



# Delmarva RF Gazette

Keeping Mid-Delmarva Ham Radio Operators Informed

March 2026

## Tuning In

When bad weather threatens, monitor  
SKYWARN weather net on  
147.090(+) 156.7

System Fusion repeater frequencies:  
Millsboro 449.825(-) PL 156.7  
Seaford 145.210(-) PL 156.7

Sussex County Emergency Simplex  
145.510 & 144.915

Kent County Emergency Simplex  
147.420

Winlink Simplex 145.050  
Winlink peer-to-peer 145.020

### REPEATERS IN THE AREA

Lewes: LARS: 147.330(+) PL 156.7  
WGMD: 443.55(+) PL 156.7

Millsboro: WS3ARA: 147.090(+) PL 156.7

Seaford: N3KNT: 146.715(-) PL 156.7  
W3TBG: 444.900(+)

County WS3EOC: 443.200(+) PL 156.7

Salisbury K3DRC: 146.8200(-) PL 156.7

### National Traffic Net

Delaware Traffic Net: Mon – Sat  
5:30pm Freq: 3.905

Delaware Emergency Net: - Sun.  
5:30pm Freq: 3.905

First SARA FOXHUNT of the Year  
**March 22, 2026**

Starts about 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited. Lunch around  
noon... bring a side dish to share.  
(If you aren't a cook, chips or a deli  
side)

Jason Beach in Trap Pond State Park  
Laurel, Delaware

**Hamfest April 18, 2026**

21150 Airport Road, Georgetown, DE.

New location

New Forums

New Vendors

Operate as W1AW/3

Learn about Satellite Radio

Join in for a POTA demonstration

Win an ICOM 7300 MK2 or maybe A new  
Laptop

**Don't forget your SARA dues  
must be paid by April 1, 2026.**

## Strategies Beyond Recruitment – a Plan to Engage Newly Licensed Hams

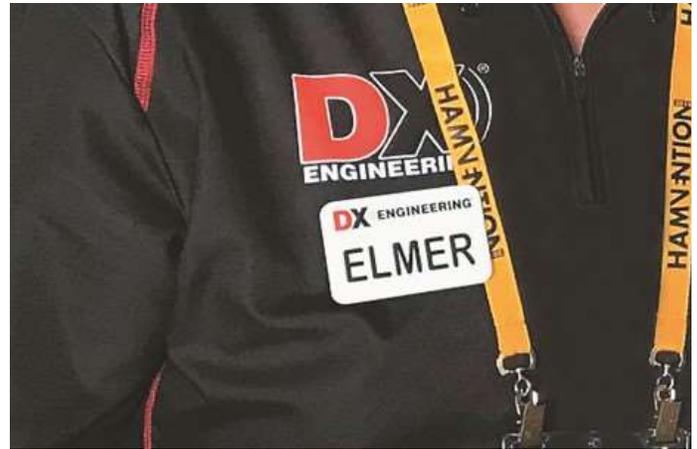
The ham radio community as a whole recognizes the urgent need for more young faces and youth operators to help our hobby thrive and grow. In my conversations with others, I realize that both clubs and individuals understand the need to recruit. The issue is not with spreading awareness; we need to share ideas and put a plan into action on both a personal and a club level. I have put together a few strategies. I believe if you implement these both for yourself and in your local club, you will see the number of young people active in ham radio increase.

### **Create a Welcoming Environment for First-Timers**

When you have a first-time guest at a club meeting or a new check-in on a local repeater, make sure to personally say hello and welcome them to the group. Share who you are and what your club is about. Follow up with them after the meeting or the contact to answer any questions they have. Provide them with the dates of upcoming events or meetings and include them in conversations.

### **Be an Elmer & Mentor**

Find people in your club who are willing to Elmer a new individual, so when you do have a visitor, you have someone to refer them to. An Elmer is someone who will stay in contact with them, help program a new radio, explain local repeater etiquette, or introduce them to other hams who share similar interests. This provides new people with a point of contact and someone they can go to with questions and receive training and instruction.



