

# SHORT CIRCUITS

## Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

February 2023

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Officers		Repeaters
President	Paul Tuley N3BUH	146.970 (-) 77hz pl Dover
Vice-President	Jim Moore KC3BTV	146.910 (-) 77hz pl Camden
Secretary	Tim Reisinger KC3OO	147.300 (+) 77 hz pl N3YMS
Treasurer	Tom Libertore N3ARX	444.550 (+) 77hz pl Dover (down)
		442.450 (+) 127.3 hz pl Harrington
		449.775 (-) 114.8 hz pl N3IOC Felton

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### Happenings

February 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
February 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
February 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
March 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
March 11	<b>VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00</b>
March 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
March 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
April 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
April 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
April 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
April 29	<b>VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00</b>
May 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
May 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 8	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
June 10	<b>VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00</b>
June 13	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 24-25	<b>ARRL Field Day, details forthcoming</b>
June 26	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
July 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
July 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
July 31	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
August 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
August 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
August 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
September 9	<b>VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00</b>
September 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
September 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
October 10	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
October 30	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
November 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
December 9	<b>VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00</b>

## Hamfests

April 15

### Sussex Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Cheer Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Rd, Georgetown, DE 19947

**Contact:** Jamie Ashton , W3UC, 7446 Parker St. Pittsville MD ,21850 Pittsville, MD 21850 Phone: 410-202-7690 **Email:** [ashton@mchsi.com](mailto:ashton@mchsi.com)

**Talk-In:** 146.090 156.7 **Website:** <http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com/>

May 28

### Memorial Day Hamfest

Maryland FM Association, Inc

Howard County Fair Grounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship , MD 21794

**Contact:** John Elgin , WA3MNN, 518 Copley Lane Silver Spring, MD 20904

Phone: 301-641-5313 **Talk-In:** 146.76/224.76/444.0 CTCSS 107.2

**Email:** [marylandfm@verizon.net](mailto:marylandfm@verizon.net)

More hamfests listed at [www.arri.org/hamfests](http://www.arri.org/hamfests). Check at the web site, or call the contact person, before going to any hamfest to make sure it has not canceled, as many are and have been.

## Editor's Comments

It is no secret that I like CW QSO's, slow CW QSO, and that I'm not a very good CW operator. I will never be on the level of Jon, AA1K and Eric, WG3J. Those guys work CW at warp factor 10! My speed is more like 10 to 12 words per minute. For years I would listen to the contesters sending "CQ Test " and then their call sign at speeds I might be able to catch a couple letters, and would participate in Field Day by using the computer to copy the call, and then I would answer at my 12 wpm. Some would just ignore me, which made CW operation discouraging.

Well I was working at Straight Key Night on 31 December 2006 and worked with a fellow who belonged to this new group, the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). He "talked" me into joining and I received the member number of 2525. I was already a FISTS member (6341, CC 1950) but when making FISTS contacts, some of those guys would still send faster than I was comfortable receiving, sometimes even after sending a "QRS". Which also was discouraging. But the fellows on SKCC really will slow down to your speed and they really encourage new operators.

So far I've made over 1000 SKCC contacts, all the operators will communicate at your speed no matter what that speed is. I heard one fellow making contact with a new op in South America, a fellow I have heard on the high speed contest circuit, and he was speeding at 5 wpm! Talk about building confidence, here this new op was making a contact, a DX contact at that, and the QSO was at his speed. Most of the events, outside of the SKCC events, I have made contacts have ops that will not slow down for you. When you figure out the call sign and send at a much slower speed than they are sending CQ, rarely will they slow to your speed. During the 13 Colonies event, only two slowed to my speed, most just kept going at light speed! For a new operator, this is discouraging.

Years ago (18 April 2000) I made a contact with JT1DA (now a SK) in Mongolia. He was giving out contacts, you know the kind that is your call sign, 5NN, TU, and that would be it. This was at about 30 wpm. So I threw out my call sign, and *then* he wanted to carry on a conversation. WHOA!!!! QRS, QRS, and he did, right down to my 12 wpm. My first contact with Mongolia, and it was CW, all the others have been SSB.

So if your interested in CW, look at the [skccgroup.com](http://skccgroup.com), and you will find a group of people who will be more than glad to help you along. They have two "sprints" per month, and even new ops can have an absolute ball. Check them out, and Ill be glad to give you my two cents about the group.

