



APRIL 2023

Sussex Repeater

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Local Weekly Nets

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
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(fusion) Frequency
443.200 (+ 5) 156.7 PL

County Emergency Simplex
145.510
144.915

www.sussexamateurradio.com

<https://www.facebook.com/SARAHamRadio>

Email: SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com

President: Butch Wlaschin (WAØCIE)
Vice Pres: Deborah Libertore (AJ3L)
Treasurer: Stuart Banta (KC3MAL)
Secretary: Donna Spencer (KC3IHV)

APRIL Meeting

This month's meeting will be on Thursday, April 20, 2023. FCC testing begins at 6:00 pm. You can purchase dinner beginning at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.



The subject of this month's presentation will be public service opportunities in amateur radio. Barbara (KC3LGE), will discuss the various ways you can participate, and show some pictures of events where members of our local groups have provided radio communications. Representatives from ARES, AUXCOMM, SKYWARN and the Delaware Traffic Net will be present to answer questions.



**Time to think about FIELD DAY,
weekend of June 24-25, 2023**



**Ocean to Bay Bike Event
April 29
To participate contact:
N3XKJ1@verizon.net**



From the desk of **Butch WAØCIE** **SARA PRESIDENT**

Spring has arrived at WAØCIE's home and already the yard work has started. Yes that is an End-Fed 160 mtr multi-band antenna, roughly 73 feet long with a 1:1-1 SWR. It doesn't take up much space (it is only 14 feet high at the center) and is intended to be used when I head out to a few friendly parks. I haven't heard much on 160 except early evening, but it is a new band for me. It works well on the other bands as well. Last weekend several POTA operators from Canada, WV and PA activated all 43 designated POTA sites in Delaware over a 3-day weekend. I haven't seen their final numbers yet, but I was able to work them several times including my first Park-to-Park contacts on 2-mtrs and 440. Both on simplex. In all the excitement of a Meet and Greet, I failed to take any pictures, but it was fun.

Speaking of fun, this Saturday is the SARA Hamfest at the CHEER Center on Route 9 in Georgetown. Please come out and see everyone. Lots of vendors and a chance to meet the ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio and the Vice-Director Marty Pittinger. In addition to a meet and greet, they will brief us on current ARRL activities. John Ferguson will talk about them elsewhere in the newsletter. On Sunday many of us will be offering Emergency

Communications in support of the Coastal Delaware Marathon. This is a great opportunity to showcase our talents in support of a local activity. We have played an important part in this event over the past several years. Please come out and join us.

And later in the month, we will be supporting the Bethany-Fenwick Ocean to Bay Bike Ride on Saturday, April 29. The organizers need your help here as well. Come spend a couple of hours at one of the rest areas or along the route. It is a fun event, and the riders really appreciate us being out there.

Barring issues with the weather, I will be making a quick trip out west with some planned visits to several POTA sites in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. I'll most likely be on 20 mtrs and possibly 40. I have noticed several of the parks I plan to visit have a lot of POTA activity on 2-mtrs and 440 as well, so I'll be checking those bands out as well. If you are browsing around on 20 or 40 please give me a shout. Now if only I can figure out the time zones. Also please give a listen on Tuesday evening on the 147.090 net. I might just check in via EchoLink.

I hope to hear you ON THE AIR.

Butch WAØCIE



Delaware Section Manager

John Ferguson K3PFW

Delaware Section Convention and HamFest

It's coming! April 15! The ARRL Delaware Section Convention and a Hamfest, in Georgetown at the Cheer Center. This is something you don't want to miss. The new ARRL Division Director Robert "Bob" Famiglio, K3RF, and Vice Director, Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM, will be at the 11:00 ARRL Forum for your Questions and Answers.

As Section Manager, I will be addressing the 10:00 ARRL Forum on activities and issues in the Delaware Section, along with our Assistant Section Manager, Joe Grib, NI3B. There will also be an ARRL Booth with people to answer questions about the ARRL and membership. The ARRL is the national and an international advocate for amateur radio, and can use your support.

The Hamfest will have vendors and "tailgaters" with a variety of offerings. Everybody should find something to take home with them. The Sussex Amateur Radio Association, is sponsoring the event, and will have great door prize drawings. Not a ham yet? or want to upgrade? There will be VE testing available shortly after noon.