(Image/DX Engineering)

### **Follow Up After Every Exam Session**

A new license does not automatically mean a new active operator. We need to focus on encouraging and involving new licensees just as much as recruiting new hams. After an individual passes the license exam, follow up with them in an email and share local repeater information and the schedule for nets. Make sure they have a mentor to contact with questions. Newly licensed hams often do not engage or become active simply because they do not know how or what to do. Guide them on the next steps and encourage their participation in upcoming club events.

### **Provide Access to Equipment**

Many new operators, and especially younger people, often do not have the means to purchase equipment to get on the air. If your club does not have loaner equipment available, offer the use of your station to train new operators. Create an environment where they can make mistakes and learn from them without causing damage or being shamed for it. Host a hands-on workshop during club meetings and demonstrate antenna builds and designs. Provide resources to inexpensive starter equipment for them to get active and on the air.

For hams 21 and under, the [RHR youth network](#) provides unlimited free access to

several remote stations around the world. This is a great opportunity for youth who may not have access to equipment to get on the air, make contacts, and connect with other young hams.

### **Treat Young Hams as Equals, Not “Just Some Kid”**

When you have a young person show interest in ham radio, it is important to connect with them and treat them as an equal. For example, if a youth shows up to Field Day and wants to help with setup, don't exclude them from what you are doing and send them off to do “kids' activities.” Include them in the project you are working on, explain the process and steps, and guide them in helping with what you are doing. Giving them responsibilities of their own will provide them with a sense of purpose and belonging, and they will be more likely to come back in the future and join in on more activities.



(Image/DX Engineering)

### **Offer Leadership Opportunities to Young Operators**

This also ties into giving them a purpose and sense of belonging in your group. Provide opportunities for the youth to run a local net or give a presentation at a club meeting. Often, young people are more familiar with social media, so utilize this by asking them to help advertise events and promote the club using this platform.

Provide them with the needed tools and information to help with outreach in their youth groups and schools.

### **Bring Ham Radio to the Youth**

There are many opportunities for clubs to introduce ham radio to young people in their own environment. A great example of this is school science fairs. A radio club can offer to sponsor an award at a local science fair for science projects that are related to ham radio in some aspect. This could be anything from how different antenna designs affect the transmitted signal, solar activity vs. band conditions, etc. The list of available awards would be published at the schools—a good way to get young people interested and give them the opportunity to research and explore on their own.

### **Club Communication—Think Outside the Box**

A large factor contributing to the lack of youth engagement in local clubs is the way announcements and conversations are communicated in between meetings. It is imperative to have some form of communication and stay active in between events. Whether this is informal nets on your local repeater or an email newsletter, make sure it is available to everyone. Use online platforms that have a high level of youth activity, such as Discord. Post demonstration videos and updates to YouTube or Instagram. If your only communication within the group happens at club meetings, it is easy to lose the younger audience, and they become less engaged.

### **Celebrate Newly Licensed Hams or License Upgrades**

If you have a club newsletter, include a column to focus on newly licensed individuals or license upgrades. Announce these achievements at club meetings and congratulate the new hams. Celebrate their first QSOs and encourage them to keep active on local repeaters. This kind of recognition encourages their engagement and participation and motivates them to get involved.

Build an Encouraging Culture for New Ideas  
It can be easy to get accustomed to the way we do things and want to stick to it.

However, when young people come to you with new ideas, it is important to consider what they have to say and not dismiss it simply because it is new or different. Do not criticize them for using digital modes or doing things differently than you may have done when you were first licensed.

Encourage youth to experiment with their ideas and always stay curious. Remember, respect goes both ways!

This is not an extensive and complete list. I encourage you to come up with your own ideas and share them with others!

### **Thanks to OnAllBands**

#### **Colombian Armed Conflict with FARC**

We all know of the serious applications that both ham radio and Morse code have.

They're vital in situations like natural disasters and other humanitarian crises.

That includes armed conflicts. One such instance where it was used in a creative way was during a bitter 50-year armed conflict in Colombia between government forces and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). During that time, more than 21,396 people had been kidnapped by the rebels, most of whom were army soldiers and police officers. One such camp was discovered in 2010, where 16 soldiers had been held captive for nearly 12 years.

