



Sussex Repeater

AUGUST 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 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 net 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 August meeting will be on Thursday, August 15, 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

All hams are welcome to join the ever-changing group of hams at the Frankford Family Diner, 34067 Dupont Blvd, Frankford, DE 19945-3808, Thursday mornings at 8:00.



Our speaker for the August meeting is Pat Ryan, KW3Z, who will give us the 2024 Hurricane update.

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



CLUB UPDATE

What IS a ham radio Fox Hunt?

Fox Hunting is a game developed by Ham Radio enthusiasts to find and locate hidden radio beacons in a large game of hide-and-seek.

To participate in a Fox Hunt a hunter will only need a radio that is capable of picking up VHF/UHF frequencies. The antennas that come with the basic radios can pick up signals from all directions and make it difficult to locate the Fox.

You can use your body to block the signal in certain directions. This is called body shielding. When holding the radio close to your chest it will block the signal and you will know in what direction to head.

The best way to search for a Fox would be with a unidirectional antenna. This antenna will only pick up signals in one direction making it easier to locate and find the source of the signal you are tracking. There are guides online and instructional YouTubes on how to build a directional antenna.

Fox Hunting Applications

Fox Hunting does have real-world uses outside of the hide-and-seek game. It can be used in search and rescue applications to find missing and or injured people. It can also help find the sources of radio interference and even find sources of unlicensed and unauthorized Ham radio broadcasts.



Please take a look at your calendar and consider when is a good time to hold the following events:

- Workshop for building a direction finding antenna for FoxHunt
- The actual FoxHunt followed by a late summer picnic at Trap Pond

Saturday dates that we will try to avoid are
August 17 AUXCOMM exercise

Sept. 7 Al Waller's Fall Swap Meet

Sept. 14 Dewey Beach Sprint Triathlon

The plan is to have a pot luck picnic following the FoxHunt with the club providing hamburgers & hot dogs. Invite your significant other or a potential new ham to "hunt" with you and attend the picnic.

Sign up list will be passed around at the meeting. Pot Luck ideas for items to contribute are

- Chips
- Sliced tomatoes, lettuce, sliced onions for hamburgers
- Mustard, catsup, relish, pickles.
- Baked/ BBQ beans
- Finger desserts like cookies, cupcakes, or brownies
- Hot dog and hamburger buns
- Favorite salad
- Water, ice, sodas
- Charcoal
- Paper plates, napkins, plastics

Those are just ideas to start you thinking about how awesome it will be to spend the day fox hunting, eating, and mingling.



Delaware Section Manager

Steven Keller KC3DSO

Greetings from Sussex County

I am taking a break from working on the After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) for the statewide drill held on July 13 to write this newsletter. Every drill should have a thorough AAR/IP to analyze results, identify strengths to maintain and build upon, pinpoint areas for improvement, and support the development of corrective actions. Essentially, these reports help us understand what we did and how we can do it better. I want to thank everyone who participated in the statewide drill. Many aspects were executed well, while others need improvement. This is why we conduct drills.

Randall Carlson, WB0JJX, Former Delaware Section Manager, Silent Key
Last month, I received a call from Darvin Carlson, the brother of Randall Carlson, to inform me that Randall had become a Silent Key. Darvin mentioned his brother's passion for amateur radio, from joining local clubs in New Castle County to becoming the Delaware Section Manager in December 1992. Randall passed away on June 7, 2024, at the age of 66. He served as the Delaware Section Manager from December 1992 until 2005 and was originally licensed in the 1970s. Randall will be deeply missed by the amateur radio community.

Section Simulated Emergency Test – Saturday, October 26, 2024

Mark your calendars! The Delaware Section is holding our section-wide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The SET is the ARRL's annual national emergency exercise designed to assess the skills and preparedness of the Amateur Radio

Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers and those affiliated with organizations involved in emergency and disaster response. This section SET will be run by Wendy, W3NRN, Section Emergency Coordinator, and will involve the same stations that participated in the July 13 drill. This is a great opportunity to dust off your Go Box and engage in some SSB or digital work. We will be working VHF, UHF, HF using SSB and digital modes..

Application for ARRL Grant for \$25,000

As Section Manager and the Vice President of the Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club, I have applied for a grant from the ARRL for \$25,000 to install/upgrade the section's digital network. If approved, this grant will provide funding for several new WinLink Gateways strategically located throughout the state as well as some upgrades to existing stations. These new stations will provide a reliable backbone for intrastate digital communications during emergency and disaster response. Currently, there is a large section of the state not covered by existing gateways. Kent has no gateways, New Castle has one, and Sussex has six. Adding new gateways to these counties will allow us as EmComm operators to better serve not only our served agencies but also our communities.

ARRL Service Disruption Almost Fully Restored

The ARRL still has a few issues to resolve, but mostly the system is back up and running. Neither Division Directors nor Section Managers are able to send emails to their groups, and some .org addresses do not work. If you need to contact anyone at the ARRL, I suggest

calling the toll-free number .888.277.5289. Logbook Of the World is back up and operational with all data.

Delaware State QSO Party Had Best Participation in Years!

The Delaware State QSO Party was a big success! 2024 tied for the largest turnout of Delaware Stations since 2020, with 22 stations participating. It was great hearing all of the Delaware Stations representing our state. Thanks go out to FSARC for hosting the event and to Jerry, KB2GCG, for compiling the data. Full results will be posted on the FSARC DE QSO Party webpage.

