



DECEMBER 2024

# Sussex Repeater

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

**SPECIAL EDITION**

## December meeting:

Our President, Paul Ross, NR3P, will present Global Positioning Satellite system, as we all do use it from time to time. Airplane pilots use GPS almost exclusively today for navigation. Our airspace usage is very dependent on this technology. How does that work?

**We are very grateful to our 2024 Sussex Amateur Radio Association Officers**



**President: Paul Ross NR3P**

**THANK YOU FOR AGREEING  
to lead us through 2024**



**Vice President: Deb Libertore, AJ3L**  
**Who stepped in when the  
President had to be out of town**  
(You know like Dayton Hamfest)

**Secretary: Paul Rieger KC3OIN**



Many, many thanks to Paul for reducing our actions to to the written page.

**Treasurer: Rick Long NR3RTL**



AND, we are grateful to Rick for continuing to serve another year.

## 2024 in the rear view



**Winter Celebration 2023**



**Front Door Hamfest 2024** Photo: Jocelyn Quick



**Swap meet at Al Waller's**



**Hamfest 2024** Photo: Joselyn Quick



**Spark radio display with Dick Tormet, K3TOR**  
Photo courtesy Canon Ball House -Lewes



**Summer Field Day 2024**



Summer Field Day, Trap Pond



Apple Scrapple



Preparing EOC radio room for practice drill.



Fox hunt feast



**ARES Hospital exercise: (R ) Ray Deskins, SK; (L) Steven Keller KC3DSO Delaware Section Manager. (Beebe Hospital)**



Fox hunting antenna

## Meet the 2025 SARA Officers



**Front Row: (R-L) Eric Hudson WG3J, President  
Jess Labosky, KC3ZIY, Vice President  
Stuart Greene, LD2LNQ, Secretary  
Rick Long, N3RTL, Treasurer**

**Along with SARA members who attended the November 2024 meeting.**

### **2025 Upcoming Events & Contests**

**Save the date: January 11, 2025**

Winter Celebration is currently being planned to be held at Irish Eyes in Milton. Information will be discussed at the December meeting and final details will be via email.

**Winter Field Day: January 25 and 26, 2025** – Winter Field Day (WFD) is just around the corner. Winter Field Day is always the last full weekend in January and is an annual event for amateur radio operators to setup field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. WFD aims to help participants improve preparedness for disasters and enhance operational abilities in adverse conditions. To get more info visit [www.winterfieldday.org](http://www.winterfieldday.org).

Make your own plans for Winter Field Day, but plan some time to visit a special venue near Dover Downs and operate with a statewide group to get ready for Summer Field Day, the full week of June. Current plans include an open Summer Field Day for anyone who wants to camp at the site near Dover Downs and join in the fun of SUMMER Field Day.

**HAMFEST: April 26, 2025** The ARRL Delaware convention and HAMFEST will again be held at the CHEER Center, 20520 Sandhill Road, Georgetown, DE



## Delaware Section Manager

**Steven Keller KC3DSO**

Delaware Section Manager's Annual Update

As I reflect on my first year as Delaware Section Manager, I'm proud of all we've accomplished together. Thanks to the hard work and collaboration of many individuals, we've made significant strides in several key areas:

- **Regular Drills & Training:** We've implemented ongoing drills to keep our Emergency Communications (EmComm) skills sharp. Regular training helps ensure we're always prepared for any situation, and this year, we've integrated the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) into our section training, enhancing our coordination.
- **Winlink Training:** The Winlink program continues to expand, further strengthening our section's digital messaging capabilities. As we move forward, this initiative will enhance communication between hams, served agencies, and emergency management.
- **2025 Training Standards:** New training standards are set for 2025, ensuring we provide even more value to our served agencies. These updated guidelines will help us stay effective and responsive in our work.
- **Grant for Digital Infrastructure:** I've applied for a \$25,000 grant to improve our section's digital communications infrastructure. This funding will significantly enhance our ability to communicate in a variety of scenarios.
- **Information Dissemination:** This year, we've made great progress in sharing relevant information across the section. It's no longer just about updates from the ARRL—it's about connecting and

engaging with every part of the community.

I've also enjoyed seeing clubs come together for joint events, and I look forward to more collaborative efforts in the future.

### ARRL Affiliated Club Annual Update

A reminder for all ARRL-affiliated clubs: Clubs are required to update their records annually, even if there have been no changes. This update ensures that the ARRL knows your club is still active. The best time to do this is after your club's annual elections.

To update your club's information, the designated officer needs a valid login on the ARRL website. Simply search for "updating your club record" on the ARRL homepage. The overview document provided will guide you through the process.

- We're excited to announce that SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will celebrate its 25th anniversary on December 7, 2025. This event honors the dedication of SKYWARN volunteers who provide real-time, ground-truth reports to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather events. Amateur radio operators and SKYWARN spotters are encouraged to participate by exchanging QSO information with as many other spotters and NWS stations as possible. The event runs from 0000 to 2359 UTC on December 7, 2025.
- **Special event station:** The ARRL Radio Laboratory Station, W1HQ, will operate under the call sign WX1AW during the event.

Participation certificates will be available after the event. For more details and to register, visit:  
[www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition](http://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition).

#### Upcoming Events & Contests

- 160 Meter Contest – December 6-8, 2024

Amateurs worldwide will exchange CW information on the 160-meterband with W/VE amateurs.

