



Delmarva RF Gazette

Keeping Mid-Delmarva Ham Radio Operators Informed

February 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

Hamfest April 18, 2026

**New location
New Forums
New Vendors**

Operate as W1AW/3

Learn about Satellite Radio

Participate in a POTA demonstration

Join a Fox Hunt

**Win an ICOM 7300 MK2 or maybe A new
Laptop**

Volunteer: hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

Need a VendorTable at the 2026 Hamfest?

Visit

**www.Radioelectronicsexpo.com for full
information. Download a Vendor Table
Reservation; complete the form and mail
it and a check to Rick Long at the
address on the form. BUT DO IT SOON,
we are already over one third full.**

Ham Radio 101: The Origins and Evolution of Q-Codes

Who or what is Q? In James Bond films and novels, he was the head of Q Branch, which developed all the cool gadgets that Bond used in his missions. Remember the laser Rolex, Dentonite toothpaste explosive, and “Little Nellie,” a compact helicopter equipped with heat-seeking missiles? All these solutions helped keep 007 alive while fighting the evil organization, Spectre. Radio also has a Q: Q-codes.

What Are Q-Codes?

Q-Codes are a valuable solution to a very practical problem—how to convey frequent, routine messages quickly and unambiguously across language barriers using Morse code. Imagine you’re a ship radio op in 1909: storms outside, static inside, and someone asks for your position in a language you don’t speak.

Q is a quick solution.

The British General Post Office (GPO), in cooperation with the Admiralty and the Board of Trade, drew up the initial list of Q-codes around 1909 for use by British ships and coastal stations. The list covered frequent operational queries and reports—signal strength, interference, location, course, weather, and administrative confirmations. These Q-codes became three-letter abbreviations, packed with meaning—no more long essays in dits and dahs.

Why Q? Partly because Q doesn’t start many ordinary words across European languages. It also has a distinctive Morse pattern (– – · –), which helps when the airwaves sound like frying bacon. Best of all, when operators heard a Q, they knew a standardized, useful bit of information was coming. Sentences like “Please be so kind as to advise your current latitude and longitude, old chap” became QTH?—a savings of words, watts, and patience. Q-codes were immediately useful in congested airwaves where rapid, routine exchanges kept traffic flowing. The true genius was the

dual personality. Send QTH? and you’re asking, “What’s your location?” Send QTH London, and you’re declaring “My location is London.” One code, two moods. Compact, fast, and less error-prone, this economy of words made the system extremely flexible.

Boats & Planes

The sinking of the Titanic in 1912 focused global attention on radio procedures, distress signaling, and inter-operator clarity. At the International Radiotelegraph Conference in London that year, the already-useful British Q-codes were introduced on the world stage. Over the following years, and especially at the 1927 Washington conference, the burgeoning International Telecommunication Union helped standardize the lists. The result: ships, coast stations, and later, a diverse collection of services all spoke Q with the same accent. You could cross oceans without crossing wires. Aviation soon joined in. Pilots and controllers were wrestling with airplanes and radios at once; long sentences were not practical in the cockpit. So a specialized set of Q-codes landed: QNH (set your altimeter to mean sea level pressure), QFE (pressure at field elevation), QNE (standard pressure), QDM (magnetic bearing to the station), QDR (bearing from the station). These are the radio equivalent of cockpit sticky notes: short, crucial, and unlikely to be confused. As aviation expanded, Q-codes found a new home in the skies. Pilots and ground controllers needed brief, precise communication, especially during navigation and landing operations. International flights increased the importance of standardized communication methods, and Q-codes provided a reliable solution. Q-codes are still used today—a reminder that even cutting-edge technology sometimes sticks with old habits that work.

Adoption by Amateur Radio

Meanwhile, amateur radio operators discovered Q-codes and immediately

adopted them the way teenagers adopt slang. Hams used them in Morse, then in voice, then everywhere. QTH? instead of “Where are you?”; QSO for “conversation”; QSL for “acknowledged” (and later for the postcard you mail to prove you actually talked to Hong Kong); QRP for low power; and QRO for high power. For operators communicating across continents using Morse code, Q-codes were a dream come true. They allowed users to quickly and efficiently share signal reports, locations, and operating conditions. Over time, Q-codes became part of amateur radio culture. Many amateurs even use them in casual conversation, confusing outsiders who may wonder why someone is talking about QRM instead of just saying, “There’s a lot of noise.” Other staples include QST (message to all radio amateurs); QRN (atmospheric noise); QSB (fading); QSY (change frequency); QRZ (who is calling me?); and QRT (stop transmitting).

