



March 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
5:30pm Freq: 3.905

Delaware Emergency Net:
Sunday, 5:30pm 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)

March Meeting

This month's meeting will be on Thursday, March 16, 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.



HAMFEST 2023

April 15, 2023

Georgetown Cheer Center

We are always in need of volunteers to help with Hamfest. Some of the areas where we need help are:

Friday Setup - Ticket Table - Talk-in Station
Parking Lot - Information Table

If you would like to be a part of this annual event, please email Jamie W3UC:

ashton@mchsi.com



CoDel Marathon April 16

To participate contact:

WS3EOC@gmail.com



Ocean to Bay Bike Event

April 29

To participate contact:

N3XKJ1@verizon.net



From the desk of Butch WA0CIE SARA PRESIDENT

Choices, choices, choices. I have received 9 text messages and 14 emails and 6 voice messages on my phone telling me I will soon be inheriting \$42M Euros. What bothers me more is that I have roughly the same number of messages telling me that my car and truck warranties are expiring and to replace my transmission will cost me \$3,000-5,000. When I received a call from a law office saying I was subject to a major defamation lawsuit, my wife and I thought, if we accepted the inheritance (not sure if we actually would have to move to one of those K-stan countries to claim it), we could pay all the bills and retire to Delaware, with a new Tesla.

Yes we have received those calls, text messages and emails. Most likely all of you have received them as well. We even had one try to tell me one of my daughters was in jail and needed bond money. I was told I could just use paypal or a Walmart gift card to get her out. Fortunately they couldn't describe my non-existent daughter any more than I could. So I wished her good luck and hung up.

So what does this fictional narrative have to do with SARA. This month we will have the pleasure of Officer Pat Foley, the Bethany Beach Police Department Community Liaison Officer, talking to us about the growing number of these SCAMs in Sussex County. The SCAMs are real, and they get victims to send thousands of dollars to them

every day. Hopefully none of us has been snookered, but their narratives tug at your purse strings. Please join us for what should be a very informative conversation.

On the radio side - since we last met, I did manage to visit family in Nevada and activated 8 POTA sites - I now have worked 34 states while in Nevada. This past Tuesday I visited 5 POTA sites in Southern Maryland - working 156 stations in 26 states, in about 2-1/2 hours all on 20 mtrs. I put up a new 74 foot 160 mtr wire antenna 12 feet high in the backyard and now have 10 confirmed states on SSB. The bands are alive. I even had two technician class operators ask me to call on 10 meters and we have completed the QSO's. Anyone that wants to watch the crazy POTA action, let me know and maybe you can join me at a local park. To get 30 QSOs in 25 minutes is just crazy.

Last but not least, if you are reading this we are hosting an event this weekend, where we will assume a total power blackout in Sussex and Kent County. We will be asking for volunteers to periodically check in using non-commercial power - batteries, solar power, generators, HTs, whatever. We want to see if we can do it and how effective it might be when it really happens. email WS3EOC@gmail.com and join in the fun.

See you on March 16.
73 Butch WA0CIE



From the Desk of the Delaware Section Manager

John Ferguson K3PFW

ARE YOU RADIOACTIVE???

Are you? No I'm not asking if you glow in the dark, although might be helpful when the lights go out; and go out they will, sometime. Then what will you do? Elsewhere in this newsletter is the announcement of the "Pops in the Dark" exercise. Are you planning to take part? You might learn something important by participating.

Participating, now there is a word. Ham radio is hobby of participating; interacting with other hams. Communicating! Are you doing that? Hope you're not one of those that laments, "There's nothing to do", and then ignores an opportunity to get on the air with other local hams. That's a self-fulfilling prophecy; if you don't participate, there will come the day when those who organize these opportunities say, "Heck, there's no interest out there, why should I put forth an effort to organize an event?"

The hobby that we get into because we thought that getting to talk to other likeminded individuals could be fun. Yep, it can be, whether locally in your community, or someone in another country. And yes, that's another one of the five reasons the FCC grants you the amateur radio privileges you have, "promoting international good will". And you Tech licensees can do so on Ten Meters, Sunspots are up!

The American Radio Relay League, ARRL, is currently sponsoring a yearlong (2023) operating activity and contest, the Volunteers On The Air event, VOTA. So,

you can chat with other hams, automatically get points for contacting one of the many ARRL volunteers that keep the league functioning. Yes, hundreds of hams like you, volunteer their time and talent to make the organization function. The catch is that you must use Log Book of the World, LoTW, which will automatically keep score for you. Again a great service provided to all hams by the ARRL. You don't have to be a member to use it. However, you might want to consider supporting the league by becoming a member. They are the advocate for ham radio nationally and internationally, and we all benefit from that effort.

Summer brings Field Day. Is your group planning (it's not too early) on getting out there and "doin' it" in the field? Maybe giving the public a chance to see and hear what we do, and maybe getting the idea that we can do this when the lights go out! We desperately need to improve our public relations and public image. And you can help that by "doin' it". Being radio-active.

We maintain our proficiency through practice. That's one way to prepare to be "doin' it" when the lights go out. When the ice storm hits. We have the motto, "When all else fails"; it's up to you to prove that those aren't just empty words.

Later, 73

John K3PFW

ARRL Section Manager DE



EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

Lights Out!

