



Sussex Repeater

JULY 2024

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Local Weekly Nets

Shacktime Ragchew: Saturday 8pm
443.200 (+) 156.7

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

Nanticoke Club Net: Monday 7:30pm

Lewes Club Net: Wednesday 7:15pm
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: 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

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

Email: SussexDeRadio@gmail.com

Please note CHANGE OF TIME

Our JULY meeting will be on
Thursday, July 18, 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

After meeting for several years at Pizza King in Millsboro Thursday mornings at 8 AM, we have moved to the Frankford Family Diner, 34067 Dupont Blvd, Frankford, DE 19945-3808. Pizza King no longer serves breakfast during July and August. All hams are welcome to join us at the Frankford Family Diner any Thursday.



Youth Committee

A youth committee is forming to plan for scholarships and/or other benefits to help young licensed amateurs first and then to others based on an application and essay (criteria to be determined) by the committee.

Contact: Bob KB2AJF for information.



Pictures were provided courtesy of Paul Ross, NR3P and Paul Rieger, KC3OIN, Bill Saunders, and Glen Marshall



CLUB UPDATE

President's Corner

Independence and freedom are but two of life's qualities that we share, each of us to a greater or lesser extent, in our country. In this nation, we celebrate that set of our abilities on Independence Day.

As licensed radio amateurs, we have the freedom to use various frequencies across a wide swath of the RF spectrum- with power levels available to us not enjoyed by the general public. Less than common communication modes are also part of our freedom to choose and enjoy in our hobby. All of these factors- and our independence from reliance upon common carrier communications systems- are something that we can celebrate together, regardless of the day.

It is summer vacation time. Today, as I write this, is the 4th of July. We are intent on having a backyard picnic this afternoon with friends, to celebrate the holiday. This will be the first such cookout for me since Field Day. Such fun was had by us at Trap Pond on summer Field Day, that we started planning a fall radio picnic with wires in the trees with whatever leaves remain on the branches!

Further discussion about that and a fall fox-hunt will happen at the next SARA meeting on Thursday, July 18th. It was decided at our last meeting that our scheduled time to meet would be moved up a half hour and start at 5:30PM for dinner and FCC testing. Meeting call to order will then be at 6:30PM.

This earlier time means that we get home sooner and the meal time is better for us and for the staff at Mulligan's

Pointe. It was pointed out that their kitchen and service will work better that way- which is good for us. Our ordering food there at our meetings is good for them. Mulligan's Pointe needs the revenue that our association provides in that way, in order to justify our free use of their room and facilities. Free is good.

Enjoy your freedoms. Exercise your privileges liberally. This will aid in preventing their loss, and increase your skills and enjoyment of the exercise.

Looking forward to seeing you next time, and until then, I wish you the very best!

TU es 73 de NR3P

Paul

FIELD DAY 2024



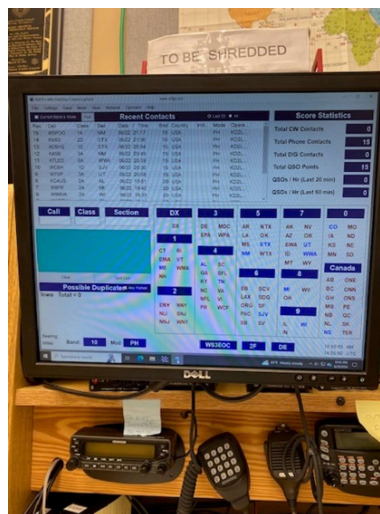
SARA Membership Committee report for the first half of 2024

The membership committee met several times to plan our activities. At our club meeting in February, we took an informational survey. The top 12 interest topics of 20 listed in order were: Antennas, Digital Modes, Parks On The Air (POTA), Contact Logging, Fox Hunt, Building Youth Involvement, Dealing with HOAs, Contests, Amateur Radio History, Grounding and Repeaters, all important topics. Denny Karol has been a guest several times on an early morning Rehoboth Beach radio station.