Other Services

The Q system also coexisted with other frameworks. Military and some commercial services developed Z codes, and aviation adopted a parallel phonetic alphabet and plain-language procedures for voice communications. Yet Q-codes remained valuable wherever Morse endured, and even in voice—where brevity and tradition mattered. Their resilience stems from the way they compress meaning without ambiguity. For example, QRM 5 instantly conveys “Severe interference,” with a standardized report scale, saving time and avoiding uncertain language translation. Over the 20th century, the official ITU list evolved. Some Q-codes were quietly retired from regular use, while others—especially those tied to safety, navigation, and everyday operating practice—earned a permanent place. The Q-code’s design philosophy endured: concise, information-dense, and service-neutral whenever possible.

Radiotelegraphy in most services, such as maritime safety, aeronautical operations, and amateur radio, held onto the core sets that continued to meet their operational needs—proving that when something works under stress, bad weather, and occasional human confusion, it tends to stick around.

Q-Code Assignments

- The QAA...QNZ series are reserved for the aeronautical service
- The QOA...QQZ series is reserved for maritime services
- The QRA...QUZ series is for use by all services, including amateur radio
- The QZA...QZZ series for other uses/services

Take 10

You can’t talk about Q-codes without mentioning their not-so-distant cousin, 10-codes. They are related as similar tools for concise communication. But Q-codes are universal and rooted in telegraphy, whereas 10-codes are a more modern system and agency-specific. Q-codes and 10-codes serve the same purpose of shortening and clarifying radio communication, but they came from very different technological and cultural ecosystems. Ten-codes were introduced in the United States in 1937 by APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials) for voice radio, primarily for law enforcement and public safety. They were designed for spoken clarity rather than global harmony. In the early days of police radio, it was common for a police department to have only one shared channel, making 10-codes important. Much like the Q-codes, they kept transmissions short and provided simple, effective communication. While neatly numeric, 10-code meanings have sometimes varied by agency or region. Occasionally, this would turn standardized communication into a real-time guessing game during multi-agency communications. Ten-codes worked their way into popular culture by CB radio enthusiasts. C. W. McCall’s hit song “Convoy”(1975), featuring

conversations among CB-communicating truckers, popularized phrases like “What’s your twenty?” (10-20) in American English. And who could forget Broderick Crawford in “Highway Patrol,” barking 10-4 into his mobile radio. Ten-codes have gradually yielded to plain language, proving that fame and operational reliability are not always the same thing.

Q—Still in the Queue

Culturally, Q-codes built a shared radio identity. They’re the secret handshake that isn’t so secret; you hear a QTH or a QSY and immediately know you’re among radio people. You don’t just say “Change frequency?” You say, “QSY?” Everyone nods in the same language.

In some parts of the spectrum, they’re still the best tool for the job. It gets through even

when the band is barely open. When noise conditions are rough, a crisp QRN does the job better than a paragraph. If you want to confirm a contact, QSL? is as clear as a stamped postcard or QRZ posting. Are you done for the night? QRT lands with the authority of an off switch.

Thanks to OnAllBands

Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women. (Just because men have such magnetic personalities!)