## Vice-President's Column

My antenna experiments are continuing. I put up a 270 foot loop around my back yard about ten feet above the ground feeding 50 ohm coax through a 4:1 balun. On the 80 meter band it lowers the noise by about 2 "S" units (S6 to S4). On 40 meters it lowers the noise from S7 to S5. On frequencies higher than 40 meters it doesn't seem to drop the noise as much. I am able to tune it on all bands from 10 to 80 meters. I think I will keep using it for my HF nets. I also tried a directional 20m dipole made from plans by HB9SL pointed towards the South to increase my South America contacts. In my informal comparisons, I really didn't see any significant improvement over my doublet so I took it down.

I bought a new Heil Pro-Micro headset with a boom mike and foot switch for my IC-7300 as a birthday present to me. The foot switch kept wandering around on the carpet and getting lost under my shack computer. I glued a piece of Velcro hooks to the bottom of the switch and now it stays put. Easy fix.

I am the new net manager for the Delmarva Emergency Net. Currently Tim, KC3OO, is sharing net control responsibilities. Anyone with HF privileges on 80 meters is welcome to join the net. There is more information in my EC article elsewhere.

Until next month, 73,

Jim KC3BTV  
Vice President KCARC

## From the Section Manager's Shack

The holidays are now over, we are not under Covid restrictions, sunspot numbers are up, so why aren't you out there and active on the air. Ham radio is a hobby of "doing", and there hasn't been, it seems to me, much "doing" over the last few months. Spring is coming and with-it all the distractions of things that need to be done to catch up from the winter's trashing of the yard, trees and planting beds.

It was interesting, but definitely thought provoking, that the Sussex groups tried to get a location to do a combined Winter Field Day, in a public place and going "0" for "3" on attempts to get permission to operate in a public area. The general public doesn't know who we are or what we do and can do. That is something we definitely need to work on, it could make our enjoyment of the hobby a little easier. With landmark antenna legislation introduced at the Federal level, we all need to do our part to prove that we are capable of meeting the challenge of providing communication in a disaster when we are needed.

Participation in volunteer activities is down everywhere in just about everything. There was a great opportunity to really give the hobby a boost and have some fun, a week ago, when Delaware hams had the permission to use the flagship call of the ARRL Headquarters, W1AW/3. In the latest operating activity sponsored by ARRL. Less than maybe a dozen of the approximately 450 members of the league in the Delaware Section participated. They had a ball being the chased DX, rather than trying to chase it. We'll have the opportunity again in November, and I'm hoping we really do it up right. We can if we get people active.

The ARRL is sponsoring a really great yearlong operating activity and contest for 2023, Volunteers On The Air, (VOTA). Get on the air, make contacts, and get to know the Field Service volunteers in yours and other ARRL Sections. Sort of like a country wide Block Party. The various volunteer positions that do the work of the league, have different point values attached to them. Contacting one of them automatically gives you the point value for that position, with your score automatically figured by LogBook of the World (LoTW), which you have to use for the contest part of the on-the-air activity. Lots of info on the website and page 77 of the January QST for VOTA. You do not have to be a member of the ARRL to use LoTW, but why not become a member, if you're not, and support this great organization that is a national and international advocate for amateur radio. And, there are abundant benefits to being a member.

Finally, the station at the home QTH is getting put back together after a long period of being packed away while the renovation of the house, which started over two years ago, is in the final stages. Nothing really new is being added to the equipment lineup, but there will most likely be some new antennas.

Later, 73  
John K3PFW

## The Emcomm Corner

There are two types of messages in emergency communications: tactical and formal.

Tactical communications are typically brief commands or status requests between the IC and some satellite location. They may or may not be in a formal written format. "What is your shelter capacity?" might be an example of this kind of message. In reality, it is not much different than chatting on the air.

Formal message communications utilize the ICS213, H&W message, or a Radiogram. This traffic has a structured format for tracking and accountability. This is the scary stuff since people are afraid of making a mistake and therefore avoid it altogether. Whether you choose to admit it or not, the first time you rode a bike was scary too, but as you gained experience, and after a few crashes you became more relaxed and it became second nature. The key to handling message traffic successfully is just doing it. Nobody ever learned to ride a bicycle by reading about it!

