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## THE SEMARC TELEGRAPH July 2024



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## FIRESIDE CHAT

### **Fireside chat is on hiatus for the summer**

The Fireside Chat is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. They are held at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Webex virtual meeting at:

<https://richardlroberts.my.webex.com/meet/rrobert>

The format is open and will be without an agenda or focus. It will be a great opportunity for both new and experienced hams to ask questions and share experiences. Please join us!

## SEMARC BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting for the board is July 9<sup>th</sup>. We plan to have a virtual meeting. Chuck Hanson will send out an email to all members the day before with instructions on how to join in on the meeting.

## REGULAR MEMBER MEETING

Our next regular member meeting is July 30<sup>th</sup>. No program has been planned at this time.

**HAPPY 4TH**



## NOTICE: 146.985 Repeater

146.985 Repeater is out of service for repair and users should switch to the 147.18 South with 74.4 tone or 147.18 north with 100 tone **till further notice**. Our Wednesday will be held there.

Dick NØUC

### **~ 146.985 Update ~ Getting Close**

The repeater has been relocated to FS3 (Cottage Grove Fire Station #3) but not installed waiting for paperwork from the city. When spring arrives, snow melts and paperwork catches up with verbal permission, we will install the new repeater antenna.

This will allow us to turn the 146.985 back on for use.

Once on we will plot the new coverage area hopefully returning handheld usability to our group.

Dick NØUC

South East Metro Amateur Radio Club  
Dick Roberts, NØUC  
1655 - 68th Street West  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077-2222  
651-208-0889 [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

[Cont. on page 3](#)



## MEMBER MEETING PROGRAM SURVEY

The Board is always looking for program ideas for the member meetings. What would you like to see for programs this year? Please send your ideas to **Dick Roberts** [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net) and he will bring your ideas to the Board meeting.

## ARES REPORT

Just a reminder that our ARES repeater frequencies are 147.180, PL 74.4 in Newport, or PL 100 in Forest Lake.

## INFORMAL CW ROUND-TABLE NET

Every Wednesday evening at 1900 hours on 28.110 MHz

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT 2M NET

Our club holds a 2-meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. It is an informal, but controlled, net on the 146.985 repeater. We are in the need for several alternate Net Control Stations who can fill in when one of the scheduled NCS is not available.

If you are interested, please contact:

**Dick Roberts** at  
[n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

## THE DIGITAL CORNER

Digital Net follows SEMARC net on Wed pm.

Go to [www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com) for software & help.

Fldigi v. 3.23.09 Flmsg v. 2.0.17  
Flamp v. 2.1.03 Flwrap v. 1.3.4  
Meet on 146.985 and QSY to 144.950.

Mode is BPSK125. Other modes possible.

Sign up with **N0UC**  
[n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net) for net bulletins & help.

## Did you know ...

The SEMARC webpage contains links to **many** websites that are helpful to new hams and experienced ones.

Visit [www.semarc.org/P10\\_UL.htm](http://www.semarc.org/P10_UL.htm).

## Stillwater Amateur Radio Association

**SARA** has graciously welcomed SEMARC members to attend their events, and more...

[Round Robin Ragchew on the SARA repeater](#)

Two Meter Tuesday (TMT) Round Robin Ragchew on the SARA repeater

147.060 - info to access the repeater is here [W0JH Repeater](#)

Tuesday's - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

[Social/Special Meetings](#)

Thursday Evenings: Social and informal "Eyeball QSO" sessions from 6PM to 8PM, usually at the Stillwater Public Library.

See [radiohm.org](http://radiohm.org) for weekly updates

## VE Session Report

We are now at our new location

[St Luke Lutheran Church, 7000 Hinton Ave S, Cottage Grove](#)

See you there,

Dan.

Contact me @ 651-247-2164 or [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Dan Franz, WDØGUP

## VE News

We will be normalizing VE operations as it relates to COVID. For the time being I will still preregister candidates and VE's. That means no walk-ins but we also will not have head count restrictions. I also have incorporated a self-survey and ask anyone that answers yes to any of the questions to call me.

Thanks to all VE's that helped us get through this tough COVID time.

Dan Franz, WDØGUP

Any questions call the club hot line at 651-769-0358 or email [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com).

