



THE TELEGRAPH

October, 2025

September Meeting Update

The club finished September in a flourish, with an emphasis on outdoor amateur radio. First, came a POTA outing at Afton State Park.

Second, there was a great hands-on presentation by Dan, WD0GUP, on foxhunting. Dan provided lots of tips about success in foxhunting and discussed in detail, two different versions of a Yagi to be used in hunting. Best of all (maybe), Dan brought materials for 15-18 of us to construct a small yagi for use in the October foxhunt.

Dan was asked about the conduct of the hunt.....will we be able to walk or will we need to be vehicle mobile as part of the hunt? Dan's response: yes. Where in St. Paul Park will the hunt be held? Dan's response: St. Paul Park. What a guy. Some of us may wish to team up with a partner so one can drive and the other manipulate the antenna, just in case. Dan did stipulate, however, that the rules of the hunt required that the foxes be located on public land. One exception – not under a bridge on Highway 61. :->)

Stay tuned to NAOL's Sunday bulletin for updates.

Operating Events

There are three operating events scheduled for the remainder of 2025, two organized by the club and one offered by member K0JDD.

Still remaining: an October Foxhunt and a December special event station commemorating the anniversary of the first transatlantic communication of a wireless signal by Marconi.

Now, the new opportunity for October. John, K0JDD has offered the use of his station for participation in the CQ WW SSB Contest on October 25 and 26. A number of us accepted John's hospitality previously. John bills his shack as home of the K0JDD superstation. In fact, it ***IS*** a nice setup. This will be a great opportunity for new hams and casual or inexperienced contesters to spin the dial and make some contacts. This is designed to be a casual, fun learning event. John has promised to let N0BM use his microphone. Brian has already begun to research how to hold the mike, press the key and talk. Don't be hesitant, stake out a chance to operate!

Preparedness considerations in September are followed by the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET), which takes place on the first Saturday and Sunday in October. The dimensions and focus of the SET will be guided by the Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Washington County. The EC is one of our club, Darreck Lisle, K0OOI. He was appointed earlier this year and has the able expertise and knowledge of a few previous EC's who now serve as Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs). You know all these folks.....KC0OIO, KA0HYR, N0UC (and others I may have forgotten).

PLEASE be ready to help in the conduct of the SET. Let's set some time aside at the September member meeting to discuss our plans.

PROGRAMS

The Club will finish the year with two timely presentations. Please note your calendars appropriately.

October – Bill Lippert, AC0W, Dakota Division Director, will present an ARRL update. Bill visited us at the FD site in June and talked a little about League activities; expect to hear more at the OCTOBER MEETING. If you have any questions or observations about the League, its priorities and your interests, October will be a good time to open a conversation with Bill.

November – An ARISS presentation by Tanya Anderson, ARISS-USA Director of Education. Hopefully, a few insights that the Club can use in its own educational outreach activities. Thanks to K0JDD for taking the lead on this.

As in the past, no member meeting in December, but the annual meeting in January. Please consider volunteering to help set programs for the new year. Club leadership is always prepared to lean on member suggestions and connections to deliver informative and enjoyable programs. If you have an express desire to have a hands-on technical program, just share your idea with any Board member or K0JDD or N0UC.

Periodic Opportunities to Meet, Participate and Socialize

With an increase in activities, including the SET, contests, and special event stations occurring this fall season, activity will pick up on the bands...and hopefully at SEMARC. That includes all the SEMARC nets, training sessions, and operating events. To plan your fall/early winter activities, check the SEMARC website. For those new or less experienced in the hobby...and would like to join an individual member or help organize an operating session at Fire Station #3, please let any Board member know.

I know, I know.... sometimes we can't plan our operating calendars and just take advantage of "free" time. NA0L does a great job of reminding everyone of their opportunities with the Sunday morning bulletin.

Member Profiles

We have a member who is "just OK". I'm referring to Bruce MacDonald, KF0NOK. Bruce became a ham in August 2023 and holds an extra class license.

Bruce professes he always felt radio was magic. As a paperboy, he delivered the Minnesota Star at dusk on the outskirts of his hometown. Of course, he noted a house with a large tower and lots of wires strung on the semi-rural lot. He and a

friend screwed up their courage and knocked on the door. There, “we met an old-timer who showed them what it was all about.” The OT gave him a copy of the 1956 Radio Amateurs Handbook, that he has to this day.

It kicked off an interest in SWLing and Bruce still has dozens of QSL cards from international broadcasters who, unfortunately, are not as numerous as back then. Then a 4H unit on radio led to his becoming an announcer on a 1000-watt daytime station near his home in northwestern Wisconsin. There, a consulting engineer schooled him in antennas, towers ground planes and audio proofs-of-performance.

Upon retirement, Bruce was interested in learning more about actual radio transmission...and he had some available time. Presto chango! He's now an extra class ham...and a member of SEMARC based on the kindness and skill of our VE Team...and our practice to offer a free membership to successful candidates from our exam sessions.

Bruce and NA0L form the international element of SEMARC...members who make the trip from Minneapolis over here to east metro area to be part of our club. Also of note...a couple of cheese heads as part of the club. Just goes to show you that a willingness to take newcomers under your wing, share with them the magic of radio and give them a chance to find their interests in radio and the club works wonders!

Miscellaneous

I happened to take a look at my log the other night. Some of you know I only switched to computer logging about six years ago. Still have a bunch of ARRL spiral bound logbooks.

For three years, everything was OK. Then my shack laptop experienced a catastrophic drive failure....and the log could not be recovered. Of course, I left it with a vendor and explicit instructions to transfer data to the new laptop. Didn't happen. Maybe one reason for you to consider LOTW, as I would have been able to download my history to the new machine. Lesson maybe learned.

Anyhow, now three years later, I took a look at the stats section of the N3FJP log. In those three years, there have been 5,000 QSOs. 65.1% were in CW; 31.5% were in other digital modes; 3.2% were SSB. (yes, Virginia, I do work some voice).

I've "worked" fifty states and 5 Canadian provinces; 140 DX entities; and 761 Counties. Too bad, as I had worked 2900+ counties in my previous log.

I always enjoy hearing about other hams' operating history...along with any interesting stories they might have. It's been a while since we gathered around the table and shared that sort of information. Let's all take a look at our most recent logs, interesting QSOs and make one of our programs in the new year to share that info with each other.

73 es AR