



November 2022

Sussex Repeater

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Local Weekly Nets

SARA Club Net: Tuesday 8pm
147.090 (+) 156.7
Followed by C4FM Net at 449.825

Nanticoke Club Net: Monday 8pm
146.715 (-) 156.7

Delaware Fusion Net: Monday 8:30
145.210(-) 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 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 (WA0CIE)
Vice Pres: Barbara Dean (KC3LGE)
Treasurer: Stuart Banta (KC3MAL)
Secretary: Donna Spencer (KC3IHV)

On Thursday, November 17th we will have an in-person SARA Club meeting at Mulligan's Pointe Country Club, Georgetown. You will be able to purchase dinner beginning at 18:00 and the business meeting begins at about 19:00. FCC License Testing at 18:00.



Breakfast Meet and Greet

At Pizza King in Millsboro on Thursday mornings at 8 am. Join an ever-changing group of 'hams' to have coffee and/or breakfast and talk all things ham.



2022 Rehoboth Seashore Marathon

A qualifier for the Boston Marathon

December 3, 2022

We need Operators for fixed, walking, bike, and mobile assignments. To get on the roster, please email

ws3eoc@gmail.com

with **2022 Rehoboth Marathon** in the subject line. Specify whether you can attend early or later start or full event.

WINTER HAMFEAST
December 8, 2022
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Grotto Pizza in Millsboro



From the desk of Butch WAØCIE SARA PRESIDENT

I started writing this month's report while returning home from our 10 day visit to Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area where we visited our 3 grandsons. It was a lot of fun. In addition to taking them to and from school, ice cream stores and McDonalds after school, I managed to activate 11 POTA sites, racking up 167 QSO's, 47 states plus Spain and Canada. I limited my activations to about 90 minutes a day, over 6 days. I did manage to work K3ELK, KC3OP and K3CNH here in Delaware. I also chatted briefly with KC3LGE, Barb via EchoLink. No problems with TSA or the airlines. I am already looking forward to my next trip. It is certainly a test of being flexible and operating portable.

Next month SARA will be hosting a Holiday gathering for club members and guests at Grotto's Pizza in Millsboro. I am looking forward to getting together. Please make plans to attend.

A couple of operating notes to put on your calendars:

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved.

Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio

operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact.

Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more. Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association. We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns.

We will provide more information in the December and January Newsletters. One last item. ARRL has two very interesting PODCasts that I encourage you to listen to. Every Friday they post the ARRL Audio News. A timely update about ham radio activities national and international. On a monthly schedule they post the ON THE AIR PODCasts. A discussion of an article in their Bi-Monthly Magazine. This month the talk is about the Ham Radio activities in Florida relative to Hurricane IAN. It is very good and certainly worth listening to. Check it out.

In the meantime, see you on the air.

Butch WAØCIE



From the Desk of the Delaware Section Manager

John Ferguson K3PFW

October with its two major activities, Apple Scrapple and the Section Emergency Test (SET) has come and gone. November brings “Turkey Day”, and early in December, Saturday the 3rd to be precise is the Rehoboth Marathon. What do these activities have in common? They are Public Service related, and require you to get out and do something that will benefit you and ham radio as a whole.

The general population as a whole has no idea of what “ham radio” is and what amateur radio operators do, and that is not a good thing, for us, or the hobby. Dave Minster, NA2AA, CEO of ARRL in his recent QST editorial, said “use it or lose it”. Define “use” in your own situation and “lose” as to how it will affect you. Then multiply that by say another three thousand or so hams very similar to you. That will be quite an effect. You want the privileges granted by your license; if you’ve got ‘em use ‘em. Use your skills for the public good, the betterment of you as an operator, and maybe spread a bit of good will among our worldwide fraternity.

So you say, “I’m in an HOA situation, I can’t do anything, I can’t even have an outside antenna!” You’re a ham; hams are creative. Instead of giving in, start thinking. In the same issue as NA2AA’s

editorial (Nov 2022), there is an article about making a two-meter antenna that looks like (and can fit over) a plumbing vent pipe on your roof. Some PVC pipe, foil tape, some paint, and some hardware, all available at your local hardware store of choice.

If you are not an ARRL member, there’s another thing you can do to help the hobby, become a member and you get QST! I’ve talked to quite a few hams in HOA communities, and there is a good percentage of those I’ve spoken with active on the air from their residence.

