

Dakota Division 2022 Annual Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

Hamfests:

Almost all hamfests in the division were open for business this year. There were of twenty-one ARRL sanctioned hamfests in the Dakota Division in 2022. Seventeen of these had some form of ARRL representative in attendance, either a Section Manager, Vice Director, or Director. I attended 14 events while Vice Director Lynn Nelson attended 4 events

The highlight of the hamfest season was the Dakota Division Convention host by the Red River Radio Amateurs in Fargo, ND. ARRL President Rick Roderick was present greeting many of the locals. Rick was also the keynote speaker at the ARRL Forum, which was standing room only with close to 200 in attendance. Rick and Holly commented that was one of the largest ARRL Forum crowds they've seen in a long time.

Field Day:

This year I targeted eastern North and South Dakotas and northwestern Minnesota. Doing so I managed to visit 11 field day sites. This required 1,260 miles and about 20 hours of driving over three days. As last year people were pleased to see a ARRL representative visit their site. Below is a photo from one of the sites. If you read the caption you will see I left an impression.



SPECIAL VISITOR — Lake Area Radio Klub had several visitors, including American Radio Relay League Dakota Division Director Bill Lippert, ACØW, of Austin, Minn., visiting its Field Day-2022 site. From left are (seated) Todd, NØIP; Nolan David, KFØGKS; Adam Zimmel, WØZML; Trace Sorenson, KFØJKA; (standing) President Joe, KKØSD; Lippert; and Secretary/Treasurer Denny, WØDGW. WØDGW said LARK has never had a division director visit its Field Day site in the 49 years he has attended the annual event. David, Zimmel and Sorenson visited from Sioux Falls.

Clubs:

Most clubs were back to in person meetings at the start of the year. Local governments restricted a few clubs from in person meetings until the fall. Several clubs are taking advantage of their on-line capabilities and have hybrid meetings, which is allow members who can't attend in person stay connected and engaged with the club.

This year I managed giving presentations at 11 club meeting by being there in person. I also attend several remotely. The in-person meetings people are much more interactive with many asking questions or just making general comments.

In the spring of 2022, a group was formed from club presidents in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The goals of the group are:

- Facilitate better communications between the clubs
- Develop ways to assist each other for the betterment of amateur radio in the area
- Share ideas that have been successful to attract new members and new people to amateur radio
- To develop a large hamfest in the metro area that will eventually host the Dakota Division Convention.

Currently the metro area hosts 6 tailgate hamfests and 1 indoor event that is in a small hockey rink. This is a big undertaking for the group. The Minnesota Section Manager and I involved with their meetings helping provide guidance and suggestions. They are hoping to have their first event November 2023.

Section:

The Minnesota and South Dakota section managers returned for another term when they had no opposition to run against. The North Dakota section manager had some changes in his household that made it difficult for him to continue his role. While the first call for nominations went unanswered there was an individual interest who initially failed to meet all requirements. During the second call for nomination, he became eligible and filed. With no opposition Ralph, NORDF was appointed to finish the term of the outgoing manager until his term starts later in the spring.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Lippert
ACOW
Director Dakota Division

Lynn Nelson
WOND
Vice Director Dakota Division