



Dick Roberts mans the radio during SEMARC's event celebrating Minnesota's 163rd birthday on May 11. (Gazette staff photos by Matt DeBow)

establish a territory that led to statehood on May 11, 1858.

Also having an event in a public park is a way to be visible in the community, "and let them know ham radio is alive and kicking."

"Ham radio is a fun and exciting hobby," Hibberd said. "We attract people of all ages."

The group operated throughout the day on several radio channels, and by 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning the group had contacted people from Canada, North Carolina, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

The group made all those contacts from a thin wire antenna they hung above the park.

The group hit a snag when they suddenly lost making any contact as a



Roger Holger explains the hobby of ham radio at Pioneer Park on May 11.

resident cut down the wire mistakenly believing the group's string was caught in the park's fence.

The hurdle didn't stop the event as the group members were able to fix the antenna by using a large slingshot with a reel

attached shooting a wire into a tree.

This was how the group established the antenna in the first place.

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