While the Colombian army knew about the camp (along with others) and were preparing to rescue the men, they had a problem. The FARC were known to eliminate their hostages at the first sign of trouble (a raid, for example). So, the army needed to devise a way to communicate to the hostages that help was on the way and they needed to prepare. Colonel Jose Espejo, who oversaw the campaign, heard from former hostages

that radio was one of the only luxuries that they were given in captivity. He enlisted the help of advertisers Juan Carlos Ortiz, famous for his off-kilter advertising in anti-FARC campaigns. Together with another advertiser, Alfonso Diaz, they began tinkering with the idea of sending a message over the radio that only they understood. As it just so happens, Colombian soldiers are trained in Morse code during their basic training. With that in mind, Espejo began working with music producers and musicians, like rock singer Angelo and actor Natalia Gutierrez, to produce a song with a hidden meaning of hope for the captives. The producers studied Morse code, how many words could be fit into a rhythm, and how many beats per minute it would take to hide it. They landed on using a synth to hide the message. Eight months later, they had a track. The Morse code message they included was simple: "19 people rescued. You're next. Don't lose hope."

Because the Colombian government controlled the nation's airwaves, they were able to put the song on more than 130 rural stations across Colombia. To make sure the radios were on for them, former hostages went on live TV to appeal to the rebels and give them access to the radio for a segment called "Voices of the Kidnapped," which broadcasted messages from their loved ones to help reduce their feelings of isolation. The song was then played during those hours as an audio "Trojan horse" in tandem with commandos rescuing hostages from these camps.

The song was so effective that even members of FARC enjoyed it, without ever realizing the meaning within. In 2011, the operation was declassified and the song was entered into the Cannes Lions awards, where it took home the Golden Lion—a prestigious award recognizing exceptional creativity and effectiveness in advertising and marketing.

### **Thanks to OnAllBands**

## Contacts and Regular Scheduled Meetings

Lewes Amateur Radio Society(LARS) - 1st Wed.	Noon	Rehoboth Diner, 19219 Coastal Hwy, Rehoboth <a href="mailto:larsw3lrs@gmail.com">larsw3lrs@gmail.com</a>
Sussex AUXCOMM - 2nd Mon.	7:00pm	21911 Rudder Lane, Georgetown <a href="mailto:ws3eoc@gmail.com">ws3eoc@gmail.com</a>
Kent County Amateur Radio Club - 2nd Tues.	7:00pm	911 Public Safety Blvd, Dover <a href="http://www.kc3arc.org">www.kc3arc.org</a>
Sussex Amateur Radio Assn.(SARA) - 3rd Thurs.	5:30pm	22426 Sussex Pines Rd, Georgetown <a href="http://www.SussexAmateurRadio.com">www.SussexAmateurRadio.com</a>
Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club (NARC) - 3rd Sat.	9:00am	121 South Front Street, Seaford <a href="https://nanticokearc.org/">https://nanticokearc.org/</a>
Kent County ARES - Last Mon.	7:00pm	911 Public Safety Blvd, Dover <a href="http://www.kc3arc.org">www.kc3arc.org</a>
Sussex ARES 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. Oct-Dec-Feb- Apr-June-Aug	6:30 pm	Airport Arena's Restaurant, Georgetown <a href="mailto:KC3DSO@gmail.com">KC3DSO@gmail.com</a>
Delmarva Amateur Radio Club 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. (Except May, & Nov. & Dec.)	7:00 pm	129 Broad St, Salisbury MD <a href="https://www.qsl.net/darc/">https://www.qsl.net/darc/</a>

### Send it in:

Send activity, happenings and ham related event notices from your slice of  
Delmarva, Email: [DelmarvaRFGazette@gmail.com](mailto:DelmarvaRFGazette@gmail.com)

### Weekly Nets Sussex County

Day of week	Group	Time	Frequency
Monday	Nanticoke	7:30 pm	See : <a href="http://www.nanticokearc.org">www.nanticokearc.org</a>
Tuesday	SARA	8:00 pm	147.090+ PL 156.7
Wednesday	ARES	7:00 pm	147.090+ PL 156.7
	LARS	7:30 pm	147.330+ PL 156.7
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday	Ragchew	7:30 pm	443.200+ PL 156.7

