



Sussex Repeater

February 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 8pm
146.715 (-) 156.7

Lewes Club Net: Wednesday 7:15pm
147.330(+) 156.7

Delaware Traffic Net: Mon – Sat
5:30pm Freq: 3.905

Delaware Emergency Net:
Sunday, 5:30pm Freq: 3.905

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

Monitor SKYWARN weather on
147.090(+) 156.7

System Fusion repeater frequencies:
Millsboro 449.825
Seaford 145.210

MT Joy Repeater (fusion capable)
443.200 (+5) 156.7 PL

WGMD Tower (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

Email: SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com

February Meeting

This month's meeting will be on Thursday, February 15, 2024. FCC testing begins at 6:00 pm. You can purchase dinner beginning at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.



2024 HAMFEST

In addition to the fun we have, the purpose of the annual Sussex Amateur Radio Association Hamfest is to raise money to fund necessary repairs and maintenance of our repeaters.

Jamie Ashton is Chairman of the Hamfest Committee and he asks that anyone who would like to help with the event, please email hamfestdelaware@gmail.com OR

To help with

Contact

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Entry/ Ticket area | Wayne Brittingham (N3UFG) |
| Chinese/Silent Auction | Lars Spencer (NS3F) |
| Parking/Tailgate | John Low (K3JL) |

Hamfest will be April 20, 2024
at Georgetown Cheer Center
Georgetown, DE.



FROM THE DESK OF Paul Ross, President

February 2024

Six more weeks of winter- just over a month left of the cold damp! BUT Puxetawny Phil did NOT see his shadow and he is of the opinion there will be an early spring.

And, I don't know about you, but I have some antenna repair work to do. My Kenwood TS-590S will no longer tune-up on 80 meters. Wind, water, freeze damage? The HF wire antenna is an end-fed half wave with a 49:1 balun. It worked well on 80 for awhile....

Quite often, when an electrical or electronic component does not work, a wiring connection is the culprit. Solid connectivity is the key. Without that, resistance occurs and heat happens and current values change.

Solid connectivity and communication is key also, to reduced resistance and increased efficiencies in personal endeavors and interpersonal relationships. Think about and identify an aspect of our hobby that you enjoy or might want to learn more about. Part of our Association's stated purpose is to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism, individual operating courtesy, and efficiency AND provide training to members through presentations, demonstrations, contest, etc.

SARA members have many, varied skills and talents! As an Association, we have the capacity to facilitate your association with others and members having similar interests and goals as yours. Use your membership benefits!

At our February 15th meeting, Dick Tormet N8YSK will speak on an exhibit due to be installed at Cannonball House in Lewes over the next couple of months. It is a reproduction of the wireless telegraphy station installed by the Navy at Cape Henlopen in 1906. In those days, spark technology was used to create the signals transmitted. Receiver technology was crude - they used a "coherer". What a technological leap we enjoy today!

73,
Paul NR3P

Give them a contact

[ARRL School Club Roundup,](#)

February 12, 1300Z to February 16, 2359Z. This bi-annual event is designed to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs. Participants can exchange QSO information with any amateur radio station, **so non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate as well.** All amateur bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters are permitted.



Delaware Section Manager

Steven Keller KC3DSO

January has brought a change in the weather; several times in fact. I sit here in my shack with the weather about 70F when just a few days back I had about 4" snow on the table in my yard. But yes, I am one of those odd operators that love that four letter word,

snow.

The weather has brought a new Skywarn Coordinator in Sussex up for the first time as NCS. Operating as NCS provides valuable experience whether you run a Skywarn NET, local ARES Net or your club net. Two of the most common items mentioned after a drill, exercise or real incident are the lack of experienced NCS and digital operators.

January also brings one of the most popular EmComm events, Winter Field Day. Several clubs were up and running with WFD providing valuable experience for their teams and club members. WFD is 'technically' an EmComm event for us to test our emergency communications skills by moving us out of our comfort zone. With most of us our comfort zone is at home but setting up a portable, mobile, or indoors in a different location all provide valuable experience with our equipment. Points can be had by making contacts with an easy exchange but it's not just the contest or the EmComm work that brings me back year after year. It's the social environment of having fellow radio operators to help troubleshoot, network with, and enjoy a nice meal.

Prior to the WFD events I was invited to attend a radio talk show that broadcasts to several local radio stations and Live Facebook and YouTube channels to

discuss WFD. I was able to pass along the value of this event to the amateur radio community and encouraged the public to attend. A great time talking about something I enjoy immensely.

As Section Manager I am hosting a Delaware Section Leadership Meeting on February 10, 2024 in Dover. This meeting will be attended by Section Staff, club presidents and other invitees. I encourage everyone to grab your County EC, Club President and pass along any questions or concerns you may have for Section Staff. Section Staff will be having quarterly meetings with every other meeting open to anyone who wishes to attend. This gives everyone in the section a voice to the events in & the direction of the section.

Both Section and County EOP's and Frequency Reference Sheets updates are being completed as you read this newsletter. With these documents completed we will be better prepared to help our communities which are a large part of why we are Amateur radio operators.

If you have not joined the ARRL Delaware Section Reflector (groups.io) you should do so. The calendar is filling up with many classes and events so there is something for everyone. Check the calendar often for updates on classes such as a new Zoom CW Class being offered.