Upcoming Events

- International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – August 17-18, 2024: This popular international amateur radio event takes place on the third full weekend in August each year, attracting over 500 lighthouse/lightship entries from over 40 countries. Visit illw.net for a full list of participating lighthouses/ships, including the Overfalls Lightship in Lewes and the Fenwick Island lighthouse.
 - August 3-4: 222MHz and Up Distance Contest
 - August 17-18: 10Ghz & Up – Round 1
 - August 18: RTTY Rookie Roundup
 - August 22-25: EME 2.3 GHz & Up
- Visit contests.arrl.org for details on these and upcoming contests.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members

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

- KC3ZKZ: Raymond Chung
- KC3ZMK: Sean Erickson
- KC3ZML: Zac M Jackson
- KC3ZMO: David J Rossetti
- KC3ZMQ: John K Boland II
- KC3ZNG: Scott D Dresen

Keeping Our Radio Operators Trained, Active, and Sharp

Keeping amateur radio operators engaged is crucial for maintaining an active and responsive network of experienced operators. Regularly scheduled training sessions and workshops can enhance their skills and keep them up-to-date with the latest technologies and protocols. Encouraging participation in local and national drills, as well as organizing social events and recognition programs, can build a sense of community and appreciation. Additionally, creating opportunities for operators to share their experiences and knowledge through newsletters, forums, and mentoring programs can foster collaboration and continuous learning. By providing these opportunities, we can ensure that our amateur radio operators remain motivated and committed to their vital roles in emergency communications.

Consider running workshops in addition to presentations. Projects like building an antenna for a Fox Hunt, constructing a simple 40/75/80 Dipole for EmComm, or even a soldering class to assemble coax cables can be very beneficial. These workshops not only build our radio skills but also make getting your ARES Task Book signed off easier. The new version of the ARES Task Book has been released by the ARRL and can be found ARES Task Book on the arrl.org website. As always feel free to contact me about anything radio.

73,

Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

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EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

AUXCOMM

The tropics have been quiet for a while, but were still a month or so shy of the supposed Peak Atlantic Hurricane Season, which is traditionally September. Just this morning it seems there's a sixty percent possibility of something developing in the Caribbean and coming towards the southeast part of the US, with an estimate of anywhere from South Carolina to Texas. Wouldn't take much, a few degrees, and guess what? I been preaching, "get ready" for a while. In my estimation, there's a great deal of complacency as to what will **not** happen, and how ready we are. That may unfortunately be true. We are not ready for what could happen, and there's not a whole lot of general movement towards getting ready. The Cambridge Dictionary (and others) define complacency as, "a feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities or situation that prevent you from trying harder".

The AUXCOMM management is not satisfied with the 'status quo', and I hope will never be. Always keep improving. Since January when we developed a partnership with the developing Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) at the direction of the past County Emergency Operations Director, Joe Thomas, we've been pushing the curve to get

what segment of the population we can prepared.

I am very pleased to announce that the new administrative organization plan for the county's emergency response is in place and working. The new Sussex County Director of Public Safety, Robbie Murray, has hit the ground running. He now has three deputies, the last one coming on board, July 1, Tim Cooper, the deputy for Emergency Management. AUXCOMM and CERT fall under his direction. Bill Saunders, N3ID, AUXCOMM Operations, and I have now had several very orderly and productive meetings with Robbie and Tim. Things that were sort of 'in limbo' following Joe Thomas leaving, are now getting back up to speed. For one, we are actively recruiting hams interested in serving their community by supporting the work of the Sussex County Emergency Operations Complex. For any Ham out there interested, we'd be happy to talk with you and show you around the EOC. Not only do we have the AUXCOMM Radio Room with its three operating positions in the EOC, we also now have the AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer as a portable communication asset. It's still a work in progress, but it's out of the shops, and interior painting is almost finished. Several of us will be out with it at the Angola

Safety Fair on August 3rd. The radios and antennas have been installed and working for a while. It's operational from HF through UHF, as well as the county's 800 MHz system.

We have two events coming, an exercise for mobiles and portables on August 17th for which you have to sign up as soon as possible, so individual instructions can be prepared for each operator or team. And as an incentive, there will be a drawing for a \$25 gift card to a local Sussex County restaurant. Each operator participating gets a chance to win.

Next month, **Saturday September 14th, is what will probably be the last running of the Dewey Beach Sprint Triathlon.** We are looking for operators for that event, also. Interested in either event, drop and email to WS3EOC@gmail.com, expressing your interest. Here's two really great opportunities to get out there and practice the craft of communications. They both should be fun, and we hope not too exciting!

Later, 73
John K3PFW



A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio **Technician Class Licensing course** on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Sept 5, and will run through Thursday, October 17 (7 sessions). The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Sign up by email to roland.anders@comcast.net.



Capt. Harry Dale Parsons, a beacon of kindness and generosity, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Lewes. Capt. Dale was 91 years young. He

was the father of Keana Parsons (K3ENA) and father-in-law of our President, Paul Ross.

You received a link to the obituary in an email link earlier this month. In addition to what you read, Captain Parsons has been a generous supporter of our annual Hamfest with numerous donations and items for the silent auction.

Having known Captain Parsons for over 60 years, I can attest that, in addition to being generous, he was gregarious, and involved in everything that went on in the world around him. An all around great guy who will be missed by many.

Barbara KC3LGE