## Up-Coming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
03/22/26	10:00 am	SARA Fox Hunt	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
04/04/26	9:00 am	Hospital Quarterly Drill	Sussex County ARES
04/12/26		CoDel Marathon	AUXCOMM Lewes - Rehoboth
04/15-21/26		W1AW/3 Ops	All of Delaware
04/18/26	8:00-3:00	** HAMFEST **	Sussex Academy 21150 Airport Rd
04/25/26		Ocean to Bay Ride	ARES
05/2-3/26		Delaware QSO Party	All stations
05/16/26		Lewes Maritime Day	Lewes, DE
05/23/26		Fox Hunt/POTA	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
06/06/26	9:00 am	Al Waller's Swap Meet	34087 Old Hickory Rd Laurel, DE
06/27-28/26		ARRL Summer Field Day	All Operators
07/11/26		Hospital Quarterly Drill	Sussex County ARES
08/01/26		Georgetown Night Out	Sussex County ARES
08/02/26		POTA/Picnic	Redden State Forest
08/06/26		Intl Lightship Weekend	
08/22/26		Bike & Bash	ARES
09/05/26	9:00 am	Al Waller's Swap Meet	34087 Old Hickory Rd Laurel, DE
09/13/26		Fox Hunt/POTA	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
10/03/26		Hospital Quarterly Drill	Sussex County
10/10/26		Apple Scrapple	AUXCOMM Bridgeville, Delaware
10/18/26		Fox Hunt/POTA	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
11/07/26	9:00 am	Al Waller's Swap Meet	34087 Old Hickory Rd Laurel, DE
12/2-8/26		W1AW/3	All Delaware
12/07/26		Delaware Day Event	Legislative Mall Special event call
<b>Volunteer to work on HAMFEST: <a href="mailto:HamfestDelaware@gmail.com">HamfestDelaware@gmail.com</a></b>			



## ARRL Section Manager

Another newsletter, another winter storm. Winter Storm Fernando brought several days of disruption across Delaware, with parts of Sussex County seeing nearly 19 inches of snow. Many residents were without power for extended periods, and several tower sites went offline when generators either failed to start or were not available. A

small portable generator can be useful, but many of us face restrictions on their use. Whole-house units with automatic transfer switches are ideal, especially when they start themselves during an outage. It's also worth remembering that carbon monoxide from generators is deadly; the National Hurricane Center noted last September that more people died from CO poisoning than from the hurricane itself. For amateur radio operators, a pre-storm checklist is invaluable. Fully charged HTs and portable battery packs—such as the LiFePO4 batteries many of us use for POTA and other

field operations—are perfect for maintaining communications during multi-day events.

These power sources allow us to stay active on SKYWARN and other nets even when commercial power is out. Emergency Operations Centers across the state were activated, either in person or remotely, to manage the storm's impacts. Shelters opened in at least two counties to provide warmth and safety for residents without heat or whose homes were damaged. Downed trees created challenges statewide, requiring coordinated multi-agency efforts to clear roads and restore power. As amateur radio operators, we continue to serve as examples of preparedness and resilience within our communities.

**ARRL Grassroots Effort to Eliminate HOA Prohibitions** – GMRS users can now send letters Last September the ARRL launched a grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles. The online system where an amateur radio licensee can generate letters has received near 160,000 letters to be delivered to our congressional representatives. This effort is alive and well and still moving forward. The ARRL site has links for sending the letter in English and Spanish. And now GMRS users can also send letters via the same site. The ARRL is also encouraging radio clubs to provide letters of support, and is urging each club officer to sign the letters. There are instructions for clubs via the site on how to complete the letter and a sample letter for clubs that should be customized with their information. Visit

<https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation> to get links for all of the items. If you have not sent in your letter, do so as soon as you can. It take less than 30 seconds.

**ARRL America250 Worked All States (WAS)**

Award for 2026 W1AW/X UPDATE The ARRL Delaware Section will have use of the

W1AW/3 callsign for two weeks of the year. First week will cover the Delaware State Convention/Hamfest on April 18, 2026. The week will run from Wednesday, April 15 to Tuesday, April 21. The second week will cover December 7 which is Delaware Day. December 7, 1787 is when Delaware became the first state. This second week will run from Wednesday, December 2 to Tuesday, December 8. The section will be using Ham-qtv.com as our scheduling site. After you create a free account, you will be able to request to operate in the event and then will be able to request 1-hour blocks to operate W1AW/3 while in Delaware for those two weeks. For those who will be operating K2E in the 13 Colonies event the first week of July will also be using this site for scheduling. There are no instructions on the sites' use but I have created a quick cheat sheet. The document can be download from the ARRLDelawareSection.groups.io site.