There was an effort underway, pre-pandemic, to develop draft legislation for reasonable accommodation of antennas for hams in HOA situations. Unfortunately, it was determined that there was a possible legal issue, and it will not be pursued. There is, however, a small committee studying what’s out there and possibly developing some new language. It won’t happen quickly.

Even if you don’t have an antenna, there’s all sorts of internet based modes and techniques available. Got an HT? Can you hit a local repeater from inside your residence? Weak, noisy or no signal? Did you think about getting a mag-mount antenna sticking on something metal, like a cheap steel

cookie sheet (by the way, it ain't the magnetism, it's the capacitive coupling so you can use aluminum) and trying that. The stock "rubber ducky" on your HT has negative gain! Don't let manageable issues deter you from pursuing the hobby and using your skills when they might be needed to help the general public.

We are going to revisit the "Ham in the Community" program in the New Year. You, the one with the radio, can be a lifeline from your community when for whatever reason the cell service goes out. But, you have to be ready, you have to have an idea of what to do, and you have to be known to your neighbors! Given even a small emergency, it doesn't have to reach disaster proportion, the cell service is going to fail.

Have you been following the not so public discussion of the fragile nature of the electrical power grid on the Delmarva Peninsula? We can't generate enough power to supply our needs now; let alone in the future. So along comes one of our infamous Nor'easters. There goes the power, cell sites fail, and even the wired telephones in the rural areas on the "light spans" will fail. If you are ready, even with an HT, you can provide the link for emergencies in your community, via a local repeater, to the EOC, and make a difference.

Later, 73
John, K3PFW

If you can't do this



try something else



Stealth 2 Meter
Copper J-Pole



KC300 and KA3MSG at Apple Scapple



K3TCO at Apple Scapple



EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

Our Raison D'être

On October 15th, Sussex County AUXCOMM provided support of the Mobile Command Unit (MCU) at the 30th annual Apple Scrapple Festival in Bridgeville, DE. A total of 18 volunteer operators came out to support this event that brings tens of thousands to downtown Bridgeville for a day of exhibits, rides, and food. Our “yellow vested” troops mingled throughout the crowd providing eyes & ears for the MCU and a presence for the public. Operators were routinely posed with inquiries for critical information such as “where are the porta-potties?” and “where are the ATM’s?” among others. The weather was perfect.

We also played an instrumental role in reuniting two incidents of lost children (or lost parents, depending on your perspective). In the first incident, a 12-year-old boy became separated from his family. He reported his lost family to a police officer. At the same time, the “lost” mother approached one

of our “yellow vested” operators who was in contact with the MCU and able to successfully coordinate a reunification of the family.

In the second incident, two of our operators working as a team were approached by a young man who pointed out a little boy who was upset and crying because he had been separated from his mother. They were unable to get her phone number from him but did keep him from running into the crowd trying to find her and provided comfort to him for some time until the mother called 911 and another successful reunification was accomplished. Their presence, and clear communications with the MCU where direct coordination with law enforcement could be efficiently carried out, brought a quick and successful conclusion for this family.

In another incident, our operators observed an altercation that began between some tired and cranky festival-goers and were able to alert the MCU to coordinate law

enforcement response. We also fielded several reports of porta-potties that required servicing and were able to pass that information to the event organizers via the MCU. Our yellow vested hams were quite popular that day.

The French phrase “**Raison D’être**”, which Merriam-Webster defines as a reason or justification for existence, just seems to fit very well in these examples. At events like Apple Scrapple we are there to extend the capabilities of the MCU, through Amateur Radio, in serving the public. This happens to be the very first “rule” in the FCC Part 97 rules that govern Amateur Radio, as follows (bold emphasis is mine).

§ 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental **purpose** as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur **service to the public** as a **voluntary** noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications

It’s why we do what we do. Our Raison D’être. There was a fine article in the October 22nd issue of the Cape

Gazette (link below) about the ham radio involvement at Apple Scrapple. Nice. We need the public to know that we exist and what we’re doing out here, and we need more of us hams doing it. How about stepping out and helping next time? Sussex County AUXCOMM anticipates providing support for the 2022 Rehoboth Seashore Marathon on Saturday, December 3rd. The more volunteer operators we have, the better we can cover the 26-mile course. Details forthcoming. Hope to see you there.

73’s
Bill, N3ID

<https://www.capegazette.com/article/ham-radio-operators-provide-support-apple-scrapple-event/247777>



Discussing how to set up GoKits for an emergency: K3PFW, KC3RPU, W3DCS, KC3IHV, K3TCO and K3JL.