For the April Hamfest, a SARA club handout was completely updated and distributed full of SARA club information. We set up a membership table and signed up 7 new members and 19 non-members were signed up for the Sussex Repeater. For Field Day in June at Trap Pond State Park, we set up a membership table but no one signed up on this hot day.

We had a total of 12 new members in the first half of 2024. Please welcome: W3BMT Jim, N3BUH Paul, KC3YRI Dave, KC3YRJ Jenni, N3NJI Dan, N3LUD John, N3EDO Bill, KC3YUN Jim, KC3ZAB Rick, KC3STI Tim and K3DI Jeff. A membership application (one page) can be downloaded from our website and completed as directed. Dues in 2024 are: for licensed hams \$20, for licensed students and non-licensed persons \$10 and for family member in same household \$0.

73.
Bob KB3AJF
Membership Chairman





EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

AUXCOMM

Another Field Day in the books and more lessons learned. Murphy has a way of coming up with a learning curriculum, regardless of your best laid plans. That's why we have Field Day, exercises, drills, and other activities, to prepare us to do what may be expected of us to do, "when all else fails". There's nothing like a failure to get you scrambling to make something work. With the first operators showing up Saturday morning, it was hit the switch and get them used to the radios they were going to use. Murphy ordained the primary HF position in the AUXCOMM Room at the Sussex EOC wasn't going to turn on today. There's that sinking feeling as you punch to power switch multiple times with no response. Unfortunately, the primary HF position is remoted a good quarter mile to the east at the County Records Center, formerly the "old EOC" with the tall towers. We don't have non-emergency access except during normal weekday business hours. So there was now an opportunity for getting to know another HF position and radio for some lucky operators. It was later that it was determined that the IT department had changed a switch in the Records Center and didn't configure the ports correctly.

Saturday was also the first roll out of the AUXCOMM / CERT trailer that had been undergoing renovation over the last several months. It's still a "work in progress".

When AUXCOMM and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were combined under one administrative structure, along with that came a 24-foot trailer that was basically used for storage. It is being configured to support both AUXCOMM and Community CERT Teams. For AUXCOMM, it is a portable communication asset, with HF through UHF on the amateur bands, and county 800 MHz and UHF. We are following our standard of "flexibility and redundancy" in setting up the communications.



For CERT, it can respond to a community team that has been activated for an emergency, where it will operate as a command post (CP) and a supply cache. AUXCOMM personnel can respond to manage scene to EOC communications and assist with the CERT communications on county UHF. There were many positive comments from the visitors at Field day THAT VIEWED THE UNIT. There is still

work to be completed that will hopefully be accomplished in the next month.

If Field Day is preparation for the “real thing”; if Field Day is for socializing; if Field Day is learning new things, then I believe we had a successful Field Day. It also was an opportunity for AUXCOMM and CERT personnel to learn something about what the other group does. Interestingly we have AUXCOMM members who are interested in CERT, and CERT members who are interested in learning more about Ham Radio. There are currently five members of the Management Team that hold some type of CERT certification.

If you’ve been following the news, you are aware that Joe Thomas, long time director of the EOC, retired the end of March. There has followed a reorganization of the upper management of the three primary public safety divisions that now reside in what is still called the EOC, but the “C” now stands for “Complex”. So it is the Emergency Operations Complex, housing Paramedics, 911 Response, and Emergency Management. The last slot to be filled will be July 1, when Tim Cooper takes over as the Deputy Director of Public Safety – Emergency Management. That’s the division that AUXCOMM and CERT fall under.

Later, 73

John K3PFW

Change is constant and inevitable...



Hurricane Frequencies

HF(SSB): 20mtr 14.325 Mhz Hurricane Watch Net

40mtr 7.268Mhz WaterWay Net (Maritime)
80mtr 3.815Mhz Caribbean Net

VHF/UHF: 147.470Mhz simplex(Listen only NHC ops

147.000 (-) repeater PL 94.9

444.600 (+) repeater PL 94.8



Millsboro Fireworks 2024



CERT BASIC TRAINING CLASS Spring 2024



Delaware Section Manager

Steven Keller KC3DSO

Greetings from Sussex County

As I write this newsletter in the comfort of my air conditioning, I think back to just a few days ago I was visiting Field Day sites in both Sussex and Kent Counties where the temps were in the mid to high 90's. I camped at Trap Pond State Park enabling me to visit the nearby FD sites as well as work POTA from the park.

