the traffic and enter it into the NTS.

Brian concluded his presentation with several suggestions of nets, net times and net frequencies that members could listen to and participate in, to develop a better understanding and skills necessary for traffic handling.

The meeting ended with a brief and enjoyable discussion about the W3IPA WSPR PICO Balloon launch, called to everyone's attention by Dave, KA8VHF. A number of members have been

tracking it ever since. The balloon made it across the Atlantic and looks as if it is headed to European Russia in the latest report.

We note that KA0HYR organized the first 2025 meeting of Washington County ARES. It occurred on April 7 in the admin room of MHealth Fairview's Woodwinds Hospital. Our activities for the year were discussed. It was good to share face time with our served agency. The County has a good working relationship with our ARES group and has been supportive of our efforts. Kudos to John, who retired as EC but came back to lead this ARES unit after W3QLC's untimely death.

Some good news was shared by John, later verified at the April member meeting. Darreck Lisle, K000I, has accepted an appointment as EC for Washington County. Congratulations to Darreck. He has big shoes to fill after the likes of WA3QLC, KA0HYR, K000IO and others (whose names and calls I can't presently recall), since I'm an OM.

Operating Events

The new operator event tentatively scheduled for March at the Fire Station has been re-scheduled to May 17. That day is Armed Forces Day and we have obtained a special event call sign for our operation.

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. At least one member will also have his drone available for antenna work and a QRP setup that new members can see and operate. Chuck, NA0L will also have his RigExpert available so members can continue their learning from the March program on transmission lines, which was presented by N0UC. Be ready for Dick to ask you, once Chuck has obtained a match, what the SWR is at the feedpoint of the antenna.

WD0GUP expressed some disappointment in the turnout for the April foxhunt. Members discussed how we could increase participation for the hunt scheduled in October. Folks will be working on improved turnout for next hunt. Of course, Dan presents at the September member meeting; it will be a hands-on presentation and workshop, and a number of folks will walk away with tape measure beams to be used in subsequent foxhunts. What a deal!!!

DON'T FORGET>>>>> DON'T FORGET>>>>>**Field Day** occurs the last full weekend of June. Dave, KD0IRF, has graciously consented to lead the FD team again. Notice the word "team"? Lots of opportunity for others to help...setup and takedown, charge your batteries to be used for the FD, agree to be the safety officer, help Dave (if he needs it) to set up the network linking operating positions and logs together, work setting up antennas, put together a table for ARRL and SEMARC materials for visitors, handle public service announcements and work, serve as a greeter to visitors, food, etc. . There's a lot to do to make FD successful. Jump right in and help.

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

We are pleased to announce that our May program will be a distance presentation by Gary Mikitin, AF8A. Gary is the amateur radio coordinator for HamSCI, the ham radio citizen science investigation. HamSCI's primary focus is the ionosphere and its characteristics, a topic near and dear to all of us who turn on the radio every day.

We have asked, and Gary has agreed, to include the following in his presentation: background on Ham SCI; a discussion of the personal space weather station, with a call for potential hosts; and his suggestions about linking between collegiate radio clubs and community amateur radio clubs.

The program committee thinks this will be an evening not to miss. NOBM and NA0L will provide a more detailed reminder of the program later in May....in the Sunday bulletin.

ARRL Activities

Most of our members know we are a Special Service Club of the ARRL. We work hard and offer a variety of service and programs to maintain that classification.

This issue of the Telegraph again encourages SEMARC members to periodically review the offerings and benefits of the League.

Just recently, I noted an On-The -Air video offered in conjunction with the magazine of the same name. It is a two-hour session on how to operate your handheld. Give it a looksee. I wish I had something like this with my first handheld. It would have made reading the manual a lot easier.

Another on-the air meeting will focus on FD, with an emphasis on operating FT4 and FT8 and also show how to make antennas for 10, 15 and 20 meters. Go to ARRL.org and register for the program

Even a casual review of the League's website shows the great educational and operating benefits available to members.

Member Profiles

Our member profile section will resume in the next edition of the newsletter.

73 es AR