## Planning Calendar

July 9 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Board Meeting	August 13 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Board Meeting
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	(S) VE Test & B'fast	August 17 <sup>th</sup>	(S) VE Test & B'fast
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Club Meeting	August 27 <sup>th</sup>	(T) Club Meeting

## SEMARC VE Sessions

VE exam sessions are held **every 3rd Saturday** (except December). The next VE session is on **July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Exams are held at 9:00 am at [St Luke Lutheran Church Cottage Grove](#). Call 651-769-0358 for information, to register or to arrange for special needs. Information is posted on the webpages also.

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## Wednesday: SEMARC Net(s)

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June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00 PM, Weekly CW net on 28.110

8:00 PM, Weekly 2-meter net on the 147.180 repeater (PL 74.4 south and 100.0 north).

Winlink net, following the 2-meter net (above).

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## SEMARC at Groups.io

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### SEMARC at Groups.io

This is an email groups service that enables users to post and share messages to all who have signed in to the group. Sign up information is listed below under "Contacts".

#### SEMARC Contacts

- Groups.io - Post your messages at <https://groups.io/g/SEMARC> If you're not a member of the message group yet, contact [SEMARC+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:SEMARC+subscribe@groups.io)
- Facebook - Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1525920597716897>
- Twitter - Follow us at @w0cgm

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## Winlink Training Net

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On April 6, 2022 we began be holding a Winlink training net after our regular Wednesday two meter activity net for persons interested in using the Winlink programs and for ARES members to improve their proficiency in using the tool during emergency communication events. This net will start after completion of the activity and last about an hour.

The net will start on the 147.18 repeater to collect a roster and setup the instructions for the training and practice. We will then move to the MN ARES digital frequency to do the hands on portion of the net. We will be concentrating on point to point communication. Since during most communication emergencies the loss of the internet is very likely the need for P2P is high. During a communications emergency it is all hands on deck so you don't need to be an ARES member to help out. It is easier to learn now than during the emergency. We will be learning how to move traffic via P2P to a local destination or to a gateway station that has internet connectivity. The use of forms and message content is for a different training segment for another time not this net.

Before net time make yourself acquainted with winlink and winlink express. Take time to view the youtube links and install the needed software. We will be using VARA FM during the hands on portion of the nets. The links are provided below. There will be a number of questions that will pop up and we will work through those as the nets go along. As these are training nets hopefully your questions will get answers. As you have heard many times practice make perfection or as us older fellows say "practice helps us remember". If you have questions on ARES send to John Regan KA0HYR [jeregan@gmail.com](mailto:jeregan@gmail.com), about the net [n0uc@comcast.net](mailto:n0uc@comcast.net)

CU on the nets, 73

Dick N0UC



In addition to the afore mentioned Winlink "active" training nets, there will be "passive" practice nets for participants to continue to learn how to configure their stations, and to practice their skills using the Winlink Express software. You simply send a Winlink message to net control to verify that your system is set up correctly and working. If there is not an active training net after the SEMARC Activity Net, you can assume the passive net will be running. The details needed to check into the passive net are here:

<https://paulkanikula.wixsite.com/home/winlink-net>

Any comments or questions about the passive nets can be sent to KF9CP at [paulkanikula@gmail.com](mailto:paulkanikula@gmail.com) or you can put it out on the groups.io for the benefit of everyone.

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## Membership Meetings

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Are held in Cottage Grove

[St Luke Lutheran Church, 7000 Hinton Ave S, Cottage Grove](#)

We meet on the LAST Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **Except June & December**

Watch for updates and more information in the Sunday Bulletin email message.

New members, especially those who passed one of our VE exam sessions, are encouraged to attend so that we can meet you in person.

We hope to see you there.

(As is our tradition anyone with a birthday in the meeting month is asked to bring cookies or other snack to share.)

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## New Club Members

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New Club members can:

Keep in touch, post amateur related articles, sell amateur related items or asked for help and/or questions of other members.

This is a private network for our member's only and does not allow incoming or outgoing traffic to other networks.

Members will be getting an email requesting them to join and they can opt in or out. This will occur in the first week of November

Dick NØUC

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## Club Apparel

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You have seen some members wearing SEMARC caps, shirts and jackets. If you would like to order one for yourself, visit our website at [ApparelOrderForm.pdf \(semarc.org\)](#), then contact our order coordinator Dan Franz at [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com). Dan will accept your order and payment, then order the item(s) from our vendor Advanced Sportswear in Newport.

SEMARC has wearables identifying members with their name and call sign. We offer a cap, shirts and a jacket. If you would like to order one for yourself, visit our website for the [Order Form](#), then contact our coordinator Dan Franz at [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com). Dan will accept your order and payment, then order the item(s) from our vendor: Advanced Sportswear in Newport.

