



# Sussex Repeater

OCTOBER 2024

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

## Local Weekly Nets

Shacktime Ragchew: Saturday 8pm  
443.200 (+) 156.70

SARA Club Net: Tuesday 8pm  
147.090 (+) 156.7

Nanticoke Club Net: Monday 7:30pm

Lewes Club Net: Wednesday 7:30pm  
147.330(+) 156.7 (D-Star)

Delaware Traffic Net: Mon – Sat  
6:30pm Freq: 3.904

Delaware Emergency Net:  
Sunday, 6:30pm Freq: 3.904

Sussex ARES Net: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
7pm 147.090(+) 156.7

Monitor SKYWARN weather net on  
147.090(+) 156.7

System Fusion repeater frequencies:  
Millsboro 449.825  
Seaford 145.210

Mt Joy Repeater  
443.200 (+5) 156.7 PL

WGMD Tower (Fusion)  
East Coast Room 443.550 (+) 156.70

County Emergency Simplex  
145.510 & 144.915

Winlink Simplex 145.050 & 441.00  
Winlink peer-to-peer 145.020

President: Paul Ross (NR3P)  
Vice Pres: Deborah Libertore (AJ3L)  
Treasurer: Rick Long (N3RTL)  
Secretary: Paul Reiger (KC3OIN)

[www.sussexamateurradio.com](http://www.sussexamateurradio.com)

Email: [SussexDeRadio@gmail.com](mailto:SussexDeRadio@gmail.com)

## October General Meeting

Our October meeting will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024. FCC testing begins at 5:30 pm. You can purchase dinner beginning at 5:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.



## THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFAST RETURNS to Pizza King Millsboro

All hams are welcome to join the ever-changing group of hams at the Millsboro Pizza King, 358 E Dupont Hwy, Millsboro, DE 19966. every Thursday morning at 8:00.

## Hurricane Frequencies

20mtr 14.325(SSB) Mhz Hurricane Watch Net  
40mtr 7.268Mhz WaterWay Net (Maritime)  
80mtr 3.815Mhz Caribbean Net  
Tarheel Emergency Net 7232

VHF/UHF: Listen on Phone App  
147.470Mhz simplex (Listen only NHC ops)  
147.000 (-) repeater PL 94.9  
444.600 (+) repeater PL 94.8

Anyone with information for the good of the club to be included in the newsletter, please feel free to contact:  
[Barbara.dean@comcast.net](mailto:Barbara.dean@comcast.net)

## 2024 FOXHUNT RESULTS

Everyone got their equipment ready to find that wiley fox.



### Strategy Time



The first hunt the hunters were given a general direction and headed out. Herb Quick, W3BQ, found the fox. He had never participated in a foxhunt before!

### Then what happened?



The real Heros of the Hunt rang the dinner bell.



In the afternoon there was another hunt. This hunt was considerably short: Jess Labosky, KC3ZIY, located the fox in less than 5 minutes.

### THANK YOU TO THE COOKS







## Delaware Section Manager

**Steven Keller KC3DSO**  
**Greetings from Sussex County**

Fall has officially arrived, bringing with it the vibrant colors of changing leaves, cooler temperatures, and lighter traffic—a welcome shift for those of us in Delaware. However, for many others, this season has presented significant challenges. September is the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, and Hurricane Helene, a powerful Category 4 storm with winds reaching 140 mph, has left a trail of devastation. The storm tore through Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas, spanning over 800 miles and claiming more than 90 lives. Approximately 2.5 million people remain without power, with widespread disruptions to internet and cell service. Helene's torrential rains—nearly three feet in some areas—turned roads into rivers and wiped entire towns off the map. This catastrophic event highlights the critical importance of disaster preparedness, not just as individuals but as members of the Amateur Radio Service (ARS). While monitoring active repeaters in the affected regions, I've heard distressing accounts of citizens trapped in rising floodwaters, seeking refuge in upper levels of buildings, and running out of food and water while being cut off from essential resources. Emergency Operations Centers are working tirelessly to coordinate rescue efforts, manage resources, and relay health and welfare messages. This situation reinforces the need for continuous training to ensure that we are ready to respond when disaster strikes. One ham radio operator relayed a message urging anyone “with a battery, wire, and radio” to assist, as ARS

resources were stretched thin. Another operator, after listening to the Net Control Station for two days, asked how he could join the group. As an ARS member, it's likely that your neighbors and community would turn to you for help during such emergencies. Even if you're not a member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), it's crucial to stay sharp and practice your radio skills. Now is the time to consider joining ARES and gaining the training and experience needed to assist when disaster strikes.

Section Manager Workshop at ARRL HQ As Section Manager I attend the Section Manager Workshop at the ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. The class provided insight into the workings of the league as well as Radiosport and Regulatory information, Education and Learning, Publication and Editorial, and several other topics. A tour of the ARRL's electronics testing facilities showed where all of the rigs in QST are tested. A tour of W1AW station allowed me to operate making about two dozen contacts before I had to close the station. ARRL member or not, ARRL HQ is a great stop if you are traveling nearby. On my trip I was able to activate 8 POTA parks!