If all of the above is not a reason to come out, let me add the opportunity to socialize with your local and not so local ham friends who will be there. And, there will be food! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Later

John Ferguson (K3PFW)





EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

The April 1st AUXCOMM Update

Well, the lights are on! Thanks to all who took part in POPS in the DARK between Mar 4th and Mar 8th. This multi-day exercise tested the ability of participating hams to operate utilizing auxiliary power sources for a simulated extended utility power outage. Battery backup, vehicles, generators, and solar charging were some of the means utilized by those who chose to play along. Sussex and Kent EOC's, and local SKYWARN had a busy first day of the exercise. Hoping that some lessons were learned, and everyone will be just a bit better prepared when the real thing crosses our peninsula.

Sussex AUXCOMM will again be supporting the Mobile Command Unit for the annual Coastal Delaware Running Festival (CODEL) on Sunday, April 16th. We need volunteer operators who are willing to help cover this 26-mile Full Marathon course by observing, assisting, and reporting via amateur radio. Please consider giving your time

in service to our community. As of this writing we have 8 fewer volunteers than this time last year. Let's catch that up. Contact ws3eoc@gmail.com to get on the roster and receive further information.

Sussex County AUXCOMM meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the training room of the Emergency Operations Center, 21911 Rudder Lane, Georgetown. Attendance is open to anyone interested in our role in assisting emergency communications. Visit our website <http://www.sussexradio.com> or email ws3eoc@gmail.com for further information.

And now for some special news...

The **POTA** (Parks On The Air) program has been wildly successful in getting amateurs out to operate in parks all over the country. So much so that some are reportedly running out of new parks to "conquer". Also, some park

officials may have expressed concerns about the bumper crop of antennas sprouting up in parks all over. In order to relieve pressure on the over-radiated parks and provide new territory for POTA-heads to continue their quests, a new program has been developed that is sure to be a hit!

Welcome to **PLOTA** (Parking Lots On The Air)! This new program will expand on the success of POTA by opening up many new Target locations (literally) for field operations. What POTA has been for parks, PLOTA will be for parking lots, and there are way more “lots” than parks just waiting to be tamed! From the smallest fast food joint to the largest mega-mall... Activate them all! Amateurs can get fired up over the new award programs like WAW (Worked All Walmarts), TAT (Tagged All Targets), and the coveted B⁴ (Bagged Bed, Bath & Beyond). Look for all the great PLOTA gear (hats, shirts, etc) coming soon. 73's, and good hunting!

Bill, N3ID

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Chris Cote of Smyrna, DE. is bringing his ham radio equipment to this weekend's Hamfest to demonstrate a variety of ways people can enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. Chris' FCC call sign is KE5NJ; he travels in his yellow demonstration bus, where his equipment is set up and ready to go. Everyone is welcome to visit with him Saturday morning, April 15, in the parking lot of the Georgetown Cheer Center.

Chris says that his intention with this bus is to promote Ham Radio and give an opportunity for other Hams to try something new they have never done before, like satellite contacts. He goes to many events throughout the year including JOTA (Jamboree on the Air), Radio Merit Badge College, and POTA (Parks On The Air) to explain how radio works. Each event has a different purpose; but all include using ham radio to contact people around the world.

Ham radio is a hobby that is constantly evolving. New technologies are being developed all the time, and

operators are always finding new ways to use them. Chris has been involved for almost fifty years and he is still planning new challenges. Later this year, Chris plans to attempt to bounce his radio signal from a public park location, off the moon, and back to earth to a station located in another park. This will require both the sending and receiving station be in a position where the moon is above the horizon, the right kind of antennas, and a great deal of astrological information to calculate the best date, time and trajectory. It's one of the things hams call fun!



Hamfest is the Delaware Amateur Radio Convention being held at the Georgetown Cheer Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road. Radio operators from throughout the Mid-Atlantic will attend radio related seminars, buy and sell new and used radio equipment, or take a free licensing test. No matter what reason they come together, these ham radio operators enjoy “rag-chewing”

(socializing) with each other, finding old friends and making new ones. Parking and outside tailgating events, including the KE3NJ bus, are free. Admission to the vendor exhibits is \$8 and doors open Saturday, April 15 at 8am