Most traffic handling is done on HF nets. The Delaware Traffic Net meets Monday thru Saturday at 2230Z (5:30 pm EST/6:30 pm EDT) and the Delmarva Emergency Net meets at the same time on Sundays. They meet at 3904kHz in the winter and 3905kHz in the summer. There are no requirements to participate in the net but you should listen to it a couple of times to become familiar with the flow. If you don't have HF capability due to equipment or license limits, you can hear the net using a websdr station in Pennsylvania <http://websdr.k3fef.com:8901/>. Message traffic can also be introduced at the Saturday morning ARES net or the Wednesday evening club net and passed on to the HF net. Give it a shot - you have nothing to lose but your fear!

73, Jim KC3BTV  
Kent County EC

## AUXCOMM News

### How's Your WinLink???

How's my what? If you've never heard of WinLink, a global email system by and for Hams, I encourage you to make an introduction to it as a project within your hobby; another "tool in your toolbox". WinLink provides a means to send digital messages in an "email-like" form via multiple modes with or without the internet. The benefits of this include:

- Familiar operation – WinLink Express operates similarly to most email clients

- Attachments – Including images and templates for many helpful common forms (including ICS)

- Multimodal – Messages can be sent and received via internet and/or amateur frequencies

- Independence – The WinLink network can operate without relying on the internet!

- Interoperability – Messages can be sent to and from "conventional" email services in addition to other WinLink clients

- Low Cost – It's free to download and use, (but, if you use it, please donate \$25 to support their work)

Getting started with WinLink is easy. All it takes is a PC and a free download of WinLink Express. The software and a great deal of supporting information is available from the WinLink website <https://WinLink.org/>. The software is not a resource hog, so pretty much any old PC will do. I repurposed an old desktop PC to run this and all of my ham related software in the shack. Once installed, configured, and registered, the next step(s) include establishing a means of communication. If your PC has access to the internet via ethernet or WiFi (of course it does, that's how you downloaded the software!) then you can open a Telenet session and begin communicating via your internet connection. To get to the fun stuff, though, try interfacing with a radio

to provide a communications link via FM or HF. Typically, this will require some form of interface between the PC and transceiver, though it is possible to homebrew your own interface. Lots of information on the internet on how to do this, or ask someone who's already done it.

Personally, I like and regularly use the ability to send and receive WinLink messages via HF radio. Here's the thing.....Disasters are local. Power and internet may be out on my block, my town, my county, maybe even some or most of the state. But likely not everywhere. Through HF I can reach out hundreds of miles away to a WinLink HF Gateway in an unaffected area and get my messages sent and received to other WinLink users or anyone with an email address via the gateway's working internet connection. I've accessed gateways in Canada via HF to send a local email! There are several WinLink FM gateways located in Delaware.

Once you're up and running, or if you are already a WinLink user, I'd like to introduce you to EmComm-Training.org (ETO), a volunteer organization that conducts regular exercises using WinLink Express as a means of communicating and reporting for various EmComm scenarios. Participation is free and open to all licensed amateurs. Each exercise includes clear instructions and just may take you into new aspects and helpful tools within WinLink Express including various reporting forms, attachments, image sizing, peer-to-peer operation, and more. I came across ETO this past year and have enjoyed the challenges and valuable learning opportunities they offer through their weekly WinLink Thursday exercises. They've taken a break for the month of January to think up new challenges, so signing up in February will get you on board just in time to share in the fun. There aren't many Delaware ETO participants, so let's see if we can change that! Their website, where you can get additional information and sign up, is <https://emcomm-training.org/>. I encourage you to give it a try.

73's

Bill, N3ID

## **ARRL Club Happenings**

### **W3TOM Resigns as ARRL Director**

For those of you who are not ARRL members, you may not have received the following email from the League;

To All Atlantic Division Members,

As we start a new year, I wanted to share the news of the passing of the torch.

At the close of business today, Friday, January 6, 2023, I will resign from my office as the ARRL Director of the Atlantic Division. I genuinely thank you for all of the massive support that you have given me over these many years.

Bob Famiglio, K3RF our current Atlantic Division Vice Director will ascend to the position of Director at that time. I have thoroughly discussed the transition of leadership of the Atlantic Division with Bob and I am very pleased that the division will be in Bob's capable hands. As part of a cohesive division leadership team for many years, Bob is very well prepared and will do a GREAT job for us. Please give Bob all of your support.

It has been a distinguished honor and a pleasure to serve on the ARRL Board of Directors while representing all of the almost 13,000 ARRL members of the Atlantic Division. After having served for over 20 years in ARRL elected offices, it is my intention to remain very active in support of the ARRL and I wish everyone all the best as we head into the future of Amateur Radio and the ARRL.