**ARRL Resets Section Managers Election Cycles** Currently the ARRL Field Organization runs election cycles near year-round. With 71 Section Manager positions, this was getting a bit tedious. Although more than half of the elections the incumbent ran unopposed thus not needing an election, many did require candidate statements, ballots to be send and received and the Field Organization counting and confirming results. A decision was made to hold all elections once per year in July. Normally Delaware's Section Manager term started on January 1 every other year. With this change, Delaware's Section Manager term will now start on July 1 (2028). So, this adds 6 months to my current term as Section Manager. My term will now run from January 2026 to July 1, 2028 making the term 30 months instead of the normal 24.

**ARRL Delaware Section Staff Attend Board of Electrical Examiners to Oppose Low- Voltage Regulation Change**

(excerpts from Press Release)  
Representatives of the ARRL Delaware Section attended the Delaware Board of

Electrical Examiners meeting on February 17 to formally oppose proposed regulatory changes that could unintentionally restrict amateur radio operations involving low-voltage communications equipment. The proposed revisions, currently under consideration by the Board, would broaden the scope of work requiring state required inspection. ARRL Delaware Section leadership expressed concern that any change to the current regulation could be interpreted to include routine amateur radio activities—despite amateur radio being federally regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). “Every amateur radio operator is licensed by the FCC at one of three levels, and each level requires testing on electrical and operational safety. These exams cover electrical safety, RF exposure, interference mitigation, grounding, bonding, and mechanical safety. Safety is built into our licensing from the very beginning,” said Keller, ARRL Delaware Section Manager. “For decades, amateur radio operators have safely installed their own antennas, feedlines, low-voltage/energy rotor controls, audio wiring, and computer cabling. Requiring a licensed electrician to perform these specialized, low-voltage/energy tasks would impose unnecessary cost and burden, with no demonstrated safety benefit.” ARRL Delaware Section representatives emphasized that amateur radio operators routinely support emergency management agencies, the National Weather Service’s SKYWARN program, community shelters, hospitals and public-service events. They noted that the proposed regulatory language could inadvertently hinder these volunteer-driven services by imposing inspection requirements never intended for non-commercial, federally regulated radio operations. During the meeting, ARRL Delaware Section staff outlined the potential impacts of the proposed changes, provided technical clarification on amateur radio’s operational scope, and encouraged the

Board to collaborate with the amateur radio community to avoid unintended consequences. The Section will continue to monitor the regulatory process and provide input as needed. **The next meeting of the Delaware Board of Electrical Examiners is this Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 08:30. Visit Public Meeting Calendar: State of Delaware for more information on attending or joining the meeting virtually.** The initial proposal can be found at Delaware Regulations - Regulation however it has been changed and the wording not set. A Sub-committee to handle this regulation will be discussed at the March 4 meeting.

Sussex County ARES: February 11 was our bimonthly Hybrid Meeting at Areen’s in Georgetown. The speaker we had scheduled to present about the Hurricane Watch Net had to cancel. Pat, KW3Z, provided some data on winter and summer storms. Two regularly scheduled 2m Training Nets were run via the Millsboro 147.090 repeater. The net on the 18th Pat, KW3Z ran and had an interesting discussion on emergency power backup. Great timing as it was just before Winter Storm Fernando. Sussex County ARES ran a Skywarn NET for Winter Storm Hernando. The Millsboro repeater lost power with the generator not starting. The Skywarn Net was then moved to it’s secondary repeater, North Seaford 146.715. Reports were taken on the analog repeaters and via the Skywarn 759 DMR Talkgroup.

