



Sussex Repeater

JANUARY 2025

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Local Weekly Nets

Shacktime Ragchew: Saturday
7:00PM 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
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 net on
147.090(+) 156.7

System Fusion repeater frequencies:

Millsboro 449.825

Seaford 145.210

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: Eric Hudson (WG3J)
Vice Pres: Jess Labosky (KC3ZIY)
Treasurer: Rick Long (N3RTL)
Secretary: Stu Greene (KD2LNQ)

www.sussexamateurradio.com

Email: sussexamateurradio@gmail.com

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be on Thursday, January 16, 2025. The meeting will be in a meeting room at Captain's Pizzeria, 24832 John J Williams Hwy, Millsboro, DE 19966. Near the intersection of Rt 24 and Rt 23. You can purchase dinner beginning at 5:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.



The Hamfest chairman is looking for volunteers to work at the Hamfest, April 26, 2025. You could help with parking, assist with tailgating, sell tickets at the front entry, monitor the entry doors before and during opening, man or woman the SARA table, or help with the silent and chinese auction.

If you can work a few hours on April 25th, you can help vendors set up their displays, answer questions, and help move tables and chairs for set up.

You get free admission and kudos for helping the club with it's most important fund raiser of the year.

Notes from the President's Desk

By Eric Hudson WG3J

Hello fellow radio enthusiasts!
As we wrap up another year and step into 2025, I want to take a moment to express how excited I am for what lies ahead for our club. The upcoming year promises to be full of opportunities for growth, fun, and deeper connections within our ham radio community.

We'll kick things off with our January meeting, where I look forward to catching up with each of you and discussing new activities and programs we'll be introducing throughout the year. Whether you're a seasoned operator or just getting started, we're all in this together, and there's something special about sharing our passion for ham radio.

One of the most exciting things to look forward to is the current peak of Solar Cycle 25. With solar activity on the rise, we're going to experience fantastic propagation conditions that will make our radio adventures even more thrilling. The HF bands will be buzzing, and I can't wait to see how we all make the most of these prime conditions to enhance our skills, experiment with new setups, and reach even further than before.

In addition to our regular meetings, we'll also be participating in some fantastic events, and the first one to mark on your calendar is the Delaware State Winter Field Day, the weekend of January 25 & 26. It's a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in a fun and collaborative environment, while also connecting with fellow operators. Whether you're operating from home or joining us at the

event, it promises to be an unforgettable experience!

I'm truly excited about everything we have in store for 2025. Together, we'll build on our shared knowledge and camaraderie, creating a year full of memorable moments in the world of ham radio.

Here's to a year of fun, learning, and new adventures on the airwaves!

73,
Eric, WG3J

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

I will be taking dues before the meeting. There are 3 ways to pay:

1. At the meeting, pay by cash or check
2. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can send a check made out to SARA and sent to my home address: 24784 Rivers Edge Rd., Millsboro, DE 19966
3. Pay by PayPal on the website. Just be aware that PayPal charges the club a .89 cent service fee for each transaction.

Membership cards are back and will be mailed out or distributed at the meetings. If there are any questions, please contact me at

N3RTL.rick@gmail.com

73
Rick N3RTL
SARA Treasurer



Delaware Section Manager

Steven Keller KC3DSO
Greetings from Sussex County

As we move further into fall, October seemed like a blur! To me, October brings the start of my camping season which runs into May until the weather gets warm again. I just returned from a camping trip at Cape Henlopen State Park. A quick drive from my house, Cape Henlopen provides many activities to get outside. I camped for a week and ran a POTA station every day making over 600 contacts. POTA is a great way to continually test your portable kit to make sure all is operating correctly. Using equipment over and over again allows you to assemble your station and get on the air quickly and repeatably. Although there is a cell tower just a brief walk from the campground, I also wanted to test out a new addition to my gear. A Starlink Mini satellite system. This system is self-contained in a single package (antenna, power connection, router and network connection) and is slightly larger than a sheet of paper. Starlink quickly became a life saver for many in North Carolina. Many reports came in mentioning Starlink was the only access to the outside of devastated areas. Deployment of the unit was fast and easy and it can run off of a simple USB-C power bank which makes the unit very portable and can simply be placed on the ground or a pole. I boondock camp so this unit will come in handy for remote POTA operations. NEW Date for'