Respectfully,

Tom Abernethy, W3TOM

ARRL Director – Atlantic Division

### **A Note From Our New Director**

It is my pleasure to inform you that our new Vice Director for the ARRL Atlantic Division is Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM. Many of you may know Marty as the recent Section Manager for the Maryland/DC section. Marty was on the short list of our recently retired Director, Tom Abernethy W3TOM, and me, along with other names in our division when recommendations were needed to replace me as Vice Director when Tom

informed me he was going to step back and I needed to step up. Thanks Tom for all your help. Marty has an impressive background, including US Navy submarine service and presently works in change

management for FEMA in DC. Marty really has been there and done that, so to speak.

Now, as our first ARRL board meeting is scheduled this week in Connecticut, I look forward to serving you as your Director along with Marty as your Vice Director. In that regard, Tom has prepared me well over these last years I have been your Vice Director. Now, I promise to represent your interest in our League for the remainder of my term, along with the help of all the Section Managers for each of our 7 sections comprising the ARRL Atlantic Division. We have many challenges ahead, but great possibilities and new horizons in Amateur Radio as well. I look forward to working with all of you to meet that future. I will need your input to do that. May I count on your help?

73, and I will see you on the radio.

Bob Famiglio, K3RF  
ARRL Atlantic Division Director  
k3rf@arrl.org

### **A Note From Our RACES Radio Officer KCARC, Where Are You???**

According to Part 97 of the FCC Rules the first, and most important, of the five purposes for Amateur Radio is to provide emergency and public service communications for the American people. That, folks, is our reason for being! That is why the Kent County Department of Public Safety supports us and gives us a place to meet and operate from. That is a gift from Kent County to us. How do we show our appreciation to the County? In my mind and based on recent months—we don't!

As some of you may know, this past weekend was "Winter Field Day". Or was it? It was hard to be sure in Kent County, because only four KCARC members showed up for breakfast on Saturday morning. The same four members were the only ones at the EOC to set up the three antennas and make other preparations for "Winter Field Day". Can you guess who operated the two transmitters to make contacts and show that KCARC was actively participating? You got it, the same four dedicated hams: Jim Moore(KC3BTV), Larry Roll (K3LT), Bob Speakman (N3HPA), and Doug Covert (KB3PRW).

Where were the rest of you? It was a warm and sunny day with almost no wind—a picture perfect day to get out and "play radio". We were there—where were you?

I realize that some people have to work, and some people have family responsibilities that must be performed, and some people may have been sick, or physically unable to actively participate. But not one single of the allegedly active KCARC showed up—not even to say Hi!, or to see how, or what we were doing. I have been a strong and active supporter of the Club since I got my license in 2007. I have served as President, Emergency Coordinator, RACES Radio Officer, and Club License Trustee. I attend most meetings and participate in most Club activities, BUT, I have to say that, today, I am truly disappointed in the Club members—even to the point of being ashamed to admit that I belong to KCARC!

LIVE Life,  
Doug Covert

### **Useless Facts of the Month**

In France, it is legal to marry a dead person. (But then again, voters in Pennsylvania elected one)

In Kentucky, it's illegal to paint your lawn red. (Who would want??!!)

More beach goers are killed by falling coconuts than shark attacks each year. (Hard hats should be mandatory??)

George Washington gave the shortest inaugural address at 135 words. (My kind of politician!!)



January 20, 1981

Iran released 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan. (That's why they called him Ronnie Ray-Gun!!)

## Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

### Construction of World's Largest Radio Telescope Begins

Will Sullivan

Construction for the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), the world's largest radio telescope, began Monday. The telescope will consist of instruments on two continents: around 131,000 antennae will make up the SKA-Low telescope in Australia, while 197 dishes will comprise the SKA-Mid telescope in South Africa, according to Nature News' Sarah Wild. Scientists will use the highly sensitive instruments to study the early universe, dark energy and the expansion of the universe, per the Guardian's Donna Lu. The telescope "will be one of humanity's biggest-ever scientific endeavors," Philip Diamond, the SKA Observatory's director-general, tells the Agence France-Presse (AFP).

The Australian telescope will consist of more than 500 arrays, each made up of 256 antennae, per Nature News. Together, the arrays will function as a radio telescope with a lens covering nearly 100 acres, according to Live Science's Stephanie Pappas. The SKA-Low telescope will detect radio waves with low frequencies (hence its name) between 50 and 350 megahertz, per Space.com's Tereza Pultarova.