Sussex ARES has the following events scheduled for March and April 2026

3/4 – 2m Training Net – 147.090 Millsboro Repeater, Steven, KC3DSO NCS  
3/7-8 – ARRL DX Phone Contest. Although not an ARES event, running contests and provide superb experience for Net Control duties. Hybrid Meeting – Arena’s in Georgetown- 6:30PM – Hurricane Watch Net  
3/18 – Zoom Training, 7pm, link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84627190775?pwd=SRsvDUUpU4ozlB48s86165pn2uP41fk.1>  
3/24 – ARRL Training Center – 8pm, Online,

How to make a rugged 2m VHF Ground Plane Antenna, 1 hour, to register visit On The Air Live: VHF Ground Plane Antenna | ARRL April 4/1 – 2m Training Net – 147.090 Millsboro Repeater, Mike, N3MRM, NCS 4/4 – Sussex ARES 2Q Hospital Drill, All locations, 0830-1330. Contact Steven, KC3DSO if you want to participate.

4/8 – Sussex ARES Hybrid Meeting – 6pm, Arena’s in Georgetown, PowerPole LED Go No Go tester assembly. \$8 each kit with \$ going to the Section’s Youth Initiative.

4/15 - 2m Training Net – 147.090 Millsboro Repeater, Steven, KC3DSO, NCS

4/25 – Sussex ARES Support of the 2026 Ocean to Bay Bike Tour. 13 stations staffed around Southern Sussex County. Contact Steven, KC3DSO, [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com) to sign up. New operators welcome.

Sussex ARES runs a drill every 90 days and runs/participates in other events during the year. Want to be a part of an active ARES group? You don’t have to live in Sussex County to be a part of the team. Send an email to [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com).

**Grid Down, Mic Up** – EmComm Topics

WinLink Catalog Requests

WinLink Catalog Information Requests

continue to be one of the most useful tools in our emergency communications toolkit. A Winlink Catalog Information Request is a message request that is generated by Winlink Express. Once you send the message, your next download picks up the response for each information request in the message. There are many categories of requests in the catalog that can be made. Each category has multiple specific inquiries that can be made. Some examples are:

- Weather Maps and Text Forecasts for most areas (you can now request Delaware WX)
- Lightning Maps
- Maritime HF Nets and Frequencies
- Satellite images
- Satellite Keplerian Elements
- ARRL Newsletter and Bulletins
- Propagation and Solar Forecasts

For example, suppose you wanted to view the weather for one or all of Delaware’s counties. Under “Settings” scroll down to

“Winlink Catalog Requests.” Under the left column heading of “Categories” you will see a huge list of docs you can request via the WinLink System. Scroll down to “WX\_US\_DE” and click it. The right column will populate with the docs or info you can request under this category. You will see the Inquiry ID (the doc name WinLink needs to retrieve the correct file) and Description and the Size. The file size is listed you can make a decision on docs related to transfer speed via your connection type. You will need to double click the ones you want. It will be added to the “Selections” list on the upper right. After you add the selections simply click “Post Request” and an outbound message will appear in your Outbox. Next time you connect to the WinLink System your request will be sent. When you connect again after a few minutes you will download your request. The incoming messages will be marked as coming from “Service.” Some of these incoming messages, like the satellite images, will come back as attachments. Other options on this page are you can update the Catalog list via the internet (which is the best way as it’s fast) or via RF via the “Request update via Radio” button. You can get a good bit of neat stuff. Give it a go today.

**A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members** Join me in welcoming the latest additions to the Amateur Radio Service in our vibrant

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.

73,

Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

• Email: [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com)

• Cell: 240.515.0620

• Office: 302.604.7470

Useful Links:

• ARRL Sections – Delaware

(<https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/Delaware>)

• ARRL Delaware Section Groups.io Reflector

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



## Sussex County, DE **AUXCOMM**

The reports are coming in on Winter Storm Hernando. The usual comments on the response and on the issues that had to be dealt with. From all of this we are supposed to figure out how to be better prepared for the next incident. That's what the ICS and After Action Reports (AAR's) are all about, improving our response through an orderly review of what happened, what did we do, what didn't we do, and what could have been done better. With all the comments, it might take a while. It's been a while since the last "big one". Then the response. An individual's or group's response starts with an acknowledgement that something is going to happen. The meteorologists and the National Weather Service offices were right on it for several days before the event. Y'all can't say you didn't know it was coming, but a whole lot of people weren't prepared. There seemed to be somewhat of a "well it's just another snow storm". One measurement of the "so what, a storm", was noticed by several folks at the EOC. Saturday evening, the night before it hit, at Walmart the bread isle still had a lot of bread, and there was plenty of milk in the cooler! Well it wasn't "just another snow storm", and is being compared to events as far back as the 90's. This one was a Blizzard! That's why there were Blizzard Warnings posted... in advance! Well if you had never been through one, you can now check it off on your "bucket list". It didn't measure up to the snow accumulation of the Double Blizzard of 2010, but I think we got there with sustained power outages. The EOC was even running on generator for a

