

Dakota Division 2024 Annual Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

Hamfests:

During 2024 there were 23 hamfests in the division with 19 of them being an ARRL sanctioned hamfest. ARRL representation was at all 19 of the ARRL sanctioned events, being the Section Manager, Vice Director, or Director. I attended 13 events while Vice Director Lynn Nelson attended 4 events.

The ARRL ND Section Convention hosted by the Souris Valley ARC in Minot, ND had a successful second year and hope to build on that for the third year. The second year for the ARRL MN State Convention, hosted by the MN Amateur Radio Consortium, saw a downturn in attendance. The group realized they didn't put the effort in the second year they did the first year and plan to push harder for 2025 to push attendance up. They would like to outgrow their present site in a couple of years.

In 2025 the Dakota Division will have five ARRL Conventions, the division, 3 state, and 1 section in North Dakota. The ARRL SD State Convention falls on the same weekend as the second board meeting in July so only the SD Section Manager will be representing the ARRL at that.

Field Day:

My Field Day plans were abruptly changed at 2 AM Saturday morning with local law enforcement attempting to warn the neighborhood of flash flooding due to the heavy rains received the previous day. Looking outside the street in front of our house was now a shallow river. As a result, I canceled my plans and stayed home to deal with the water issues. Fortunately, there was no damage, just some minor water seepage into the basement. Hopefully summer 2025 will be better.

Clubs:

Clubs have mostly returned to their pre-Covid schedule. While most have moved back to in-person meetings some are doing hybrid meetings where some members are able to participate via Zoom. Requests to give a presentation at club meetings continue to decrease. When travel isn't a consideration, presentations are done in-person. These tend to get the best engagement with more questions and interaction than via Zoom.

Division Newsletter:

The weekly Division Happenings newsletter remains very popular with division members based on comments I continue to receive about it. With the IT issues I've changed to two issues per month and sometimes a third. This newsletter focuses on what clubs are doing in the division for the upcoming two or three weeks. This includes special event stations, VE test sessions, hamfest and other things of general interest to division membership. While I do discuss a few things happening with the ARRL that may be of interest the focus remains on what is happening inside the division.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Lippert
ACOW
Director Dakota Division

Lynn Nelson
WOND
Vice Director Dakota Division