"[SKA-Low's] sensitivity will allow us to observe the distant universe in much more detail than anything we've done so far," Douglas Bock, director of space and astronomy at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, tells Nature News. "This is particularly exciting because we know so little about the first billion years of the universe."

The array will sit on land of the Indigenous Wajarri Yamaji, who signed a land-use agreement stating that the construction would not take place on cultural sites, per Live Science. "Once they've started construction, there are opportunities for Wajarri people to be involved in employment and commercial opportunities," Des Mongoo, a Wajarri Yamaji community member, tells Nature News.

The SKA-Mid dishes, each 50 feet across, will detect radio waves between between 350 megahertz and 15.4 gigahertz, per Space.com. The dishes will span 93 miles, according to Live Science. SKA-Mid will also include the 64-dish MeerKAT telescope, which has already been built, per Nature News. Scientists place the telescopes in remote locations so that radio waves made by humans don't interfere with the measurements of space, per Live Science. The telescope's size and the range of frequencies it can observe will allow it to gather detailed data on faint, distant signals. "To put the sensitivity of the SKA into perspective, the SKA could detect a mobile phone in the pocket of an astronaut on Mars, 225 million kilometers away," Danny Price, a radio astronomer at the Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy, tells the AFP.

Plans to construct the telescope started 30 years ago, per Space.com. "The SKA is going to contribute to so many areas of astronomy," Shari Breen, the observatory's head of science operations, tells the BBC's Jonathan Amos.

Scientists are expected to conduct the first observations in 2024 using four dishes and six antenna arrays, according to the BBC. The goal is for construction to be complete by the end of the decade, per Space.com.

Thanks to Smithsonian Magazine Online

# **SAFECOM PUBLISHES GUIDANCE ON CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

Author: Ted Lawson, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), SAFECOM Cybersecurity Working Group Federal Lead

Public safety communications are at risk from a multitude of cyber threats and vulnerabilities. Due to the urgent nature of the operations, public safety communications are high-value targets for cyber threat actors. To set expectations of cyber incident response and to develop a culture of cyber readiness, SAFECOM has published the “First 48”: What to Expect When a Cyber Incident Occurs document.

Based on a series of conversations with public safety officials who have experienced cyber incidents, the document presents common themes, insights, and best practices in chronological order. Expectations, indicators of suspicious activities, and example incident response essential actions are outlined in textboxes to visually aid the understanding and anticipation of cyber incident response. The document appendices also link to additional public safety cyber resources as the interviewees stressed the importance of planning for and preparing against cyber incidents and vulnerabilities.

As responses to specific incidents vary greatly, the “First 48” provides foundational guidance on cyber incident response expectations. The public safety community is encouraged to holistically review their operational posture to ensure that they remain resilient in instances of other human-caused or natural disruptions. For questions about the “First 48”: What to Expect When a Cyber Incident Occurs, please contact [SAFECOMGovernance@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:SAFECOMGovernance@cisa.dhs.gov). Visit CISA’s Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit for additional public safety communications and cybersecurity resources.

## **Amateur Radio Operations at the US Military Academies**

The Service Academies Radio Group (SARG) was recently formed for alumni and amateur radio operators who are interested in the five U.S military academies.

William Curry, W5CQ, founder and net control operator for the SARG Net, said two months ago there was a new interest in forming a group and net. He noticed that only one military academy, West Point, W2KGY, was still operating a club station. At one time, every military academy had an operating club station.

"The club stations at the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Maritime Academy all have been off the air for some time," said Curry. "But we now have 50 new members, all who are interested in promoting amateur radio at all of the academies."

The SARG net meets every Thursday at 2200 UTC on 7.280 MHz, and every Saturday at 1600 UTC on 14.338 MHz. All amateur radio operators, whether they are veterans, or just have an interest in the military or history of the academies, are invited.

Curry has been licensed since 1950 and holds an Amateur Extra-class license. He is also an ARRL Life Member.

For additional information about the SARG Net, contact Curry at [w5cq@arrl.net](mailto:w5cq@arrl.net).

Thanks to ARRL News



## **Without Funds to Replace Huawei Gear, Some Rural Areas Could Go Dark**

by Linda Hardesty

The Competitive Carriers Association (CCA) has been sounding an alarm for months about the funding shortfall for wireless carriers to rip and replace their Huawei and ZTE equipment. But is Congress listening?