while. It would have been worse if there hadn't been one of the periodic tree trimming along the power lines in the fall, last year. And yet again, there were homeowners bitching about the "butchering" of the trees in their yards. Well trim them back or run the chance of being in the dark, for a while. In my opinion, the utilities and their contractors aren't aggressive enough in their trimming, but they are following the standard practice.

The Sussex County EOC activated at 1800, Sunday, February 22nd, for Winter Storm Hernando, and ran through midday Tuesday, the 24th. The Group staffed the AUXCOMM Room, around the clock, for the entire event. Participating were Bill Saunders, Judith Carter, Stuart Green, Jeff Stevenson, Bob Trepp, Jay Rutherford and myself. This was our first sustained activation in quite a while. It was a good test of the planning and changes that have been going on under the new Department of Public Safety management. One major improvement, we actually had cots this time, no sleeping on the floor! However, they didn't get used.

Last month it was announced that a Reorganization Committee had been formed to work on some changes in the AUXCOMM program and management. I had thought that this month's column would at least be able to announce some progress. It has proved to be a bit more difficult than we initially thought it would be, because the more we looked at the issues, there were more that were found. I can say that we've identified Training and Recruitment as being critical in order to comfortably perform our mission. Along with Recruitment, is Retention. You can't just bring them in the

front door and let them leave by the back door, and expect to make any progress! You will be seeing some changes immediately, however, going forward. If we are to perform our support mission to the EOC, we need a trained and responsive group of operators and others, willing to serve their communities and the county, at large. On the subject of training, several of the Management Team members were at DEMA, for an afternoon, to become conversant with Web EOC; which will be the internal communication platform for all EOC activations. Eventually, operators tasked with manning the AUXCOMM Room will need this training also. One of the first proposals of the Reorganization Committee was to keep the AUXCOMM and CERT programs under the one management entity. After discussions with the leadership of the Emergency Management division at the EOC, the two programs will move to being under separate management. In some ways it remains an interesting and symbiotic relationship; more so as we get additional individuals competent in both programs. The AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer is undergoing a few upgrades, which will continue for the next month. We are hoping everything will be finished for the two early April deployments that are on the calendar. It's currently at my shop in Georgetown for some door repairs, including handles and a lock. Also on the list is antenna testing and evaluation. One of April deployments for the trailer will be the Coastal Delaware Running Fest, the CODEL, coming April 12 in the Rehoboth /Lewes area. A great opportunity for anyone interested to get out and support the EOC's effort in this event. We will certainly need AUXCOMM and CERT people for a variety of tasks. This is a huge event stretching over the two coastal towns of Lewes and Rehoboth and utilizing the trails of Cape Henlopen State Park. The expectation is upwards of 3300 runners in the combined events of Marathon, Half Marathon and

9K. For AUXCOMM assignments contact Bill Saunders, N3ID, and for CERT, Judith Carter. Watch for email announcements, and "reply to" the announcement. We will once again, where appropriate, be teaming an AUXCOMM operator and a CERT person, at specific locations. We can always use AUXCOMM operators as "Bicycle Mobiles", on the trails. This could be an opportunity for a CERT bicycle person to be teamed with an AUXCOMM operator; something we haven't tried yet. Movement on the trails can be problematical at the height of the runners pack, but it does put assets out there in the middle of "nowhere". Therefore, when the pack comes through, the bike mobiles usually find a shady spot to park, sit, and watch. Sussex County CERT continues to grow and offer trainings on a regular basis. There are Quarterly Refresher training opportunities, and twice a year, hands on Basic CERT. New this calendar year will be a Hybrid Basic CERT in cooperation with University of Utah. Several times a year there are opportunities to operate in conjunction with AUXCOMM. Spring is coming! Make a commitment to get out there and "do". Opt for some self-improvement in learning a new skill. Serve your community as one of the volunteers in AUXCOMM and CERT. The program for the next monthly AUXCOMM Group meeting will be all about the CODEL and what to expect. That will be Tuesday, March 9, at 1900 in the Paramedic Classroom at the Sussex County Public Safety Complex across from Arena's at the airport in Georgetown.