It was Christmas 1998. A winter storm had blanketed North Carolina and surrounding areas bringing icy conditions to Raleigh (our home at the time) depositing up to an inch of ice on trees and power lines resulting in widespread power outages. As many as 90,000 homes were without power in Wake County. We were one of them. For three days we hunkered in our dark and cold home, feeding logs into the fireplace day and night to keep the indoor temperature in the 50's. My wife and kids had planned a trip to visit family out of state, so I drove them to the train station (no, NOT like on Yellowstone!) to head out on their Amtrak adventure; a ride that took much longer than it should have due to frozen switches and other rail issues. As I drove back down the road towards our house after dropping them off, expecting additional hours or days in a cold, dark house, I noticed that my neighbor's lights were now on. Could it be? Yup! Power had been restored. Yay!

That was not our only extended power outage. There were several. Most due to the ice storm winter weather we seemed to experience too often, and once due to Hurricane Fran (8 days with no utility power at the house). If you ask my wife what she remembers most about our 20+ years living in North Carolina, power outages would be at or near the top of her list. It can and does, though, happen anywhere.

In December 2022 North Carolina made the news when several Duke Power electrical substations in Moore County, about 50 miles south of Raleigh, were taken out of service by rifle fire in a coordinated attack that has been classified as an act of domestic terrorism. Most residents and businesses in the county had to endure a total loss of utility power for up to 48 hours in December temperatures before power was completely restored. Similar attacks have occurred in other states including California, Washington, and Oregon. The FBI recently arrested two individuals it accuses of planning attacks on electrical substations in the Baltimore, MD area.

Direct attacks on electrical infrastructure increased more than 70% in 2022!

An extreme solar flare that occurred around September 1st, 1859 became known as the Carrington Event, named after one of the British astronomers who first recorded the flare. It is expected that Coronal Mass Ejections (CME's) associated with this solar flare directly struck Earth's magnetosphere causing global auroral displays ("northern lights"). There is a documented incident where telegraph operators in Boston, MA and Portland, ME were able to continue conducting telegraph traffic after they disconnected their battery power sources utilizing the power induced into the telegraph lines by the flare's electrical energy. There were multiple reports of telegraph operators experiencing electrical shocks and, in some cases, fires due to the excess energy in the lines.

The National Academy of Sciences, NASA, and other similar organizations have expressed their concern regarding the effects of a strong solar flare on the modern power grid. According to NASA Space Science (published Oct 26, 2010) a 2009 report by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the US Department of Energy concluded that modern power systems have a "significantly enhance[d] vulnerability and exposure to effects of a severe geomagnetic storm." This actually happened in Quebec on March 13, 1989, when a geomagnetic storm

much less severe than the Carrington Event knocked out power across the entire province for more than nine hours. The storm damaged transformers in Quebec, New Jersey, and Great Britain, and caused more than 200 power anomalies across the USA from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific Northwest.

Then, there's EMP (Electro-Magnetic Pulse). Essentially a "man-made" Carrington Event wherein a nuclear warhead detonated high in the atmosphere would create an energy pulse that would cause widespread disruption and/or destruction of electrical and communications infrastructure, associated components, and electronic devices not sufficiently "hardened" against such an attack. This phenomena was first discovered during an atmospheric nuclear test in the Pacific Ocean in 1962 that impacted infrastructure in Hawaii 800 miles away!

Weather. Terrorism. Solar CME. Nuclear EMP. Any or all of these are capable of causing widespread and long-term utility power outages. We tend to take our utility power for granted since we live in an area where it is so reliable unlike other parts of the world where power outages can sometimes be a daily occurrence. Life changes in an instant, though, the moment it's "lights out". In the fictional novel "One Second After", author William Forstchen takes us through the aftermath of a total power grid failure and its impact on the

community of Black Mountain, NC. Truly eye-opening to the challenges modern civilization would face.

Volumes have and continue to be written about this topic. Way more than I need or want to cover here. After all, this is an Amateur Radio column! It is for all of these reasons that Sussex County **AUXCOMM will be conducting “POPS in the DARK” as our next “Pop-Up”** exercise. Soon. The purpose of the exercise is to test the ability of the local amateur radio community to operate in the absence of utility power. Should we experience an area-wide power outage, in addition to all of the challenges in providing water, food, comfort, and safety for ourselves and our households, we may suddenly be the “last man (or woman) standing” providing communications for administrative, tactical, and health & welfare purposes for our community.

Comfort, safety, and survivability in a disaster very much depend on the Boy Scout motto “Be Prepared”, and that includes the ham shack. Do you have the plans, equipment, and backup power source(s) to get and stay “on-the-air” for an extended period? How about a generator? How about extra fuel for that generator? Batteries? Are they fully charged? How will they get recharged? Generator? Solar? Will the sun be shining? Wind? Will the wind be blowing? How about a vehicle? Is it fully fueled? What about spare fuel? In a

severe weather incident running up the road to get fuel won't be possible. In a wide-spread utility power outage there will be nowhere to purchase fuel, or food, or water, or...

Well, let's find out. *POPS in the DARK* will begin without much notice and last an indeterminate number of days. Just like the real thing. Be prepared. The “rules of engagement” will be sent via email at the beginning of the exercise. I sincerely hope that many will participate, lessons will be learned, and that, when the “real thing” eventually comes around, we will all be better prepared. 73's

Bill, N3ID

