

# SHORT CIRCUITS

## Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

October 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 (down)
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

October 10	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
October 14	Apple Scrapple Festival, Bridgeville, more coming
October 21	Simulated emergency Test, more below
October 30	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 4	Swap Meet, at K3TKJ QTH, Laurel
November 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
November 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
December 9	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
January 9, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
January 11, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
January 29, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
February 8, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
February 13, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
February 26, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
March 9, 2024	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
March 12, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
March 14, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
March 25, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
April 9, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
April 11, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
April, 29, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
May 9, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
May 14, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 27, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 8, 2024	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
June 11, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 13, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
June 24, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
July 9, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
July 11, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
July 29, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00

## Hamfests

October 01

### **CARA Fest**

#### **Columbia Amateur Radio Association**

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

**Contact:** Michael Olson , K3RMO, PO Box 911 Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410-497-4125 **Talk-In:** 147.390 MHz/R+ 156.7 Hz

**Email:** [k3rmo@columbiaara.org](mailto:k3rmo@columbiaara.org)

October 22

### **Carroll County, MD Hamfest**

#### **Carroll County Amateur Radio Club**

Door to Virtue Masonic Lodge, 46 Monroe St., Westminster, MD 21157

**Contact:** Pete Hiltz , WV3S, 5623 LaSalle Ln Sykesville, MD 21784

Phone: 443-280-0385 **Talk-In:** 145.410 (-) , 114.8 Hz PL

**Email:** [radio-k3pzn@googlegroups.com](mailto:radio-k3pzn@googlegroups.com)

November 4

### **Delmarva Swapmeet**

#### **Delmarva Amateur Radio Club**

Al Waller's QTH, 34087 Old Hickory Rd, Laurel, DE 19956

**Contact:** Jim Jester, KCITR, 443-366-5677

or Arthur Parks, N3EAK, [amparks6@gmail.com](mailto:amparks6@gmail.com) **Talk-In:** 146.82 (-) 156.7 PL

Hours: 10 AM – 2 PM

April 20, 2024

### **Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention**

#### **Sussex Amateur Radio Association**

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

**Contact:** Jamie Ashton , W3UC, 7446 Parker St. Pittsville, MD 21850

Phone: 410-202-7690 **Email:** [ashton@mchsi.com](mailto:ashton@mchsi.com) **Talk-In:** 147.090 156.7

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

## Editor's Comments

Well, we dodged another bullet! We had tropical storm Ophelia passed right over top of us, as a tropical storm. Not as a hurricane as people to the South of us experienced. Even though Ophelia was not a hurricane and did not have the strong winds of a hurricane, coastal flooding occurred, sometimes turning streets into part of the surrounding water. Pictures available through the Delaware News Journal show the amount of storm surge Delaware saw. It kind of reminded me of the Storm of '62, but this was nowhere near as bad, even though 1962 was a Nor'easter and Ophelia a tropical storm. Both events turned the streets of Dewey Beach into part of the Rehoboth Bay and put sand onto places sand shouldn't be. And neither was a hurricane.

The point? Were you ready? The EOC in Kent activated for Saturday, and Sussex ran a Skywarn net on 147.090, don't know if Sussex EOC activated, but I would assume it did. I didn't hear anything out of DEMA or New Castle, someone will need to give a report on their activation, if any, and if amateur radio was involved. Kent County values its amateur radio members, and it is obvious by having the radio room staffed while they were activated, and some good information was obtained by emergency management at the EOC through the amateurs, and some of that information passed on to the NWS. It will be interesting to know if there were any other groups called up by emergency management for this tropical storm.

I had breakfast with a group of people recently that are part of a prepper group thinking about communications within their circle. It was interesting to hear them talk about how little they prepared for Ophelia, as things to get ready they do every day. Their only lacking, at this point, is reliable communications between members. It was interesting to hear some of the preparations they have to be self reliant for weeks, or months, at a time. Wonder how many hams there are? I know I would have some work to do!

Coming up are a couple of good public service events that can highlight amateur radio to the public in a good light. Think about participating, even if only for a short time. Also, be aware that the ARRL has opened voting for candidates for offices, Our Director, Bob Famiglio, K3RF, ran unopposed and will again be our Atlantic Division Director, however there are races for other positions. When the ARRL sent out its questionnaire, only 12% of the ARRL members of the Atlantic Division answered the survey, hopefully the percentage that will vote will be higher!

## **President's Column**

The silence from the top is deafening!!

## **Vice-President's Column**

Its always fun to buy a new radio, especially if it is an upgrade and not just a replacement for one that had died. For years I have used a Luiton LT-898uv as a mobile unit in my car. It is a dual band, 10w unit about the size of a sandwich which I can plug into a cigarette lighter. I also use it for marathon events where I have to hike in at Cape Henlopen State Park. I can use it all day on a 6ah LiFePO4 battery that weighs less than a pound.

After much reading, and comparing models, I have bought an Alinco DR-735T for my car. It is a dual band, dual transceiver, 50w unit with a detachable faceplate. It is capable of cross band repeat operation and the display sports half inch high characters that can be read at a glance. I could have spent more and got a radio with APRS but I already have an interface that sends APRS signals from a tablet through a HT.

I splurged and bought the RT Systems programming software and cable which makes programming a snap. I haven't crawled around in the car to find a way through the firewall to run the power cable so it is hooked up to a deep cycle battery (that I use for emergency ops) that is sitting on the back floorboard. I am looking forward to seeing all that this radio can do.