I extend a warm welcome to new and upgrading amateurs in our community:

KB3JUV Justin T Kates

KC3AEA Thomas A Brenan

KC3YFW Brandon E Elliott

KC3YGG Brian C Booth II

KC3YGH Jeremy Davis

KC3YHW Frank D Sofia Sr
KC3YIE Ronald A Wintersgill
KC3YIJ Raymond J Bloch

February has two popular contests. The School Roundup on February 12-16 and the popular International DX – CW Contest. March brings the International DX – Phone contest on March 2-3. Visit the ARRL's Contest Calendar for details on these and other contests throughout the year.

Feel free to contact me at any time with questions. Hope to work you on the air.

<https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>

73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager
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Office: 302.604.7470



February 8, 2024, marks the 61st anniversary of the YL System, now known as the [YL International Single Side-band System \(YLISSB\)](#), founded by Vera Mayree Tallman, K4ICA (SK), in 1963.

The YLISSB operates on 14.332 MHz every day of the year. On February 8 - 11, from 1323Z to 1323Z, special event station K4ICA will operate on 14.240 - 14.340 MHz and 7.230 - 7.260 MHz to commemorate the system's 61st anniversary.



From ROC-HAM Radio Network:

Join us on April 8th as we celebrate the solar eclipse.

The [ROC-HAM Radio Network](#) has secured the special event call **W2E** where we will be putting this special event marking this historic solar eclipse, especially since the next one is in 2033.

Check out the [ROC-HAM website for more info](#) on this wonderful event.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT.

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse.

The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.



EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

AUXCOMM

For the first time, and I hope there will more times in the future, the Sussex AUXCOMM Group was joined by members of “reborn” Sussex County CERT, in support of the Rehoboth Marathon on December 2nd. By way of explanation of “reborn”, there had been CERT in the county before, and this is the first year of the new community groups, of which there are three. Ed Donnelly, coordinator of the Ocean View Police Department sponsored group has used the term ‘reborn’ to describe the comeback.

There were 24 ham operators and 10 CERT members covering the 26 plus miles of the marathon course. The 10 CERT members were teamed with operators at key points of the course, particularly turns and busy locations. There were four ham operators “bicycle mobile” on the trail portions of the course. The 2800 plus runners, I’m sure, appreciated the fact that there were people out there whose primary purpose was watching out for their safety and wellbeing. By all of the after-action reports, it seems to have been a very positive experience for those involved.

So what is CERT, and how was it an asset to the event coverage? CERT is the acronym for Community Emergency Response Team. The CERT program is part of the Citizen Corp program of the

Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It was developed and is supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA). It traces its roots, as does the Incident Command System (ICS), to the mega-disasters of California in the 80’ and 90’s.

There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community, a critical element of the program, and all are essential to building a Culture of Preparedness in the United States. There are over 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.

The CERT Teams are made up of members from the communities they serve with standard basic training requirements, dictated by the program. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. The volunteers are trained in basic disaster response skills. These include fire safety, light search and rescue, First Aid, and team organization. Some members get additional training in traffic direction and disaster medical operations.

Putting the two groups together for the event support introduced the CERT members to the communication activities of the AUXCOMM Group, and the

AUXCOMM members met other community service-oriented people. From my perspective teaming a CERT person with an AUXCOMM operator is a 'force multiplier', bringing a broader skill set to bear on issues that may arise. If we can interest some CERT members in ham radio, and they get a license, this puts more licensees in the organized communities, and members that are part of the communities' response. Might be a left-handed way to get ham radio accepted in planned communities. On the other hand, ham operators would do well to pick up a few CERT courses along the way to improve their own personal and family preparedness.

John S. Ferguson K3PFW
Auxiliary Communication Leader
Sussex County(DE) EOC



Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

2024 has seen a few changes within the Delaware Section. As you know, Steven Keller KC3DSO, is our new Delaware Section manager and I have been placed in the position as the Emergency Coordinator for Sussex County.

This month we had 2 nets with training on the use of Winlink. This form of communications is widely used in Emergency situations for sending information which cannot be said over

the air or would be too hard to pronounce, like meds requested by hospitals. This is another tool in our toolbox to use as needed.

There was a Winlink training class sponsored by the Nanticoke Amateur Radio club early in the month. If you are interested in learning more about Winlink, we can organize a class. On Saturday January 13th, we held our first quarter Hospital exercise linking all three Beebe medical facilities and Tidal Health along with the EOC. We practiced voice and Winlink communications between facilities. We had 22 operators attending the exercise doing different jobs. We also had a few new people observing the operations in different facilities. A new member of the Beebe Emergency Operations group also observed our operations at the BBMC Rehoboth facility.

We also had a combination ARES-Skywarn informal net back on January 9th. When we have these nets, whether Formal or Informal, please check into the nets like you would on any other net. We need to hear from you to get information on the situations in your area. You don't have to be an ARES member or be an official Skywarn Spotter to give reports. So if you do hear a net on the air, join in, and if you have any questions as to what issues that we are looking for, just ask Net Control.

We will continue to have our regular nets and meetings as in the past.
Be Safe,

73, Jim Baker, N3XKJ
Sussex County ARES
Emergency Coordinator