- 10 Meter Contest – December 14-15, 2024

This contest challenges amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information on the 10-meter band.

- Winter Field Day – January 25-26, 2025  
Winter Field Day (WFD) is an annual event where amateurs set up operations in remote locations to simulate emergency conditions. The event encourages preparedness and operational excellence. Whether you set up solo, with a group, or at a Park on the Air (POTA) location, make sure to register and get on the map! For more details, visit Winter Field Day.

- North American SSB Sprint Contest – November 10-11, 2024

The contest runs from 0000 UTC on November 10 to 0359 UTC on November 11. North American stations will contact as many other stations as possible, while non-North American stations focus on North American stations. For rules and more info, visit SSB Sprint. For more contest details, visit ARRL Contests or Contest Calendar.

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our vibrant community:

- JT Koffenberger, Jr – KD3ACF
- Wendy Griffin – KD3ACR
- Benjamin Dennison – KD3ACF
- Katina Thongvong – KD3ADF

- Guanglu Miao – KD3AEI
- Haifeng Xie – KD3AEK
- Brian Keithly – KD3AFF
- Andrew Hensler – KD3AFR

We're excited to have you with us!  
Wishing You a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season!

As we head into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a safe, restful, and enjoyable time. Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication to our section.

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

#### **The new LARS repeater in Lewes is DSTAR capable... so check out this item for sale:**

**I have an Icom 51A hand-held DSTAR radio that I'd like to sell. We had a DSTAR repeater in Bridgeton, NJ but it was shut down a little after I purchased the radio.**

**The package includes:  
HM-1861 speaker/microphone  
RT Systems WCS-D51 software (sealed package- never registered)  
RT Systems cloning cable  
A/C adapter  
D/C adapter  
Nifty Id 51 manual  
BP 271 + Bp272 batteries  
Printed manual in 3 ring binder + CD rom**

**Asking \$350.00 for the package**  
Call Mike Resnick, N2WOQ, 609-501-2322



## 2024

Another year is almost over, what have we learned, what have we accomplished, what could we have done better? The quick and easy answer is, “lots!” As you have heard in meetings and read in this column, Sussex AUCOMM has undergone several changes and met new challenges in 2024. It’s been a year of growth, change and challenge. Change and growth are always a challenge, and the AUCOMM Group has certainly seen both in the past twelve months. And, I see more coming in 2025. But, at least I hope, we’ll be building on a solid foundation.

In January the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was added to the AUCOMM Management Team responsibilities by Joe Thomas, at that time the Emergency Operations Director for the county. I have had the pleasure and valuable experience of working under him for many years. I certainly learned a lot. However, times change, the county has grown, and Emergency Management is now a more complex field of practice. To embrace the needs of the county, The Sussex County Administrator and Council directed several changes following the retirement of the longtime director. The most visible change is the huge new Public Safety Complex at the airport. The new Director of Public Safety is Robert W. (Robbie) Murray. There are three Deputy Directors, one for the Emergency Medical Service, one for the 911 Response Center, and one, Timothy (Tim) Cooper, for the Emergency Management. The AUCOMM and CERT

programs are under his direction.

As one who is usually resistant to change, I firmly believe the changes that we are accomplishing and the tasks that are getting completed, will provide a better overall response when disaster does strike again, as it will. We’ve been very lucky not to have had anything really serious in a long time. That’s both good news and bad news. On the down side this makes it kind of difficult to convince people to train and prepare. With no recent disaster experience, there will be immense concern, and yes, a bit of panic, for those across the county who have never seen how quickly conditions can deteriorate, and how bad it can get. It’s going to be a shock and a wakeup call to many. However, through preparation and training we can be ready.

As we close out this year, both the AUCOMM and CERT management are trying to fill positions of responsibility in both organizations. The new management structure for the Public Safety Complex is the Incident Command System (ICS). The old EOC ran under FEMA’s EOC model. The ICS provides for Continuity of Operation with “deputies” for all critical positions. It’s also a good way to train the replacements you will eventually need as people move on. Finding qualified individuals, willing to take on the responsibilities of these positions, is the problem. Unfortunately, public service is not popular these days, despite the fact that neighbor helping neighbor is what built this country!

The CERT Program will enter 2025 with new program guidance from DEMA. The new documentation requires training of the leadership, and local Community CERT Teams meeting standards. With the new guidance as an outline, we are structuring the county level CERT management in a way that eventually AUXCOMM and CERT can operate cooperatively, yet separately. Interestingly, we are seeing CERT people getting their ham license and AUXCOMM people taking the Basic CERT Course. Maybe the two groups won't be that far apart after all!

If you've been looking for something to do to help your community, there are several organizations where you can utilize your ham license to support the response effort. Also, consider what CERT training could do for you and your family in developing preparedness and resilience to disaster. Kent County, by the way, has recently named a CERT Program Manager for the county, so good things will be happening there, too.

Happy Holidays to you and yours, and a happy and healthy New Year, too!

Later,  
John Ferguson, K3PFW  
AUXCOMM/CERT Program Manager

## 100 watt Icom 7300 Radio.

**If it is sold within driving distance of buyer / seller, I will also toss in the 12 V power supply as well. Radio has been set up on my desk and not used in POTA work. Power wire has Power Poles for simple plug and play**



Joe Kash, KK3JOE  
[Joekash2@gmail.com](mailto:Joekash2@gmail.com)  
609-827-2827 (C)

**“ If unknown number, leave a message. I will get right back to you.**