Contacts and Regular Scheduled Meetings

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club (MSARC) - 1st Wed.	6:00pm	Pizza King, 1000 Midway #5, Harrington MidStateRadio@gmail.com
Lewes Amateur Radio Society(LARS) - 1st Wed.	Noon	Rehoboth Diner, 19219 Coastal Hwy, Rehoboth larsw3lrs@gmail.com
Sussex AUXCOMM - 2nd Mon.	7:00pm	21911 Rudder Lane, Georgetown ws3eoc@gmail.com
Kent County Amateur Radio Club - 2nd Tues.	7:00pm	911 Public Safety Blvd, Dover www.kc3arc.org
Sussex Amateur Radio Assn.(SARA) - 3rd Thurs.	5:30pm	22426 Sussex Pines Rd, Georgetown www.SussexAmateurRadio.com
Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club (NARC) - 3rd Sat.	9:00am	121 South Front Street, Seaford https://nanticokearc.org/
Kent County ARES - Last Mon.	7:00pm	911 Public Safety Blvd, Dover www.kc3arc.org
Sussex ARES 2 nd Wed. Oct-Dec-Feb-Apr-June-Aug	6:30 pm	Airport Arena’s Restaurant, Georgetown KC3DSO@gmail.com
Delmarva Amateur Radio Club 4 th Wed. (Except May, & Nov. & Dec.)	7:00 pm	129 Broad St, Salisbury MD https://www.qsl.net/darc/

Send it in:

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

Finding the truth in the 21st Century

I was raised by the world's most cynical mother. When she died in 2001, she STILL did not believe that man had walked on the moon. I remember watching on TV as Neil Armstrong stepped out of Eagle and said his famous words "One step for man; one giant leap for mankind" AND mom said "Who is holding the camera? That is a fake and those people are all in the Arizona desert somewhere."



She would be well equipped for today's digital world. Everything you hear, see, and read has to be verified three or four different ways; and then maybe you still shouldn't believe it.

In your travels through this newsletter, you should keep in mind that fingers fumble and mistakes are made. When you find them, please point them out. Each op-ed,

operations report, life story, or opinion about a radio or a method of operation was written to provide you with the writer's opinion. Each month you will find articles written by several different people, each with an agenda and a reason they would like you to evaluate and adapt to their position on a variety of topics. Reading different ideas of people from all walks of life and deciding what you believe or what fits your lifestyle is your job as you progress through life. Read with an open mind, if it intrigues you, read what other people or companies write in other places.

Arm yourself with ideas and cherry pick the ones you feel are right. And as you read an article, remember that YOU are the final judge of the material you are reading. Be cynical. Reflect on your own beliefs and how they are shaped by the language and information you consume. Consider if your pre-existing beliefs serve you well or need to be re-evaluated. But, be certain that the information you are reading is reliable before make an adjustment. Consider whether the information (including pictures) might have been generated by AI.

My goal is to provide the information our readers have submitted. I try not to pre-determine what you are going to choose to adopt as your personal attitude about what you read here.

When most of us were growing up the rule was "If it is written, it has to be real". Laws existed about such things as libel, slander, and outright lies. In today's world, that is no longer the case and everyone should be as cynical as my mother about everything they read, no matter where it is written (especially the internet). And ALWAYS ask yourself – "Who is holding the camera?"

Barbara KC3LGE

Up-Coming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
04/04/26		SARA Fox Hunt	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
04/04/26		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	6:00-3:00	** HAMFEST **	Sussex Academy 21150 Airport Rd
04/19/26		MSARC Fox Hunt	Kent County All welcome
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 Scapple	AUXCOMM Bridgeville, Delaware
10/18/26		Fox Hunt/POTA	16040 Jason Beach Rd., Laurel
10/24/26		MSARC Ghost Hunt	Kent County All welcome
11/07/26	9:00 am	Al Waller's Swap Meet	34087 Old Hickory Rd Laurel, DE
11/08/26		MSARC Fox Hunt	Kent County All welcome
11/22/26		Gobble Wobble	MSARC Felton 5K
12/2-8/26		W1AW/3	All Delaware
12/07/26		Delaware Day Event	Legislative Mall Special event call
Volunteer to work on HAMFEST: HamfestDelaware@gmail.com			

Weekly Nets Sussex County

Day of week	Group	Time	Frequency
Monday	Nanticoke	7:30 pm	See : www.nanticokearc.org
Tuesday	SARA	8:00 pm	147.090+ PL 156.7
	MSARC	7:00 pm	442.450 + PL 127.3
Wednesday	ARES	7:00 pm	147.090+ PL 156.7
	LARS	7:30 pm	147.330+ P.L. 156.7
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday	Ragchew	7:30 pm	443.200+ PL 156.7



ARRL Section Manager

As I start this month's newsletter, I am still chipping away ice, up to 3" in my driveway, as I hear of another possible snow event is around the corner. This storm, Winter Storm Fern, hit on Winter Field Day weekend sadly disrupting many club's WFD plans. Two clubs, Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club and First State Amateur Radio Club both continued with their plans just simply ending them Saturday evening before the storm started. I have always said if you are planning a radio event, always plan it as a social event first and radio event second. In the past this has proven to be a winner for attendance and participation. Winter Storm Fern was a significant event for us in Delaware.



Winter Field Day 2025 And we thought last year was cold!!!!

Most everything closed, driving restrictions for all three counties, up to 10.5" of snow in northern areas and significant ice accumulation. Skywarn was in full swing with activations in all three counties handling weather reports forwarding them to the NWS and EOC's including DEMA. More Winter Ahead? Well, Groundhog Day is on February 2, if you believe Punxsutawney Phil has the ability to be a prognosticator. The tradition is when Phil emerges from his

burrow and sees his shadow, he will retreat back into his den and winter will go on for another six more weeks. So, I personally am OK if Phil goes back in. I enjoy the snow but not the ice.

Atlantic Division loses Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RFAs you may know, Bob has been serving the division for about 10 years. First as Vice Director and then as Director when Tom, W3TOM, stepped down. Bob, who is an attorney, was very active with amateur radio for many years and fully supported not just ARRL members but all licensees in the division. His expertise helped many an operator with legal issues, represented the division at all of ARRL Board of Director meeting, was the chairperson of several committees. Bob chose to not sign the new "Board Member Statement on Authority, Responsibility, and Expectations" required under the passing of the new By-Law 46(d). This put Bob's tenure as Division Director on a clock. Marty, AG3I, the Division Vice Director, is now the Atlantic Division Director. Marty will serve the balance of the existing term that expires December 31, 2026. A new Vice Director will be named at a later date. We hope to see Bob, AG3I, at our state convention/Hamfest in April. Bob's farewell email to the section is on the ARRL Delaware Section groups.io and the Delaware Sections Facebook Page.

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. We are working with an online scheduling tool which appears will work well for us. The site info and a printed instruction sheet for signing up to operate

will be released in the coming weeks. All operators must use the schedule and follow the rules the ARRL has released for operating. Logging must be done and submitted via an ADI file. The rules, country wide schedule of stations, etc. has been posted on the ARRL Delaware Section groups.io page. This is a rare opportunity to run the ARRL Club W1AW callsign. Unless you go to ARRL HQ, you probably won't get another chance.

Gerald "Jerry" Simonowitz, KB2GCG, Steps down from DE QSO Party For many years the First State Amateur Radio Club has run the Delaware QSO Party, which has been run annually since 2007. FSARC has maintained scores, maintained and updated the rules, posted results and more. Jerry, KB2GCG, spearheaded the Delaware QSO Party for about 17years spending hundreds of hours checking log files, maintaining scores, solving rule issues, helping folks with issues, etc. Jerry had decided to step down and allow a new crew at FSARC to assume the responsibilities of the QSO Party. At the February meeting of FSARC I had the privilege to present Jerry an ARRL Delaware Section Certificate of Appreciation for running the QSO Party for 17 years. The Delaware QSO party is held on the first week of May so this year, it's May 3 & 3, 2026. Mark that weekend in your calendars now. This is a great opportunity to get on the air and make a few Q's. Running a combo POTA/DE QSO Party station is a great way for you and your fellow operators on the air. Visit the First State Amateur Radio Club (FSARC)for more information on the event

. ARRL Delaware Section Youth Initiative gets new name The ARRL Delaware Section Youth Initiative's name has been changed to the "Randall Carlson Delaware Youth Radio Memorial Initiative." Randall Carlson, WB0JXX became a silent key in June of 2024. Randall was the Delaware Section Manager from 1992 to 2005; a good run. Due to generous donations by Randall's family, the initiative has been renamed. The

Randall Carlson Delaware Youth Radio Memorial Initiative will continue into the new year under a new name but the initiative's goals will remain the same. To assist in getting youth not only into the Amateur Radio Service via study guides and providing new radios upon successful completion of the technician exam, but keep them engaged in local events and activities

