



MARCH 2024

# Sussex Repeater

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 8pm  
146.715 (-) 156.7

Lewes Club Net: Wednesday 7:15pm  
147.330(+) 156.7 (out of order)

Delaware Traffic Net: Mon – Sat  
6:30pm Freq: 3.904

Delaware Emergency Net:  
Sunday, 6:30pm Freq: 3.904

Sussex ARES Net: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 capable)  
443.200 (+5) 156.7 PL

WGMD Tower (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](http://www.sussexamateurradio.com)

Email: [SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com](mailto:SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com)

**Our March meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024. FCC testing begins at 6:00 pm. You can purchase dinner beginning at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.**



## 2024 HAMFEST - APRIL 20th

**In addition to the fun we have, the purpose of the annual Sussex Amateur Radio Association Hamfest is to raise money to fund necessary repairs and maintenance of our repeaters.**

**Jamie Ashton is Chairman of the Hamfest Committee and he asks that anyone who would like to help with the event, please email [hamfestdelaware@gmail.com](mailto:hamfestdelaware@gmail.com) OR**

Entry/ Ticket area	Wayne Brittingham (N3UFG)
Chinese/Silent Auction	Lars Spencer (NS3F)
Parking/Tailgate	John Low (K3JL)



**You may have noticed that the time is changing for the DelawareTraffic Net and the Delaware Emergency Net. The new times will begin on March 10, 2024 the first day of Daylight Savings Time.**



## President's Corner

### Time is Marching on...

Spring has just about sprung. Early birds with their mating calls are becoming more songful by the day. Trees are budding out and their pollen will soon coat cars and buildings. Ahh...ahh... achoo!

For my station, some antenna put up and take down is in order- but not necessarily in that order. My EFHW (end fed half wave) antenna that used to tune up on 80 meters, now, doesn't. I suspect that it may be a feedline issue, or a connection problem of some sort. Visually, the installation appears intact.

Keith Herzog, WU3X (formerly N3SVB), has accepted the position of Technical Coordinator for the ARRL Delaware Section. To enhance radio propagation efforts, Keith has graciously agreed to giving a program talk on the proper care and feeding of our amateur radio equipment. This will be at our Sussex Amateur Radio Association meeting on March 21, 2024.

The Thursday evening SARA gathering at Mulligan's Pointe, Georgetown, DE starts at 6pm for dinner and for FCC testing. Our meeting call to order happens at 7pm. I am looking forward to learning something and I hope to see you there!

73,

Paul NR3P

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

March saw an increase in membership. We conducted two nets and our first Zoom only meeting.

In April, ARES will be conducting our second quarter Hospital Drill. It will be held on Saturday, April 13th. Information will be sent out to the hospital teams and the EOC when completed.

Another event will be the Ocean to Bay Bike Event on Saturday April 27th in Bethany Beach. I will have more information on both of these at the SARA meeting this month.

To participate in one or both events, email me at [n3xkj1@verizon.net](mailto:n3xkj1@verizon.net).

Stay Safe,

**73, Jim Baker, N3XKJ  
Sussex County ARES  
Emergency Coordinator**



Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) presentation for hams interested in participating. On Wed., March 27 at 8:00 PM, and again at 10:00 PM there will be a ZOOM meeting to feature HamSCI's Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science (FoEIS). The presenters will take your questions during the presentation. Visit <https://hamsci.org> for more information.



## Delaware Section Manager

**Steven Keller KC3DSO**

As we bid farewell to the winter chill, the promise of spring beckons us outdoors, presenting the perfect backdrop to refine our EmComm skills. I recently joined a group of enthusiastic operators at a local park, troubleshooting antenna and radio intricacies.

Remember, our EmComm abilities are akin to muscles - regular exercise keeps them sharp and ready for action.

Our Delaware Section Staff convened in Dover on February 10th, engaging in a series of enlightening discussions on a variety of topics including DTS/NTS, Skywarn, DEMA, WinLink, DEVOAD, and legislative matters, among others. With the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on the horizon, planning efforts are gearing up, with preliminary information set to be unveiled at the Delaware State Convention & Hamfest this April.

The "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act," now under consideration in both the House and Senate, symbolizes a beacon of hope for those living in HOA's. This federal bill, aimed at addressing HOA antenna restrictions, has garnered our full support. Additionally, we're drafting a state-level bill as a contingency plan. Your involvement is crucial; for further details, visit [congress.gov](http://congress.gov) (Bill S.3690) and sign up for updates. The recent AT&T outage underscores the urgency of our advocacy.

A warm welcome to Mike, N1MWU, the new President of the Lewes Amateur Radio Society (LARS). With the club in a phase of transition, Mike's leadership comes at a pivotal time. LARS meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Lewes Diner at noon.

Excitingly, Keith, WU3X, (formerly N3SVB) has stepped into the role of Technical Coordinator for our section. With a rich background in electronics and a passion for amateur radio, Keith is a valuable asset to our community. Those interested in technical support or collaboration are encouraged to reach out via Keith's contact information posted on the ARRL Delaware's webpage. If you are interested in providing technical support to hams in your county as a Technical Specialist contact Keith. Sussex's TS is Eric, WG3J, who lives in Ocean View. Eric has a vast knowledge of HF, antenna builds, baluns, and contesting.

Like many radio operators in the section, I will be participating in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest the first weekend in March. Running a contest station provides valuable EmComm skills. From listening to logging, every minute increases your ability to run a station as NCS, one of the hardest positions to fill during an incident. Like POTA, contesting provides other benefits such as learning your radio's settings, understanding propagation on

HF bands, increases computer skills, just to name a few. These events also foster camaraderie within our vibrant community.

For those yet to join, the ARRL Delaware Section Reflector on groups.io is your gateway to a world of resources, classes, and events. Ensure you're part of this dynamic platform to stay informed and engaged.

I extend a warm welcome to new/upgrading amateurs in our community:

AC3LG     Zhaohan Dong  
KC3AEA   Mark Mullenhour

March brings the popular ARRL International DX Phone Contest. This phone contest is being held the first full weekend in March; March 2-3, 2024. A look ahead tells us the Delaware State QSO Party is the first weekend in May. Visit the ARRL's Contest Calendar for details on these and other contests throughout the year.

Your thoughts, questions, and participation are what drive our community forward. Feel free to reach out to me at any time; let's keep the airwaves alive with our collective passion for amateur radio.

<https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>

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



## **Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key**

(extractions from ARRL News)

The man who defined the sound of live rock 'n' roll music and brought audio engineering principals into mainstream amateur radio use, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, has passed away at the age of 83. He was an ARRL Life Member and in the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: "Bob fought a valiant, yearlong battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family."

He was active in ham radio from a young age and merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs with an emphasis on high-quality audio.

Heil was a generous donor to amateur radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, he donated a host of new audio gear to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. Our thoughts are with his loved ones."





## EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

### AUXCOMM

It's March. Beware the Ides of March. "A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum, said Caesar".

Warnings are given for a purpose. That purpose is usually to inform and educate the target audience. Now if that audience is an at-risk population, one would think they should heed what is contained in that warning. Well, people being people, and what they are, some in that at-risk population will heed the warning, and follow their Family Emergency Plan. Others in that target population will wonder what they should do, and still others will ignore the warning. Which of the three categories of response are you in?

You and your family should have a Family Emergency Plan. You should keep it updated. You should have family discussions about it at least two to three times a year, so everyone in the family is familiar with it. The website FEMA.gov has about everything you would need to know for just about every peril your family might face. Have a plan, work the plan!

The current popular term in the Emergency Management community is "Community Resilience". It's not a new term, it's been around a while, popping up now and again. So I guess this is again. Wikipedia defines it as, "the sustained ability of a community to use available resources to, respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations". There is a larger plan behind a community's ability to recover from a disaster at the county and state level.

What do we face here on this "island" we inhabit? Yes, "island" there are five bridges to get off of this sand spit that will shut down when the sustained winds reach 45 MPH. We can have, and have had all or some of the following, depending on your frame of reference. Winds from Nor'easters, Hurricanes and Tornadoes. Earthquake, yes we experienced one that didn't do any lasting damage, just took the cellphones out for a couple hours. Inundation, a fancy term for coastal flooding, beach erosion, and Tsunamis. Fires, natural and manmade. Precipitation in large amounts, snow and rain. Then let's add the "Terrible T's", Technological and Terrorism, frequently coming

together. Will you and your family be ready?

All you have to do is watch the evening news to see what can happen here, that is happening all over the country right now. Did you catch the recent comment that the National weather service has reported more Tornadoes in February than it ever has? How about the report from Texas on the 850,000 acre wildfire. That's an area larger than Sussex County! And, 12 to 15 feet of snow predicted for the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Disasters are occurring daily all over the country. The families and communities that are ready with a plan, are the ones most likely to come through the experience in better shape than those without a plan.

Sussex County AUXCOMM has taken a step to help serve the people of the county with a broader program and hopefully develop a few communities that will be a bit more resilient. The AUXCOMM Group and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) , a FEMA program, will be co-operating programs, sharing combined support resources, at the Sussex County EOC. Shared resources will include Administration and Logistics support. This new approach, combining the CERT program, which is suddenly growing again in the county, with the AUXCOMM operation, brings

together community level and county level response groups working cooperatively. There will be some cross-over training for both groups in the coming year.

The CODEL is coming April 14<sup>th</sup>, mark your calendars now. More information will be coming out. Bill Saunders, N3ID, will be directing the operation. Following on the success of the Rehoboth Marathon last December with teaming CERT with AUXCOMM, we will again be doing it for the CODEL. Also, in working with the CERT program, AUXCOMM now has use of the CERT Trailer as a mobile communication resource. It's currently being refurbished and will have its first official roll out for the CODEL as the Alternate Net Control location. Additionally, located in a high traffic area for the event, it will be publicity for both groups, CERT and AUXCOMM.

Watch for some Family Preparedness programs coming in the near future as a spin-off of the training that the two groups will be sharing. Dates and locations will be advertised as they get scheduled.

73, K3PFW

**John S. Ferguson K3PFW**  
**Auxiliary Communication Leader**  
**Sussex County(DE) EOC**