



Sussex Repeater

SEPTEMBER 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 7:30pm
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 September meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, 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 RETURNS to Pizza King Millsboro

All hams are welcome to join the ever-changing group of hams at the Millsboro Pizza King, 358 E Dupont Hwy, Millsboro, DE 19966. every Thursday morning at 8:00.

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.

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

The change of weather is certainly in the air. Cooler temps, low humidity and soon the changing colors and scents that make fall. With fall comes the months where we truly enjoy operating portable stations. Whether they be for POTA, IOTA or just to test out your new portable kit. This weather is also the best time for a Fox Hunt. All of these operating types offer skills for providing Emergency Communications. Get hooked up with your local ARES group or club and get in on the fun and hone your skillset.

Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Reminder to 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 with VHF, UHF, and HF using SSB and digital modes. Get in on these valuable EmComm building drills by contacting

N3xkj@verizon.net

ARRL Grant for \$25,000 – Application is reviewing process As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, 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. I should hear back from the ARRL within the next two months.

Log Book of The World, LOTW, is back online and running at full capacity with no data loss. The ARRL had over 100 systems that were taken offline due to the cyberattack. Currently there is only a few still left to be resolved.

If you need to get ahold of me use my contact information at the bottom of all newsletters. I highly recommend all Delaware licensees join the ARRL Delaware Section group.io group to get the latest information on the Delaware Section. This group is where drills, meetings, events, etc. are posted in the calendar and discussions. This group has become my main way of getting to radio operators in Delaware since my ability to email via the ARRL website is down.

The Delaware Section held a statewide simplex test on August 24. This test involved 20 stations throughout the state. These stations included hospitals, emergency operations centers including DEMA, and shelters. The main objective of the drill was to pass a message via not only the statewide simplex frequency (146.550 MHz) but also each county's assigned VHF & UHF simplex frequencies. Messages were started at the top of the section in Wilmington and ended in Nanticoke. Then the process was reversed to go back North. Early morning hours provided superb propagation via simplex from Rehoboth Beach to Wilmington Hospital! Stations were required to document the signal report and audio quality to enable a spreadsheet to be completed with the After-Action Report which will be available shortly.

Weather Update –

August provided a relatively tame storm month then was predicted. AccuWeather have now reduced the number of named storms from 20-25 to 20-23. That is the good news. The bad news is Atlantic Seaboard could be facing a busy September...the peak of hurricane season. From AccuWeather..."We could see a parade of storms developing during the month of September. There's a possibility that we could see multiple tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic basin on the same day, similar to the frequency of storms that we've seen during other supercharged hurricane seasons like 2020." We need to keep our guard up into November. Visit Preparede.org to get information on making a plan and building a kit. Know your Evacuation Zone so you know when and how to evacuate. Listen on your local county primary 2m repeaters for Skywarn traffic. Keep your radio gear charged, updated and ready for use for both you to use in an emergency but also to assist your community. Become a Skywarn Spotter to know what to report and to whom by visiting The National Weather Service Philadelphia Skywarn Page at www.weather.gov/phi/skywarn. This page has not only class data but also under the "Frequency Info" tab all of the primary Skywarn repeaters in the entire DELMARVA peninsula.

Upcoming Events & Contests

- Sussex Amateur Radio Association to host all-welcome Fox Hunt – September 28, 2024: The Sussex Amateur Radio Association (SARA) is hosting an all-welcome Fox Hunt on September 28, 2024 at Trap Pond State Park. This near all day event will encompass using a radio (ham radio HT, scanner, etc.) to find small low power transmitter (The Fox) hidden within the park. This event is open to all...you do not have to be a ham as you are receiving

signals from The Fox; no transmitting is required so you can even use a hand-held scanner! A great opportunity to get your family involved and practice your Radio Direction Finding skills. Food is being planned. Contact the club via sussexderadio@gmail.com.

- September 14-16: ARRL VHF Contest
- September 21-22: EME 2.3 GHz & Up

. Visit contests.arrl.org for details on these and upcoming contests.

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

K3ZOT: Michael Anggono

We have all heard about 'use it or lose it' or "perishable skill" in many circles. This is a true aspect of our work as amateur radio operators. Do you remember the phonetic alphabet? Q codes? Band segments for general? We must exercise ourselves to operate equipment/stations often and outside our comfort zone. This pushes us to remember how to hook up a TNC to a radio or a tuner to our radio/antenna system. Many of the events and drills mentioned in my newsletters will do just that. Join your county Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group or club and get in on the fun and challenges that keep us sharp. One local club just had an antenna building event where everyone built 2m tape measure yagi's for an upcoming Fox Hunt.

Sometimes we need to push ourselves. As always feel free to contact me about anything radio and hope to hear you on the air.

73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager
• Email: kc3dso@gmail.com
• Cell: 240.515.0620
• Office: 302.604.7470



EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

AUXCOMM

Good things are happening at the, now not so new, Sussex County Emergency Operations Complex. It is still called the “EOC”, which hasn’t changed since the early eighties when the first one was built, which is now the County Records Center. Amateur radio started supporting the county Emergency Operations Department there in 1985 with Hurricane Gloria.

As you are probably well aware the management of the day to day operations has fully migrated to the Incident Command System (ICS). I have related before in this column, that the ICS is the FEMA required method for all response and recovery operations. It is really nice to have the complete structure in place and functioning, and in only a few short months. However, it’s been a busy time getting used to new faces and ideas, good ones (ideas) I might add. The changes are positive, and seem to be well accepted by everyone. OK, so not everybody likes change; but consider it “evolution”. The Dinosaurs didn’t, and now they’re just old fossils! New times and challenges require new thinking. The response plans of the early 2000’s cannot accommodate the changes and growth that has occurred in the state and county in the last twenty years. The AUXCOMM Management Team is

working through what seems to be an endless pile of new issues and changes to keep up with the pace of change. Some issues have been easily accommodated, others have been under discussion for months. Some we’ve never had to address before. The AUXCOMM Group is managed in the ICS format, and also CERT, that we are now partnered with, which fits in relatively well. The three active CERT teams in the county are ICS compliant also. In the planning stages is a joint AUXCOMM – CERT exercise tentatively scheduled for later this month at the Sussex Campus of the Delaware State Fire School, located on the other side of the Georgetown Airport, which will involve the new AUXCOMM/CERT Trailer. The trailer has been under development now for seven months. Progress has not always moved forward steadily, but we’re a long way forward from what we inherited. The latest change is a new county policy that will have AUXCOMM volunteers certified to tow the trailer. The next roll out of the trailer will be September 14th in Dover, unfortunately the same day as AUXCOMM will be supporting the county MCU in Dewey Beach for what will probably be the last running of the Dewey Beach Sprint Triathlon. The changes and growth in the Route One Corridor are making it

nearly impossible to hold events like this. By the way, Bill Saunders, N3ID, will be managing this event and can use a few more hams. Email him at WS3EOC@gmail.com if interested. I'll be in Dover with the trailer, sadly missing the historic event in Dewey.

In the partnership with CERT we are seeing some interesting cross training with CERT members becoming interested in amateur radio, and AUXCOMM people taking the CERT course when it's been offered. There's another one coming the weekend of September 20 – 22 with several registering for it. This is making the AUXCOMM / CERT combination a more resilient and capable group to support the EOC and its outreach to the people and communities of Sussex County. The CERT program teaches preparedness, both individual and community, which is something we all should be focusing on whenever possible. Today's world and its issues and hazards present far more complex problems than even 20 years ago.

Here's hoping change and growth will be our evolution, moving us forward successfully into the future. This month, September, by all the charts out there, should give us the peak of the 2024 Hurricane Season. It ain't too late yet to prepare you and your family for what could possibly come.

Later, 73

John S. Ferguson K3PFW
Auxiliary Communications Leader
County CERT Coordinator
Sussex County EOC

Notices:

The amateur radio estate of KB3GNO, Ray Deskins (SK) list is available for sale. If you did not receive the list in your email, contact Lars Spencer, NS3F.

Please notice time changes on page one:

The SARA monthly meeting now starts a half hour earlier.

The LARS Wednesday evening net now begins at 7:30 pm.



SARA Foxhunt will be held Saturday, September 28th beginning at 10:00 am.

Anyone with information for the good of the club to be included in the newsletter, please feel free to contact: Barbara.dean@comcast.net