. Sussex County ARES Sussex County ARES has seen an active January. Sussex ARES had it's normal 2m Training Net and Zoom meetings for advanced training. January 10 was Sussex ARES 1Q Hospital Drill. ARES staffed 3 facilities with the Sussex EOC also being online. One station is still down due being in the process of being moved. In all we had 14 radio operators participating in the drill. The drill saw a series of injects to all of the stations. These inject ran the gamut from simple single station voice requests to dual injects being delivered via WinLink. These dual injects had the receiving station accept & acknowledge the inject and forward the inject (most were resource requests) to another facility and await a completed response. As with all events, drills, exercises, activations, etc. Sussex County ARES always does an After Action Report and Improvement Plan. This document will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Sussex ARES Skywarn was activated on Saturday, January 24 for Winter Storm Fern. Sussex Skywarn has 3 Net Control Stations (NCS) monitor the radio continually for just over 31 hours. The NCS received many reports which were forwarded to the local EOC, NWS and DEMA as needed. The After Action Report for this activation has been sent out via email and is available via the Sussex County ARES groups.io page in the files section. DelMarVA Skywarn again used the DMR Skywarn 759 TG to coordinate NCS operations and take some reports. Sussex ARES has the following events scheduled for February 2026

2/4 – 2m Training Net – 147.090 Millsboro Repeater
2/11 – Hybrid Meeting – Arena’s in Georgetown- 6:30PM – Hurricane Watch Net
2/18 – 2m Training Net – 147.090 Millsboro Repeater

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.

Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics
When Help Walks Through the Door: Spontaneous Volunteers in Amateur Radio Incidents
In every major incident—whether it’s a winter storm, a communications outage, or a large-scale public event—amateur radio operators pride themselves on being ready, trained, and organized. We drill, we plan, and we build our teams around ICS principles so that when the call comes, we can step in without hesitation. But there’s one element that no amount of planning can fully predict: the spontaneous volunteer. These are the hams who hear the activation on the repeater, see the weather turning ugly, or simply feel compelled to help when they sense something is happening. They show up at the EOC, the hospital, or the club’s staging area with good intentions, a radio in hand, and a desire to serve. And while their enthusiasm is welcome, spontaneous volunteers can be both an asset and a challenge if not managed properly. Why Spontaneous Volunteers Appear
Amateur radio is built on a culture of service. Many operators feel a deep responsibility to help their community, especially when they hear that their fellow hams are being deployed. Curiosity, civic duty, and a genuine desire to contribute all play a role. In Delaware—where the amateur community is tight-knit and deeply connected—word travels fast, and people want to be part of the solution. The benefits they bring handled correctly, spontaneous volunteers can strengthen an incident response:

- Additional manpower when the situation escalates
 - Operators with specialized skills (digital modes, HF, antennas, logging)
 - Local knowledge of repeaters, terrain, and community resources
 - Backup equipment such as batteries, laptops, or portable antennas
In many cases, these volunteers become the extra set of hands that keeps a net running smoothly or allows a hospital station to maintain continuous coverage. The challenges they create but enthusiasm alone doesn’t guarantee readiness. Spontaneous volunteers may:
 - Arrive without being assigned
 - Lack situational awareness or briefing
 - Not understand the current ICS structure
- Bring equipment that isn’t compatible with the operation
- Overcrowd a workspace or unintentionally disrupt workflow
 - Create security concerns
In a hospital or EOC environment—where space, security, and documentation matter—uncoordinated arrivals can complicate operations. The key to preventing issues is to address these volunteers in a policy for use/placement. Integrating Them the Right Way
The key is not to turn them away, but to manage them effectively. ARES groups can adopt simple practices to make spontaneous volunteers an asset rather than a liability:
1. Establish a Check-In Point: A designated operator or supervisor should greet new arrivals, record their presence, and determine their skill level.
 2. Provide a Quick Briefing
A five-minute overview of the incident, the communications plan, and the chain of command can prevent confusion later.
 3. Assign Them Appropriately
if you can Not every volunteer needs to be on the radio. Unless someone has a Task Book, deciding how to put their skill set to work is a challenge. Perhaps assigning them to non-secure areas such as at a Check-In or a

Welcoming center. Some may be better suited for

- Logging
- Message handling
- Equipment setup
- Monitoring Winlink
- Shadowing experienced operators

4. Document Their Participation ICS-211 check-in forms and ICS-214 activity logs ensure accountability and help with after-action reporting.

5. Use the Opportunity for Recruitment: A spontaneous volunteer today may become a trained, dependable operator tomorrow—if we welcome them properly

A Culture of Preparedness and Inclusion
Spontaneous volunteers are a reminder that Amateur Radio Service is more than equipment and procedures—it's a community. When people show up unannounced, it means they care. Our job is to channel that energy into something productive, safe, and aligned with the mission. Handled well, these volunteers become part of the story of resilience. Handled poorly, they become a missed opportunity. As Delaware ARES continues to grow and refine its capabilities, embracing spontaneous volunteers-while maintaining structure and professionalism-will strengthen our readiness for whatever comes next.

Upcoming Events & Contests

- School Club Roundup – February 9-13, 2026. Amateur radio event designed for clubs and individuals, particularly those associated with elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools or colleges. Encourages young people to get on the air.
- ARRL International DX Contest – CW - February 21-21, 2026. To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. Visit www.arrl.org or www.contestcalendar.com for details on these and upcoming contests.

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

KB3NEB Alfred Fallavollita Jr.
KD3CIR Joseph E. Krisger
KD3CJI Nicholas Dumicich
KD3CJJ Ronald P. Ferraro
KD3CJK Nathan Wiggins
KD3CJP Jerdahn G. Campbell
KB3CJQ George C. Groseclose
KC3CJR Matthew T. Mossman
KC3CKQ David Johnson
KC3CMC Tyler S. Adams
KD3CMP Thomas Rinaldi
KD3CNA Eugene B. West Jr.

Our Strength Comes from All of Us. As we head into another month of on-air activity, training, and service, I want to thank each of you for the dedication you bring to amateur radio across Delaware. Our strength as a Section comes from operators who stay curious, stay prepared, and stay connected to one another. Whether you're mentoring a new ham, checking in during a net, or supporting our served agencies, your efforts make a real difference. Let's continue building momentum, supporting our clubs, and keeping the spirit of amateur radio strong throughout the First State. Until next month, stay safe, stay active, and keep the bands alive with your signal.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.

73,

Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

- Email: 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

Well, if you had any doubt that winter is here, Mother Nature sure provided some undeniable proof, with a covering of white stuff and ice, and enough days of freezing temps to keep it around a while. It also provided an opportunity for the first activation of the Sussex EOC under the new system with new leadership.



Although only a partial activation, it was a good opportunity to develop some familiarization with the process. Jeff Stevenson, K3DI, and I signed in at 0700 Sunday, January 24th, to staff the AUXCOMM Room. Bill Saunders, N3ID, and Stuart Green, KD2LNQ, were scheduled to come in at 1900 for the second 12-hour shift. However, with the weather conditions not as bad as predicted, the roads were being

managed, and very few power failures reported; the decision was made to keep only a few management level staff overnight, and not call in the second shift. Early on in the shift, Jeff and I were kept busy with covering two operating positions and filing hourly reports. As things slowed down we took the time to do some equipment checks on the rest of the AUXCOMM Room's complement and re-acquainting ourselves with their operation. By all comments, it was a successful operation, and a good learning experience.

It's been announced that a small committee from the AUXCOMM Management Team will be reviewing the organizational structure and operating plans for the group. Parallel to that will be a review of the AUXCOMM Room equipment, with decisions on upgrades. Bill Saunders, N3ID, is leading that effort. Much of the operating equipment and antenna complement was installed in 2008. The AUXCOMM Group's operation, although initially aligned with the ICS when it adopted the system quite a few years ago, needs reviewing and refreshing. Unfortunately, the day-to-day business that supports our function has been let slide in a few areas, and that too will be addressed.