73, NA0L

Chuck Hanson

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## SEMARC Operating Events

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SEMARC hosts many activities during the year: on-air nets (CW, FM, Digital); meetings, both in person and virtual; special virtual meetings like Fireside Chats; volunteer exams, and, **OPERATING EVENTS!**

Operating events provide chances for club members to meet, practice their operating skills and have fun. Our operating events are also good opportunities for members without stations or who are new to the hobby, to gain lots of experience in a fun atmosphere. In each of the events described below, a club lead is identified, so that everyone knows who to contact to offer their help or find out how to participate.

[Check here for future events](#)

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## WCARES Activities This Year

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Our ARES Unit participates in SEMARC's weekly 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening 2-meter nets on the 147.180 repeater with a PL tone of 74.4 in Newport and PL tone 100.0 in Forest Lake. We also use this pair of repeaters for our monthly 2-meter net on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining Washington County ARES should contact John Regan KA0HYR [jeregan3@gmail.com](mailto:jeregan3@gmail.com).

John Regan KA0HYR  
Emergency Coordinator  
Washington County ARES

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## Washington County ARES

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Welcome to the Washington County ARES website (ARES Unit 163MN01).... Face-to-face ARES activities are in suspension until further notice due to Covid-19.... Check the two ARES Digital Nets in Minnesota and participate; Info under the **Events tab** gives details... 60 Meter Interoperability exercises scheduled = see events tab and participate with us!!....The 147.180 Repeater is running at the Newport site (PL 74.4) and Forest Lake site(PL 100); we use this repeater for drills and activations. This covers the entire county and is in our WashCoARES Emergency Communications Plan... Support our Amateur Radio Clubs through your participation.

The ARRL, upon the recommendations of Minnesota Section Manager Bill Mitchell AE0EE and Minnesota Section Emergency Coordinator Benton Jackson K0BHJ, has appointed John Regan KA0HYR as the new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Washington County. Joe will be working with former Washington County EC John Regan KA0HYR for the transition. A meeting of Washington County ARES will be scheduled for the Spring.

Anyone interested in joining Washington County ARES should contact John Regan KA0HYR [jeregan3@gmail.com](mailto:jeregan3@gmail.com)

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## METRO SKYWARN

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### Metro Skywarn Weekly Radio Check-In

**Wednesdays 8:30pm – 8:45pm**

Join Metro Skywarn for our weekly amateur radio check-in at **8:30 p.m. every Wednesday** during our active Net Control Station rotation schedule (thru October 16th).

These check-ins will be done on the **146.700- PL 127.3** WC0HC Downtown Minneapolis repeater.

This is your opportunity to **test your equipment** out outside of an active severe weather net. You can also ask the net control operators questions and just say hello!



## Field Day



Field day June 2024 – a club activity with 2 EFHW antennas. One placed from a tower with the wire running North/South. Dave Schultz (KB0SED) delivered the tower and worked with the set up. The other was placed on a tree with the wire running East/West. And Dick (N0UC) took the lead getting the wire over the tree – an activity that used a drone for the “heavy” lifting. Neither EFHW used a counterpoise. The GOTA station used a Cushcraft R5 vertical mounted on a tripod in the driveway of Fire Station #3, maybe 10' in the air. The general consensus was that the antenna set up for this event was the best configuration to date.



I say “most” everyone as we did not take a vote. It is difficult to find fault when you have a working antenna that takes you from 10M to 80M without leaving the chair. Results are not too surprising from a band perspective: 20M delivered 54% of the contacts and 40M had about 30%. Another perspective is that CW had 51% of the contacts and FT-8 had 29%. Again, no one was counting as they were too busy working. Okay – these stats are courtesy of a web site per John (K0JDD) has given us access to. Anyone participating in [groups.io](https://groups.io) has access to that data/information.

Importantly, Dave (KD0IRF) was the lead for the event and delivered an over-the-top club activity featuring a home made meal for bragging rights. And the conference room TV displayed a map showing our progress in [networked] real-time. Oh, and Dave (KE0HAL) worked with Cottage Grove to reserve the park – this is one of those background tasks that we all forget, because we have members that think of these things! Thanks Dave – and you know which one I mean.



And and and hey – Chris (KD0UFC) brought solar panels. How cool is that? This has been added to my wish list. Nothing better than to top off the battery while busy working.

