

## **SEMARC Update on Programs and Operating Events**

An active late summer and fall are on the horizon for the club. At the July member meeting, the club decided to hold its POTA event on September 14. The event will be held as a multi-site "poker run". Three stations will spread out and operate from different spots in the Mississippi River Recreation Area. Members will visit each spot, operate a little, maybe gain some new experience and select a playing card. At the end of the event, the member/visitor with the best hand will win a nice prize. Chuck, NAOL will lead the charge on this event. Sometime soon, Chuck will finalize all the particulars, revealing the donor of the prize. New members and newer hams will want to participate in this event. BE SURE TO MARK your calendars for that Saturday in September. Also, BE SURE to answer the call when Chuck and his team ask for help.

After the July POTA discussion, John, KOJDD, showed off his communications trailer. It's an impressive operation. We learned a lot about supporting the MS rides here in Minnesota. A couple of members got to operate FT8, one for the first time. I'm sure Chuck, NAOL has posted pictures to the website.

Our program lineup for the fall looks like this:

August: John, KOJDD, in conjunction with Dick, N0UC will give an update on the SEMARC repeaters, with an emphasis on the system capabilities, site locations, access, etc.

September: Matt Holden, K0BBC will present on his DXpedition to Vanuatu Island.

October: Rob Macedo, KD1CY, will discuss the ham radio prep and operational support for the Boston marathon. Rob is SEC for the Eastern Massachusetts Section, SkyWarn coordinator for NWS in Boston/Norton and operating manager of the VOIP Hurricane Net.

November: Dick, N0UC, presents a program on HF propagation and discusses tools that amateurs can use to assess propagation and plan to catch that rare DX or state or grid square. Dick was head of MARS in Minnesota and this presentation grew out of his efforts to improve the knowledge and skills of other operators.

Let's all plan to show up and be a great audience for these presenters!