The returning DELMARVA Fox Hunt was a great success! The Sussex Amateur Radio Association (SARA) hosted for the first time in seven years the DELMARVA Fox Hunt. About 15 radio operators and guests met at Trap Pond State Park in Laurel. The day was being run by Eric, WG3J. The morning started with a beautiful weather and donuts at 9am. Upon setting up three POTA stations

(20m SSB, 40m SSB, and 10m CW) which ran all day, the group had a quick class on how to participate in a Fox Hunt. Two hunts were completed before a great lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers and other picnic fare. A third hunt after lunch allowed plenty of opportunities for attendees to learn about Radio Direction Finding (RDF)

Last Reminder... Simulated Emergency Test – October 26 The Delaware Section will be participating in the Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The SET will start off with goals and objectives for the entire Delaware Section which will cover the first half. Then each county will run their own goal/objective specific drill for the second half. Contact your Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) on how to participate. The list Delaware Section Staff with contact information can be found at

<https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/delaware>

ARRL Service Disruption Update - DXCC Log Book of The World, LOTW, is back online and running at full capacity with no data loss. The DXCC online system is still not working however the ARRL HQ is accepting applications. Applicants can mail their application (online at <https://www.arrl.org/dxcc-forms>) with cards for processing. Once the DXCC System returns to service it will be several months before the applications are processed as a large volume of applications will need to be processed. Any questions can be directed to the ARRL Radiosport Department. Contact information can be found on [arrl.org](http://arrl.org). •

CQ World Wide SSB Contest – Worldwide contest. Visit [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com) for rules and other messages.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members

Join me in welcoming the latest additions to our vibrant community:

- KC3CTQ: Jon Malenfant
- KC3DPG: Thomas Weaver
- KC3ZSK: Philip Ruff
- KC3ZSL: Dylan Harding
- KC3ZSM: Youngsluck Sheen
- KC3ZSN: Khader Shaik
- KC3ZSS: Charles Buchta

Let's Get Together!

Staying active in the amateur radio community is key to enhancing your skills and staying connected with fellow operators. Whether through participating in local events, joining contests, or taking part in online forums, there are many ways to keep learning and sharing knowledge. Engaging in regular communication, experimenting with new technology, or mentoring new operators can enrich your experience. Let's continue to support each other and enjoy all the opportunities amateur radio has to offer—keeping the spirit of discovery and collaboration alive! As always feel free to contact me about anything radio and hope to hear you on the air.

73,  
Steven Keller  
Delaware Section Manager  
• Email: [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com)  
• Cell: 240.515.0620  
• Office: 302.604.7470



## WHO IS IN CHARGE?

A fair question, I believe, and if we're talking EMCOMM, and easy one to answer. Per the many FEMA directives, all response and recovery operations in the US are to be managed under the tenets of the Incident Command System (ICS). With its "single line of authority" concept, who is in charge is the individual at the top of the chart! For Sussex County, that would be our new Director of Public Safety, Robbie Murray. Under him is Deputy Director EM, Tim Cooper.

AUXCOMM falls under Tim's direction. For me as the Auxiliary Communication Leader (ACL) for AUXCOMM, I couldn't be happier! (the use of 'familiar names' is deliberate, that is how they wish to be addressed)

If you've been following the happenings across the country, the great flagship for ARES, the State of Florida, in one administrative move, mandated AUXCOMM as the auxiliary communication protocol for all EOC's in the state. To their credit, they also provided multiple opportunities for volunteers to take the FEMA developed AUXCOMM course. Many states have now adopted and developed the AUXCOMM program to support their response plans, with more every year. Why, because it gives them control over who is in their facility, and how things are done. Very few hams in Delaware have taken the course. Jerry Palmer, N3KRX and I took it the last time it was offered in Delaware, with most of the rest of the class from out of state. It is an intense three days, and thorough in covering auxiliary EMCOMM for EOC's. It also

stresses the application of ICS to EMCOMM volunteers.

You cannot have effective effort if the direction for that effort is fractured and split. We've all seen the bickering and petty arguments that seem to be more frequent in the amateur radio community. There also seems to be "turf wars" breaking out. This will not do the image of amateur radio any good at all.

Those of you in HOA's want concessions. What are you doing to show the management and other members of your community you deserve them? Are you using your license and skills to serve your community at large? What is the image the general public has, if any, of "Hams"? Have you recently participated in a public service event where the public gets to see you "helping and serving"? There are opportunities that will put you out there and visible. How do you expect to be considered competent in your skills, if you're not out there practicing them? And, it might also help if you availed yourself of training opportunities that are offered every so often, and unfortunately not very well attended. You might find them helpful. I have heard complaints membership in local ham clubs is stagnant or declining. Think about the bickering and back stabbing that goes on in your group, might that have an effect? Are you welcoming to all, regardless of their views and personalities? Is there honest dialogue with differing viewpoints? There is a strength in diversity! You would do well to embrace it.