Delaware State Convention/DELMARVA Electronics Expo – 2025

Due to a conflict with both Easter Weekend and Passover, the 2025 Delaware State Convention &

DELMARVA Electronics Expo date has been changed. The New date is Saturday, April 26, 2025. The location remains the same at the Cheer Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road, Georgetown, DE 19947. 6am the parking lot gate opens. This year's schedule will include presentations including hearing from an amateur radio operator who deployed to North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. Any questions contact Jamie, W3UC at hamfestdelaware@gmail.com.

Delaware Section holds annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) The Delaware Section to include all three counties, participated in the annual Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Stations throughout the state participated including DEMA, county EOC's, hospitals and personal stations. Many lessons were learned showing the continual need for training. Once all the feedback is received from participants an After Action Report will be available.

Online Digital Training Classes Resume
The ARES Online Digital bi-weekly Training Classes have resumed. Classes were suspended for the summer but are now back in full swing. These online Zoom based classes offer training on the WinLink Global Email over Radio System. The topics vary so there is no set agenda. The group assists newbies and experienced users alike with any issue. Past topics have been connection type (sessions), creating an email and addressing, Peer to Peer (P2P), etc. The Zoom starts early at 7pm to assist operators to get bugs worked out of the systems. The main course starts just after

8pm. To get on the email list for reminders and the Zoom link (which is good for several classes) contact Wendy, W3NRN at kiddo@arrl.net. The next training is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7pm. ARRL Service Disruption Update – DXCC Resumes Operations DXCC is now back online and fully functional. The application will still need to be completed via the online portal with accuracy being key. After completing your application, you may bring your cards and forms to a local DXCC Card checker or send in the paperwork and cards to the ARRL DXCC Desk. The ARRL webpage has data on the application process and find a DXCC card checker. Visit www.arrl.org/online-dxcc-application for more information.

Join the National Traffic System (NTS)

– Traffic and Message Handling & The Radiogram Portal (open to the public)

The ARRL got its start by organizing message delivery to get messages delivered efficiently and accurately to their destinations via different radio stations. This tradition continues today using CW, voice and digital. Why practice traffic handling? It teaches good operating skills, gives you valuable skills in passing health and welfare messages in times of emergency, learn how to operate under adverse conditions without power and create friendship and camaraderie. Any license class can handle traffic, even with a basic handheld radio. With the NTS2.0 update came the Radiogram Portal. This web-based portal allows for anyone to send a Radiogram via Amateur Radio. This is a great way to introduce the public at your next public service event to amateur radio. Have them send a message to a family member wishing them a Happy Birthday. I used it a couple

of weeks ago to send a message to one of my brothers and worked like a top. The portal is at nts2.arrl.org/radiogram.

Go to nts2.arrl.org for more information on the portal or the NTS or contact me.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members

– Callsigns now into the KD3 prefix. Join me in welcoming the latest additions to our vibrant community:

- Earl Street Jr., KC3BNC
- Geoffrey Geis, KC3ZWX
- Robert Stanton, KC3ZYW
- Judith Carter, KC3ZZO
- Ryan Hollinshead, KD3AAF
- Ethan Davis, KD3ABK
- Zachary Zeisler, KD3ABS
- Kyle Salmon, KD3ABU
- Charles Snyder, KD3ABW

Let's Get Together!