Field Day 2024

Another ARRL Field Day is in the books! Field Day, the premier amateur radio event of the year, did not disappoint. I visited several sites and encountered a wide variety of setups. Some had GOTA stations, one was operated mainly within an EOC, and another was fully set up in a park with several command-type vehicles used by radio operators. The air conditioning in the vehicles made operating pleasant and safer. The social aspect of these events is a major draw. While not everyone is passionate about operating, everyone enjoys socializing with other operators. The food and camaraderie are often the highlights of the event.

ARRL Service Disruption

The ARRL is still in the process of bringing their network back online. Some of the .org email addresses and other functions are still down. If you need to speak with anyone from the ARRL HQ I would suggest calling 1-860-594-0200 or 1-888-277-5289 (toll-free in the

US), Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 7 PM Eastern Time, and until 5 PM on Fridays. LOTW data are secure and are now becoming intermittently usable.

Club Grant Program

A new ARRL Foundation Club Grants program, funded by a grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), will have \$500,000 available to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. The projects will need to be "transformative" in nature. Visit the ARRL page and search "Club Grant Program" for more information.

Club Commission Program

The ARRL Club Commission Program is a club benefit program that provides benefits to your club when your club members become new ARRL Members or renew their existing ARRL Membership. Each new ARRL Standard membership earns the club \$20 commission. Renewals the club \$5 each. There is no limit what a club can earn. Visit the main ARRL page and search "Club Commission Program" for details along with documents and guidelines.

Legislative Update: Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA) AREPA is moving forward. Section Staff have been able to secure several hundred letters but we need more. Passing the word to all licensees will allow us to have the strongest voice possible with our legislators. Contact your county Emergency Coordinator or other section

staff for blank copies of the letters. Contact me directly at kc3dso@gmail.com to get copies.

Upcoming Events

13 Colonies Special Event - July 1- 7

This event allows amateur radio operators around the globe to learn about the original 13 Colonies and the city where independence began. This will be the event's 5th year. Delaware radio operators can represent Delaware running as K2E.

This is a fun event where you can hunt all 13 Colonies and the 2 Bonus station, run as K2E or both. If you work a station please spot the station. It's suggested DX Summit is used per the 13 Colonies website. You don't need all 13 Colonies stations to get the beautiful certificate nor do you need the 2 bonus stations for a clean sweep. If you are interested in running as K2E contact Gene, NY3C, ny3c@arrl.net. The 13 Colonies event page can be found at 13colonies.us.

IARU HF World Championship July 13-14

In this event you contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Visit contests.arrl.org for details.

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

KC3ZGC MacKenzie, Steven
KC3ZIK Visalli, Anthony J
KC3ZIW Hallenbeck, David P
KC3ZIY Labosky, Jessica

Let's Stay Engaged & Challenged

The future of ham radio will rest on bringing in more young members. Too many hams apparently are losing interest as they get older, being nostalgic for what

ham radio was when many of us started out several decades ago. The future always rests on motivating young people to become active.

Field Day operations from your homes have limited the opportunities for the public to see passionate ham operators putting up temporary antennas and operating at parks and other public places using generators or solar power.

With an average age of hams now at 75, what will ham radio look like in ten years? How many of today's hams will have lost interest in ham radio a decade from now? How many of today's hams will have passed away in ten years?

We need to do more. Much more.

Some ham clubs and groups in Delaware go out of their way to publicize upcoming license exams but more efforts are needed by clubs to offer radio classes prior to offering license exams.

What is your club doing to reach out to the public schools to get kids interested in radio and electronics?

Kids are likely to be less interested in contesting than many of our older members but the youngsters seem to be interested in satellites, radio direction finding and simple construction projects like a tape

measure direction finding antenna.

Ham radio's future rests with you.

73,
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Office: 302.604.7470

(<https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>
(<https://arrl.org/sections/view/delaware>)