73s

John Ferguson  
Auxiliary Communications Lead

Sussex County AUXCOMM

WS3EOC@gmail.com  
SussexRadio.com

# Popular contests coming in March

For a complete listing visit: <https://www.contestcalendar.com>

<a href="#">+ OK1WC Memorial</a>	1630Z-1729Z, Monday ( Mar 2)
<a href="#">+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest</a>	0100Z-0159Z, Tuesday ( Mar 3)
<a href="#">+ NCCC Sprint</a>	0230Z-0300Z, Friday ( Mar 6)
<a href="#">+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
<a href="#">+ SKCC Sprint Europe</a>	2000Z-2200Z, Mar 5
<a href="#">+ Novice Rig Roundup</a>	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2359Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</a>	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
<a href="#">+ UBA Spring Contest, CW</a>	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
<a href="#">+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
<a href="#">+ SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest</a>	0800Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ SARL Field Day Contest</a>	0800Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon</a>	1200Z, Mar 14 to 2400Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ South America 10 Meter Contest</a>	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ DIG QSO Party, SSB</a>	1200Z-1700Z, Mar 14 Mar 15
<a href="#">+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge</a>	1500Z, Mar 14 to 1500Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ Oklahoma QSO Party</a>	1500Z, Mar 14 to 0200Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ Idaho QSO Party</a>	1600Z, Mar 14- Mar 16
<a href="#">+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest</a>	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0559Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ YOTA Contest</a>	1000Z-2159Z, Mar 15
<a href="#">+ Wisconsin QSO Party</a>	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
<a href="#">+ IRTS 80m Counties Contest</a>	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 18, 0200Z-0300Z, Mar 20
<a href="#">+ NAQCC CW Sprint</a>	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19
<a href="#">+ NTC QSO Party</a>	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 19
<a href="#">+ PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day Contest</a>	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 21
<a href="#">+ Russian DX Contest</a>	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
<a href="#">+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest</a>	1400Z-1700Z, Mar 21
<a href="#">+ Virginia QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0400Z, 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22
<a href="#">+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB</a>	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
<a href="#">+ SKCC Sprint</a>	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
<a href="#">+ UKEICC 80m Contest</a>	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 25
<a href="#">+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB</a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 26
<a href="#">+ Sasquatch Stomp</a>	1900Z, Mar 27 to 0300Z
<a href="#">+ Bill Windle QSO Party</a>	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 28
<a href="#">+ Louisiana QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
<a href="#">+ Mississippi QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
<a href="#">+ SP DX Contest</a>	1500Z, Apr 4 to 1500Z, Apr 5

# Hamfest Heaven

## □ 03/14/2026 - Warren County Hamfest

**Location:** Youngsville, PA

**Sponsor:** Scouting America Venturing Crew 73

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/kb3bsa/warren-county-hamfest>

## 03/21/2026 - FredFest 2026

**Location:** Frederick, MD

**Sponsor:** Frederick Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://frederickarc.org/Fredfest26>

## 03/28/2026 - WEARSFEST

**Location:** Greensburg, PA

**Sponsor:** Westmoreland Emergency Amateur Radio Service (WEARS)

**Website:** <http://www.wc3ps.org>

## 04/11/2026 - 6th Annual Bull Thistle Hamfest

**Location:** Norwich, NY

**Sponsor:** Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://cvara.net/hamfest>

## Delaware DMR Repeaters

146.7900 -	N3YMS	Dover, Dover Motor Speedway	Kent
441.6500 +	N9KET	Fenwick Island	Sussex
442.8125 +	N3YMS	Seaford	Sussex
443.1000 +	N3YMS	Dagsboro	Sussex
448.0750 -	N3YMS	Hazletville	Kent
448.4250 -	WR3IRS	Wilmington	New Castle
448.7250 -	W3BXW	Roxana	Sussex
449.0750 -	N3YMS	Dover	Kent
449.7250 -	N3YMS	Frederica	Kent
927.6625 -	N3QEM	Rehoboth Beach	Sussex