With average age of an amateur radio operator about 74 years old we must keep active now more than ever. Continual training, working on assembling and testing equipment, ICS and ARES classes are often referred to 'Alzheimer's prevention' due to being engaged stays off some possible medical issues. With the ARRL joining Grouper you can get paid for your amateur radio activities. I have gotten emails from folks in the section who have received their first \$50 check! What a deal. Get paid to do what we love. Our passion the Amateur Radio Service can not only help us health wise but can also get us paid. Hope to hear you on the air

73,

Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

• Email: kc3dso@gmail.com

• Cell: 240.515.0620

• Office: 302.604.7470



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And we are off and running with the continuing “change and challenge” that I commented on last month. We were quite busy in the past year with just under 4,000 volunteer hours contributed to the county by the combined AUXCOMM and CERT programs. How long they will continue to stay under one administrative section remains to be decided somewhere down the road. The problem is, managing that many volunteers and their hours, takes other volunteers in administrative positions, and we don’t have enough people to split things up, yet. And, from what I’m already seeing, and it ain’t even January yet as I write this, we’re probably going to comfortably break the 4,000 hour mark this year.

We will be going into the New Year with a commitment to have back-up personnel for all of our named positions on the Management Team, be they deputies or assistants, for both AUXCOMM and CERT. The EOC is promoting the ICS tenet of “continuity of operation”, covering both support systems, i.e. redundancy; and personnel, someone to step in and carry on. It’s a great opportunity for some of our newer members to get the experience they need to eventually move up the chain of command. Some of us in the upper levels are reaching a point in our lives where slowing down is looking very

attractive, and that will leave positions to fill. After the first Management Team meeting, January 2nd, we will be able to put out a tentative calendar, so you can ‘save the dates’ where we have events scheduled. Speaking of which, we may have a third Marathon to cover.

Getting out there and supporting the county’s effort is critical for us. They are supporting us, we need to support the coverage of events where we’re assigned. Also, as we do more things, hopefully, we will attract more operators interested in public service. Not only will we be doing, and also looking for publicity about what we do, the “whats and the whys”. We’ve got a program going that is attracting favorable attention from other areas in the state, and that’s a good thing. Getting it out there for the public to see will be the next step in promoting both programs.

Training will be accented this coming year. The regular monthly meeting will now have a training session, each month, based on one of the entries from the Task Book. There will also be four quarterly exercises this year with different scenarios and problems for the participants to solve. Where appropriate AUXCOMM and CERT will be working together in events, exercises and other public service opportunities. Task Book entry’s getting signed off at our meetings is a sign that

people are beginning to take this process seriously.

In mid-January the Department of Public Safety, all three divisions, will be working on developing a new County Emergency Operations Plan. AUXCOMM and CERT fall under the Emergency Management Division and will be written into the county plan for the first time. A few members of the Management Team will have a role in the development of the plan. That kind of recognition comes as a result of our efforts over the past couple of years, and the fact that we've been there, supporting the EOC since it opened the new building in 2008. This past year, we went through another "new building" cycle; and we are still there, still serving, and still growing! Let's make 2025 a record breaking year with success in what we do.

Later,
John Ferguson, K3PFW
AUXCOMM/CERT Program Manager

Help for New Hams

Sussex AUXCOMM has a new program for prospective hams, for those investigating the hobby, those starting to study for the exam, and following on with those who just got their license. With a lot of individual "one on one", "show and tell", and "hands on", the hope is that the new hams will have a good foundation and a fast start in the hobby. We have several experienced teachers who can tailor the learning experience to meet the needs of the individual students. There is the well-equipped AUXCOMM Room for demonstration and getting on the air. Yes, we even have those who will mentor budding CW aficionados, new ham or

old. For anyone interested, or knows of a prospective ham, send an email to ws3eoc@gmail.com with "New Ham" in the subject line, and appropriate contact information.

Be thinking about 2025

What events would you be interested in attending?

What topics would you like as meeting presentations?

What skills will you spend time cultivating this year?

The Delaware Hamfest is the annual event that insures we will be able to maintain the repeaters and upgrade as necessary. Can you spend some time helping make the Hamfest the best ever?