If someone new, or an old-timer, comes into your meeting, are you welcoming to him/her? There's your increase in membership and income from dues! Public service events are some of the best training opportunities; provide some of the best positive public exposure; and a great place to put a good face on amateur radio. Why aren't you out there participating? "I don't want to be out there all day", "it's boring at times", "you can't chit-chat with the other hams"; are some of the lame excuses that I've heard over the years. There's some validity in the comments, but that's the nature of public service in an event running safely and well. On the other side of the question, when was the last time you actually had to operate in a full scale, the "brown stuff has hit the fan", disaster scenario? Do you really know what it's like to have to operate around the clock for days? Since there hasn't been a 'real' disaster (not that I'm wishing for one) in Sussex County since the "Double Blizzards" of 2010, therefore most of you have no idea what can happen. That little scenario required 'round the clock' operation for over five days by hams, and in most of the rural area of the county there was no power and a lot of landline phones were out of service. Now fast forward fourteen years, consider the county's growth, and what will it be like if Mother Nature decides to bless us again with her bounty of white stuff? Did you see on the news the effect of Hurricane remnants in North Carolina and Tennessee? It happened real fast for them! The Sussex AUXCOMM Group is operating in two large public service events before the end of 2024. The Apple Scrapple Festival the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month, and the Rehoboth Marathon on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Here's your chance to get some of that 'real world' public service experience. Elsewhere in the

newsletter is an announcement from Bill Saunders N3ID for Apple Scrapple; consider doing it. You will probably learn something, and might even have fun!

## **CERT**

What is a Community Emergency Response Teams, affectionately known by the acronym CERT? It is a FEMA sponsored program that trains volunteers in a community, to respond to emergencies in their communities. The training includes basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. CERTs can provide that initial and critical support, before the first responders arrive, to help victims, and organize volunteers at the disaster site. CERTs can also help with non-emergency projects to improve community resilience to disaster.

It is being re-established in Sussex County, and growing at a surprising pace, under the direction of the management at the Sussex EOC, with help from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). The then emergency Operations Director, Joe Thomas in January of this year, appointed John Ferguson, K3PFW, and Auxiliary Communications Leader (ACL) for the EOC, who directs the AUXCOMM Program, as the County CERT Coordinator. There are now three active CERT teams in County. The team in Ocean View is sponsored by the Ocean View Police Department, The Angola Bay and Estate communities have the ABE CERT Team, and the newest Team is the Belle Terre Team in Lewes. The three teams account for nearly 90 active CERT members.

The training offered locally in Sussex by certified instructors is free, as well as a

basic CERT Pack presented as part of the training. There have been 32 students trained since January. The next class will tentatively be scheduled early next year. Combining CERT and AUXCOMM is sort of a natural and several of the students have been active participants in the AUXCOMM program. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a discussion of Public Service in the AUXCOMM Column. Combining these two elements of communication and basic emergency response is definitely a 'value added' product, and something that should be considered by anyone interested in using there ham radio skills in public service. Remember, serving your community in time of need is one of the reasons you have your license privileges. Coming in the New Year will be a renewed approach and a more robust program by DEMA to promote and support CERT Training. The Statewide CERT Council is meeting in November to consider and approve the new plan. CERT Training is something you might want to add to your New Year's Resolution list. For more information send an inquiry to [sussexcountyde.cert@gmail.com](mailto:sussexcountyde.cert@gmail.com)

Later, 73  
John Ferguson K3PFW  
Auxiliary Comm. Leader  
Sussex County (DE) EOC

## **Amateur Radio Emergency Service**

This summer, ARES has had a few challenging situations. We have been continuing with our nets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and our

meetings on the second Wednesday of the even months at Sussex Tech High School in Georgetown. These meetings are both in person and on Zoom.

We have had three Skywarn nets this summer. If there is a Skywarn net, remember, you do not need to be a Skywarn operator to check in to these nets. We may need information from your area so check in and you can learn

In June, ARES held a Skywarn exercise checking on members abilities to reach repeaters and working on some simplex messaging. There are always lessons to be learned and practicing these skills helps to build confidence for operating in emergency situations.

We also took part in two section wide Hospital exercises to test communications throughout the hospital system. Our EOC along with DEMA were also activated during these exercises.

We will be having our ARES meeting on October 9th and will be introducing the new OEM Deputy Director and discuss our roll in Emergency Communications in Sussex County. We will also be discussing the SET which will be on Saturday, October 26th.

The STE will a combination of Section wide communications and later it will transition into county wide events. We will be utilizing the SARA repeater, 147.090, for part of this exercise along with utilizing Winlink operations.

If you want information about ARES, please visit our web page at [sussexcountyares.org](http://sussexcountyares.org).

73, Jim Baker, N3XKJ  
EC, Sussex County ARES