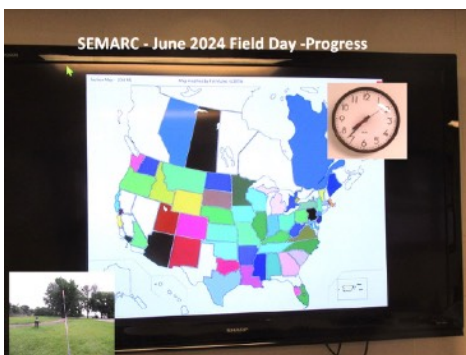
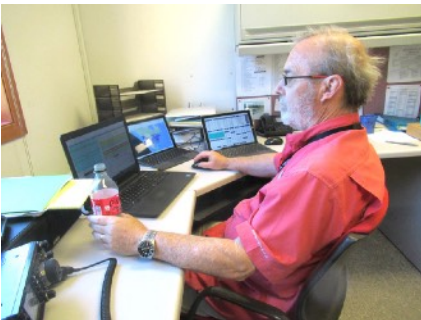


## Field Day



The event is not a competition. I had one QSO. The CW people had 420 Q's and the FT-8 people had 306 ... not that anyone was counting, right? But really, some club members are a bit competitive in the sense that everyone wants to improve. We like intensity. We like a return on our time investment. And everyone agrees the concept driving our field day is encapsulated within one word: fun

We need to re-sign these people to the Winter Field Day.





## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

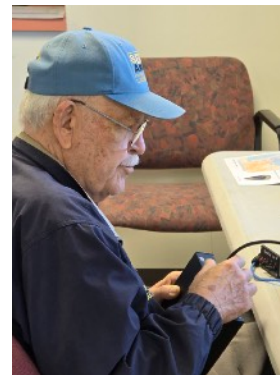


One of the most valuable experiences in a Special Event (like W2W) is the teamwork required - and that teamwork requires leadership and a personal commitment toward a goal. Organizing the W2W event included locating and reserving the special call, registering and promoting the event, preparing the station (literature, etc.), setting an antenna & configuring a transceiver, plus considering refreshments... and more. The greatest unknown is the attendance. That is the most stressful part - any one component can be quantified and resources directed to the solution. Brian (NOBM) made it work.

John (K0JDD) provided this link: <https://k0jdd.netlogger.org/sh5/SEMARC/W2W/index.htm>. (Be sure to use the [Previous](#) & [Next](#) buttons to see all the data and maps).

Note the 148 callsigns during the weekday (during business hours) activity - and the 2,312 km (1,437 miles) average distance, and that 12 countries were contacted. Extraordinary results, and a noteworthy website to peruse.

The event - midweek and midday - had 13 visitors to include members from the Stillwater club.

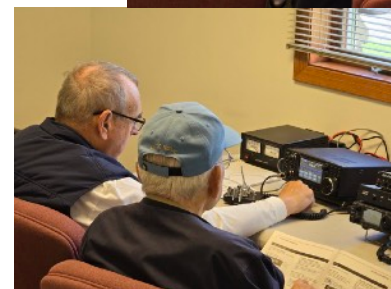


Brian's (NOBM) writeup that was distributed to Cottage Grove agencies (Dave KEOHAL):

### Amateur Radio Operators Commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the South East Metro Amateur Radio Club (SEMARC) will commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The FCC has approved a special callsign for this radio event, W2W. During the event, club members will attempt to contact as many amateur radio operators across the U.S. and other countries to recognize and remember the contributions of U.S. and other allied troops involved in the operation. On June 6, 1944 troops from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom and other allies landed 156,000 soldiers on the beaches of Normandy. It was the largest invasion of that time and within a few days, 360,000 troops, 50,000 vehicles and 100,000 tons of equipment had landed. By August, 1944, all of northern France had been liberated and, in the spring of 1945, the Allies had defeated the Germans. During this event, we remember the bravery and service of those soldiers, sailors and airmen. The event will take place at Cottage Grove Station #3, which is located at 7500 Langley Ave S. in Cottage Grove, MN. Veterans and members of the public are welcome to visit. Hours of operation will be from 10:00AM until 5:00 PM.

SEMARC thanks the City of Cottage Grove and its Fire Department for allowing us access to and use of the station for this event.





## WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

Thank you to [Bruce Horn WA7BNM](#) for the sharing of his calendar  
Main website <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>



### Current Worldwide Contests

[click map for list](#)