Congress has allocated \$1.9 billion to the Secure and Trusted Networks Act Reimbursement Program for service providers to replace untrusted telecom equipment from their networks. In July, the FCC said it had received valid applications for \$4.98 billion in reimbursements, resulting in a \$3.08 billion shortfall. The FCC said that absent any additional appropriation, it would apply a pro-ratio scheme specified by Congress and begin paying the initial reimbursements at only 39.5% of the total amounts.

Tim Donovan, SVP of legislative affairs at the CCA, said the worst-case scenario is that some smaller carriers that can't afford to fund the full cost of replacing their Chinese gear may either go out of business or their wireless technology could become so outdated that it ceases to work properly. In either case, there could be rural areas in the U.S. where there is no wireless coverage. He said the big carriers often roam on local carriers in remote locations. So even customers who have service with one of the big 3 carriers could potentially come across black-out areas. This would be especially concerning for emergency calls.

In September, a bipartisan group of more than 30 senators sent a letter to senate leadership, emphasizing the urgency of allocating more funds for the program.

But Congress hasn't acted yet. And it's had a very busy calendar this year, so it's not clear whether it will address the issue before year-end. Donovan said smaller operators are being squeezed on another related front, too. Currently, they are prohibited from servicing or upgrading their networks with Universal Service Funds if they still have Huawei and ZTE equipment.

But they need to upgrade their networks, especially in light of T-Mobile's shutdown of its CDMA network this year and Verizon's plan to shutter its CDMA network by year-end. Smaller operators use roaming agreements with the big 3 wireless carriers so that their subscribers have service when out of their footprint. Many smaller carriers are still using CDMA for voice service. But in January, none of the big three will have a CDMA network for voice calls. So, the smaller operators need to update their own networks to Voice over LTE. However, the uncertainty and lack of full funding for Huawei rip and replace is putting them in a tough spot. If all these factors weren't pressure enough, applicants for rip-and-replace funds have only until July 2023 to submit their first reimbursement requests. And then they have one more year to complete their projects.

There's at least one small wireless carrier that's moving forward with its network upgrade plans.

Montana-based Triangle Communications is undergoing a full network transformation, working with the vendor Mavenir. Triangle Communications CEO Craig Gates told Fierce that of course, they'd like to have full funding for the project and they're watching what happens in Washington, D.C. But he felt the company couldn't wait any longer to make the upgrades.

Thanks to FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications newsletter

## **Massachusetts High School Hopes to Finally Turn Off Its Lights After Being Lit For Almost a Year and a Half**

The costly glitch gave "Saturday Night Live" something to laugh about. It is hoped that one Massachusetts high school will finally be able to turn its lights off after almost a year and a half. Nearly 7,000 lights in Minnechaug Regional High School have been on 24/7 since August 24, 2021 due to a computer glitch, according to reports.

The round-the-clock illumination came with a financial burden. "I would say the net impact is in the thousands of dollars per month on average, but not in the tens of thousands," Aaron Osborne, the assistant superintendent of finance at the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, told NBC News. "We are very much aware this is costing taxpayers a significant amount of money," Osborne told the outlet. "We have been doing everything we can to get this problem solved."

According to the high school's student-run newspaper, The Smoke Signal, the computer server in charge of the lighting system, which was meant to be power-efficient, failed, and this isn't the first time it has happened. "On occasion, the software would go down and it would somehow get corrupted. We would try to recycle it and eventually everything would come back on," Edward Cenedella, the director of Facilities and Operations for the school district told the school paper. "Unfortunately the last time it got corrupted it was unfixable." Luckily, the parts required to replace the system at the school have finally arrived from the factory in China, according to Paul Mustone, president of the Reflex Lighting Group, according to NBC News. They anticipate installing the new system over the February break, the outlet reported.

"And yes, there will be a remote override switch so this won't happen again," Mustone said, according to NBC News.

The incident gave "Saturday Night Live" something to joke about. "The students are doing fine but the classroom hamster has gone insane," co-anchor Colin Jost said in the "Weekend Update" segment of the show.

Thanks to Inside Edition

## **Joke of the Month**

### **The Teacher**

A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable at all.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work. The classroom became a bit unruly and he admonished them. This happened several times.

When he would do work at his desk, the strong breeze from the window made his tie flap annoyingly. He kept rearranging and rearranging the tie as the class raised it's level of unruliness.

Finally, becoming disgusted with the wayward tie, he stood up and took a big stapler off his desk and stapled the tie to his chest in several places.

Discipline was not a problem from that day forth.

## **Quote of the Month**

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain