



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sussex Repeater

Sussex Amateur Radio

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
6:30pm Freq: 3.905

Delaware Emergency Net:
Sunday, 6:30pm Freq: 3.905

Sussex ARES Net: 1st & 3rd Wed.
7pm 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 (WAØCIE)
Vice Pres: Barbara Dean (KC3LGE)
Treasurer: Stuart Banta (KC3MAL)
Secretary: Donna Spencer (KC3IHV)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On Thursday, September 15, 2022, 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.



Looking for volunteers to help with September 17 Dewey Sprint Triathlon. Let us know if there is a time period or location you would prefer, and we'll try to accommodate you.

To get on the roster, please email ws3eoc@gmail.com with 2022 Dewey in the subject line. Event information is available at:

<http://www.deweybeachtriathlon.com/>



From the desk of Butch WAØCIE SARA PRESIDENT

Tell me that Summer is over and the beach traffic is starting to fade. Parking at the various beach sites has been great the past two days. There is actually available parking. It is time to start thinking about putting together your go-kit and heading out to a local park or beach. It doesn't take much. I usually can pack up in 10-15 minutes, drive to a site, and be on the air in another 10-15. Join us at our September Meeting at Mulligan's and check it out.

Speaking of Go-Kits, a couple of weeks ago, my wife and I planned a brief trip to western Nebraska, I know most of you would suggest that any trip to Nebraska should be brief, but since I was born there during the last century, it has its charms. For instance there are 6 POTA sites near my boyhood home; a National Monument, a National Historic Site, and four Recreational Areas all within about 30 minutes. So while the primary purpose of the trip was to visit family, I thought it might be an excellent opportunity to try and put together a Go-Kit to take on the plane to Denver and then use it while up in Nebraska.



I decided to take my FT-891, a BioennoPower pack (12v, 9aH), and my Comet UHV-6 mobile antenna. I put them all in my backpack as carry-on luggage, not

trusting the baggage handlers with the equipment. Plus you have to carry the Lithium battery on the plane anyway. I also took my mobile mount to use on the trunk of the rental. Once in Nebraska, I set up early in the mornings at the various sites on Friday and Saturday. I managed 115 contacts from 5 sites. 33 states. Mostly on 20 mtrs. I slipped up several times telling everyone I was in Delaware, plus several said it was strange to hear that I wasn't in Delaware. I gave a brief presentation to two groups of tourists - one group from eastern Europe and another group from France while I was operating from one of the sites. The backpack Go-Kit was perfect. No issues from TSA or United or the Park staff. Now, I am looking forward to our next trip to Lake Tahoe in October. I found another 5-6 NV and CA POTA sites I can't wait to visit.



As we move into the heart of hurricane season, being able to put together a Go-Kit, or operate mobile might be a real necessity. A POTA activation is a real test of the equipment and our ability to deploy. Besides, it is a lot of fun.

Let's stay safe this fall, and get on the air.

Butch WAØCIE



From the Desk of the Delaware Section Manager

The big news from the past month was the section wide in-person meeting of appointees, affiliated club presidents, and invited guests. So on Saturday August 6th, nineteen members of the section met at Grotto's in Dover for a six hour meeting. Since this was the first in person meeting in a while, there was a lot of catching up to do. We even worked through lunch. Interesting to note with a six hour meeting you might expect a lot of questions were decided. No, the only actual decision that came out of the meeting was the dates for the Section Emergency Test (SET) in October. The feedback that I've received from those that were there has been positive, with comments like, "certainly worth the time to attend".

The SET for this year will be October 17th through the 20th, and the 22nd. There is a committee with members from all three counties that will be putting together the plan for the exercise. The first four days (17th – 20th) are for the individual counties and the City of Wilmington to use for working on skill sets, and other elements that they choose. This is based on last year's successful series of mini-exercises. Saturday the 22nd will be a section wide, scenario based, four to six hour exercise, testing the ability of the section to move traffic from the local level to the appropriate EOC, from the EOC to

DEMA, and then reverse the process and send it back down the chain. As we get closer to the date there will be more information made available.

In preparation for the set there is going to be a workday at DEMA on September 8th, with testing DEMA to EOC connectivity in the afternoon. There will be a group of five operators working at DEMA that day for some quick projects and training, followed by the testing in the afternoon.

There's a lot of work for all of us to do in the section on issues that have been around for a while. Publicity, that's been an ongoing problem that has led to nobody out there knows who and what about ham radio, and its ability to provide auxiliary communication support for public service events and disasters. I am appointing PIO's for each county to promote what's happening in ham radio in their county. Barbara Dean, KC3LGE, newly appointed in Sussex, just got a nice article on the EC 001 Class in Coastal Point. Add to that, fortunately, we haven't had anything major happen in Delaware for many years, so we haven't had to do anything. The unfortunate part of the story, because nothing has happened, it has led to the lethargy and inactivity that we are seeing across the section. Yes, Field Day had a good turnout in all three counties, but what

else has happened to get us out and practicing our craft. Public service events are a great way to showcase to the public who and what we are. September 17th hams in Sussex will be supporting the Dewey Sprint Triathlon, and the hams in Kent will be at the Family Preparedness Day in Dover. How many of you will be out there taking part? Then October 15th brings the Apple Scrapple Festival in Bridgeville, and December will bring the Rehoboth Marathon. Want something that's an easy and fun way to practice the craft of ham radio, there's several possibilities.

Later, 73
John K3PFW
DE Section Manager



EC-001 Emergency Communication Class



Shown here are licensed Amateur Radio operators who completed the 2022 Emergency Communications class. (L to R) James Baker, Paul Tuley, Mike Murray, Diane Acker, Donald Smith, Donna Spencer, Lars Spencer, Jerry Palmer - Instructor, Bill McCourt and Debbie Libertore; kneeling are (Left) ARRL Section Manager and Instructor- John Ferguson and (right) James Tracy.

Certified ARRL Field Instructors conducted an Emergency Communications class for FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators this month. The 24-hour course, held over two weekends in August, is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for emergency communication volunteers. Eleven Kent and Sussex Amateur Radio operators, known as 'hams', successfully completed the course and will be better-prepared for communications duty in public service when a disaster or emergency occurs.

After disasters that damage, disrupt, or overload regular lines of communications, Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks. Often using their own equipment, local hams provide communication between critical locations such as: hospitals, police stations, utility companies and the County Emergency Operations Centers.

Hams have a nationwide group organized for daily radio "traffic". During disasters or other emergencies, radiograms are used to communicate information critical to saving lives or property. When all telephone service and email is out anywhere in the country, radiograms are also used to relay health or welfare information of a family member who lives in the disaster area. This relay group operates 365 days a year to transmit and receive messages across the US and to many foreign countries. The ham who takes the message the last mile will use any method available to deliver the message. These methods include: phone, email, snail-mail, or hand delivery to the recipient.

Many radio amateurs are active as communications volunteers with local public safety organizations. They are also involved in Skywarn; operating under the National Weather Service and provide emergency weather information directly to the NWS for analysis and dissemination to the public.



EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWS

POPS in the Park 2022

A total of 21 local amateur radio operators participated in the August 25th “POPS in the Park” quarterly exercise, with some operating in the morning (0900-1100) session, some in the evening (1800-2000) session, and some in both. This event was designed to test the abilities of the participants to operate in a field environment where they would have visibility to, and the opportunity to engage with, the public.

Mobile and home participation were also welcomed, and a few of the participants chose to operate from those locations. The exercise “footprint” included parts of Sussex and Kent counties. Communications were directed and coordinated through multiple frequencies, bands, and modes.

Operators were directed to report a “Key”, a random and specific bit of information, to Net Control at the Sussex County EOC (WS3EOC) either directly or via a relay station on the 2m simplex frequency chosen for the exercise. This required testing communications ability from multiple locations to WS3EOC and working together in the field to coordinate

a response. All operators logged at WS3EOC were successful in reporting this information and confirming its accuracy.

Repeater frequencies on both 2m and 70cm were assigned to help coordinate the field operations, with each repeater offering a somewhat different but overlapping coverage footprint in the Sussex and Kent County areas. HF communications were also tested with those stations that were able to operate in that mode. In all, seven (7) frequencies were assigned for this exercise and communicated to the participants via an ICS-205 form included in the exercise package.

In reviewing the communications logs that were generated by the WS3EOC operators, most stations were able to communicate either directly, or via an intermediate relay, with WS3EOC on the 2m simplex primary frequency. Information was relayed to and from WS3EOC by the Kent County EOC (KC3ARC) and, especially, field stations that stepped in to provide that important function. Also, most stations were able to communicate on one or more of the repeater frequencies to both EOC’s and

amongst themselves.

As of this writing approximately one third of the participants have submitted an After-Action Report, some in considerable detail. Regardless of how they are written, each has value in pointing out important aspects of the exercise performance from the operators' perspective. This information helps to make incremental improvements in our collective ability to deploy and perform. If we want to improve our abilities and performance, we need to work out the changes necessary to provide them.

So, while not all the input has yet been received, here are some of the significant observations reported. Most will be familiar to those who have participated in past exercises,

Incorrect Information – The ICS-205 had an incorrect CTCSS tone listed for the Harrington repeater. It should have been 127.3 instead of the 123.0 listed. This had been caught and corrected on a draft version of the ICS-205 but ended up not updated in the version sent out with the exercise package. My bad. Apparently, some units had it correct from the start and others were able to correct in the field.

Channel #'s – The ICS-205 designated channel #'s to each of the seven (7) frequencies allocated to the exercise. These channel # designations, rather than the specific frequencies, should be used during over-the-air references so that parties outside of the operation are not privy to the operational details. Announcement of frequencies was prevalent in the morning session and was a topic of discussion at WS3EOC

following that session. Channel #'s were purposely used more often in the evening session.

Radio Programming – Some units had radio programming issues (beyond the ICS-205 content) that caused operational problems or delays. At WS3EOC we had to change the programming of one of the station radios and ended up having to “read the book” (which, thankfully, was purposely posted at the radio position). This caused a delay in our ability to handle traffic on one of the repeater frequencies.

Equipment Issues – One or more units had some issues with equipment (radios, tuners, antennas) not working properly. This required troubleshooting and correction in the field. Really? Sure! All part of the reason we practice this stuff! (“That which does not get tested will not work”)

HF Propagation – Not too surprisingly, HF communications were poor to non-existent in the morning session. These improved somewhat for the evening session, with each operator having varying degrees of success depending on their equipment and location. Some were able to copy the Delaware Traffic Net at 1830. WS3EOC station logs indicate communications with three (3) exercise stations on HF.

EOC-to-EOC Comms – At the very beginning of the morning session, it was possible to communicate between the Sussex and Kent EOC's on all of the 2m and 70cm frequencies. As the morning progressed, however, communications on some frequencies and stations degraded to the point of no communications at all from the rooftop mounted antennas at WS3EOC. It is likely that atmospheric conditions changed as the day warmed

up. The WS3EOC stations that were above rooftop level (approximately 130' in the air) retained wide-area communication capabilities. Antenna height makes a difference! Further testing and efforts are necessary, and planned, to make improvements in this.

NET Discipline – Communications were run fairly loosely. In part, this was by design due to the relatively small number of participants and the need for all participants to be adaptive in their establishing communications on the primary channel. Had there been more traffic to pass and more structure to the exercise, stronger NET protocols would have been required. That being said, though, we need to continue to work on proper techniques, especially in the use of call signs, channel #'s, and traffic management.

Thanks to all who participated and for the valuable input received. We are

committed to conducting some form of exercise each quarter, with the next one due in November. In the meantime, there are several coming opportunities to serve, and volunteers are sorely needed.

Sept 17th - Dewey Triathlon, Dewey Beach and surrounding area

Oct 15th – Apple Scrapple Festival, Bridgeville

Oct 17-22 Delaware Section Emergency Test (multiple opportunities to get on the air)

Email WS3EOC@gmail.com to indicate your interest, offer suggestions, or receive more information.

73's!
Bill, N3ID

p.s. I'm betting Pete, KC3MVS, turned some heads with his "Grilled Antenna" groundplane. Clever!