The recent activation was a reminder that our most pressing problem is people. We do not have enough trained operators to cover a disaster situation that extends more than a few days. Understanding also, that we are all volunteers, with families, homes, jobs and other issues that have a higher priority. Not the least of the 'other issues' is the "graying" of our hobby! Therefore, "Job One" for all of us in AUXCOMM will be recruiting. We need to familiarize the local ham

population with what we do, and where we do it, and how we do it. This process will hopefully help the cause in attracting some new operators. Yes, we do more than support the disaster operations of the EOC. Public events, like Apple Scrapple and Fourth of July Fire Works are in support of the mission of the Mobile Command Unit. Two large athletic events, the Coastal Delaware running Fest (CODEL) and the Rehoboth Marathon are also on our calendar. The AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer is now deployed for these events also, with multiple tasking items. Operating in public events is different, in some ways, than operating from the AUXCOMM Room in the EOC. However, both activities feature ham radio performing as intended by the FCC Rules, supporting the public good.

The second operational improvement and function will be enhanced attention on training. Parallel to the training sessions will be exercises designed to evaluate the training. This will not be burdensome. It will be fun and fulfilling! Getting better at the craft of amateur radio, and serving our communities through public service points directly to some of the five reasons the FCC gave us our privileges, as I pointed out last month. Two areas for specific training and exercises will be the AUXCOMM Room and the AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer. We will be developing teams to staff those assets when needed. Here's an opportunity for you to 'specialize' in something. By the way we are still looking for "Trailer Tuggers". If you have a truck or large SUV and are interested in a specific duty assignment, let us know. The "Trailer Tuggers" are responsible for moving the AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer, setting it up, and packing it

up to return. You may not recognize the trailer, the next time you see it, as it is getting a colorful emblematic "Wrap" by a local sign company. Another set of cabinets, for the wall above the counter, is under construction by the county carpenter shop.

Being an AUXCOMM operator is more than just talking on a radio. The ancillary and parallel issues involved with emergency and disaster communications require operator familiarization with the situations and processes that develop. When there's rain falling, water rising, and wind howling; this is not the best time to start getting familiar. Granted, it's one way to learn really fast! Knowledge of processes and procedures, learning specific skills, and participating in exercises, will give you the self-confidence you need to be comfortable in applying your craft of communication when it counts.

Want to know more, see what we do? The regular AUXCOMM monthly meeting is in the Sussex EOC, Paramedic Classroom, the second Monday evening of the month at 1900. It is open to any interested person; a ham license is not necessary. There are a number of tasks, that do not require that you be licensed. You can be a 'scribe' to keep up the log; answer the phone, send faxes or regular email, make copies, hand deliver messages to other departments (maybe even make coffee). And, if you decide to become a ham, we can teach you what you need to know to pass the license exam. The main entrance for the EOC is right across the street from Arena's at the Georgetown Airport. Please join us any time you can.

Later
John Ferguson

Popular contests coming in FEBRUARY

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

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Tuesday (Feb 3)
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Wednesday (Feb 4)
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Wednesday (Feb 4)
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Wednesday (Feb 4)
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Wednesday (Feb 4)
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Friday (Feb 6)
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Friday (Feb 6)
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 2
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 3
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 4
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 5
+ Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2059Z, Feb 8
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
+ F9AA Cup, CW	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1200Z, Feb 8
+ European Union DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1200Z, Feb 8
+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 7 to 0359Z, Feb 8 and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 8
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0359Z, Feb 8
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 13
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 11
+ YLRL YL-OM Contest	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 14
+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 14
+ Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
+ OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 14 to 1500Z, Feb 15
+ Balkan HF Contest	1300Z-1700Z, Feb 15
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 19
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 21 to 1800Z, Feb 22
+ World Wide Argentina DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 22
+ Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 22 to 0800Z, Feb 23 and 1400Z, Feb 24 to 0800Z, Feb 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 25
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 25

+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 26
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 28 to 1300Z, Mar 1
+ South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 28 to 0159Z, Mar 1
+ UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 1
+ NSARA Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 1 & 1800Z-2200Z, Mar 1
+ SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
+ North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 1 to 0100Z, Mar 2
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 4

Hamfest Heaven

February 7, 2026, MPARC Hamfest, 6565 Moose Drive, Gloucester, Virginia 23061 9 am – 4 pm at Moose Lodge 886. www.mparchamfest.com

February 13-15 | [Orlando HamCation](#), ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Orlando, Florida

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
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