73,  
Jim KC3BTV  
VP KCARC

## **From the Section Manager's Shack**

Section Managers Column October 2023

So for the first weather incident in a while, Tropical Storm Ophelia, that has come and gone, only to have her remnants return for a few days; my question is, what did you learn? Was it anything, something, or nothing? It was a golden opportunity to check your family preparedness plans, and your "no power" operating plans. While you were at it, you could have had your own 'mini exercise'! To quote Bill Saunders, N3ID, "that which is not tested, will fail".

Well, you will get a second chance. Coming up for the month of October are several opportunities for you to get some practice and perform some public service. It is how we learn by doing and showcase what amateur radio can do to the general public. Both worthy things to get involved in. Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> is the MS Bike to the Bay". A fair number of hams were signed up to support the event, but have now been told, they are not going to be needed. This I see as an unfortunate situation from several perspectives.

Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> is the Apple Scrapple Festival in Bridgeville, operators from all over the state and adjoining Maryland have participated in the support of communications for this event for years. Bill Saunders, [N3ID@arrl.net](mailto:N3ID@arrl.net) is managing this event. It's primarily an HT only event. You can sign up for a full day or a half day (morning or afternoon) shift. New to this stuff, you can be partnered with a more experienced operator.

Also on Saturday the 14th is the New Castle County portion of the Section Emergency Test (SET). Dave Scott, [KC3BEJ@arrl.net](mailto:KC3BEJ@arrl.net) is handling this one.

Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Kent and Sussex counties portion of the SET. Register for the event with Jim Moore, [KC3BTV@arrl.net](mailto:KC3BTV@arrl.net), if you are in Kent County and Bill Saunders, [N3ID@arrl.net](mailto:N3ID@arrl.net), if you are in Sussex County. Instructions will be emailed to you.

For the ARRL members, there are two elections coming in October. Ballots will be mailed from headquarters on October 1st. For the Delaware Section, I'm running for re-election and Steven Keller, KC3DSO has also thrown his hat in the ring. For the Atlantic Division, of which the Delaware Section is a part Marty Pittinger KB3MXM, the current Vice Director who was appointed to fill the vacancy when our current director Bob Famiglio K3RF was moved up to fill the vacancy when Tom Abernathy, W3TOM, stepped down in January is running for election. I would ask you to support Marty in his bid for election. He will bring a younger, active, enthusiastic approach to the office.

Amateur radio is a hobby of "doing". You enjoy the hobby by doing, you improve your abilities by doing, and it is more fun doing than not doing anything, so get out there and do!

## The Emcomm Corner

Thanks to all those who were able to participate in the TS Ophelia net September 23. It just happened to be in place of the DE Family Emergency Preparedness Day which was rained out. We had as many as 10 on the net which ran from 0900 to 1920. A shout out to Hunter, KC3VTB, who served as net control for over half of the operation. Thankfully, the effects of the storm were less than predicted in Kent County with flooding in the usual places. The worst flooding was the causeway to Woodland Beach where the water was over the top of the guardrail. Chief Sipple was glad we were able to provide support on short notice. That support is why we are in the EOC.

It's not too late to sign up to help with Apple Scrapple on Oct 14 in Bridgeville. Contact [ws3eoc@gmail.com](mailto:ws3eoc@gmail.com) with "2023 Apple" in the subject line to get on the roster or to get more details.

So far I have seven who have expressed an interest in participating in the SET on October 21. The set is an exercise using portable equipment (including antennas) not powered by the grid to conduct simplex operations within the county. There is still time to get involved, just let me know.

73,  
Jim KC3BTV  
Kent County EC

## **AUXCOMM News**

### **Did You Feel It?**

On November 30, 2017 at approximately 4:48p a magnitude 4.1 earthquake struck near Dover, DE. Did you feel it? We did. Heard and felt a distant “whomp” and watched a couple of hanging lights in the kitchen sway a little bit. We weren’t sure what it was until reading later news reports. Turns out it was felt from Massachusetts to central Virginia. So, I guess that, in addition to storms, earthquakes are occasionally “a thing” here in Lower Slower Delaware.

On October 19th 2023 millions of people worldwide will participate in The Great ShakeOut, the world's largest earthquake drill. You can, too. Detailed information about the event is available from <https://www.shakeout.org/>. You can participate as an individual or part of a group (family, neighborhood, club, school, church, etc.) The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and preparedness for this potential hazard. Not too worried about the earthquake threat here in Lower Slower? How about Tsunami? We are coastal. Preparedness is always a good practice!

So, what does all of this have to do with Amateur Radio? As part of the October 19th Great ShakeOut there will be an opportunity to submit a sample Did You Feel It (DYFI) report via Winlink. Detailed information is available from <https://www.winlink.org/content/shakeout>. One of the great features of Winlink is the use of forms to collect information in a standardized format then be able to send that information via Winlink email through the internet or via radio. In addition to the common ICS forms, Severe Weather reports, and Radiogram, Winlink also has a DYFI form. The US Geological Survey (USGS) relies on reports from the public to assess the local effects of earthquakes when and where they occur just as the National Weather Service (NWS) looks for local reports via Skywarn. If you haven't tried Winlink, or it's been a while, this is a good opportunity to jump in and do something. And, you don't even need to leave the house!

The simple principles (Drop, Cover, Hold On) promoted by The Great ShakeOut for earthquake safety (which kind of remind me of the “Duck and Cover” drills we did in school back in the Cold War 1960's) are also handy to keep in mind in the event of tornadoes, which are also sudden and potentially severe. Several instances of tornado damage have occurred recently here in Lower Slower and they seem to be happening more frequently. Stay safe.

Enough about bad weather. We are looking for good weather, and volunteers, for a couple of coming events:

On Thursday, October 12th, the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center will host 9-1-1 Appreciation Day from 9a – 2p at the EOC facility 21911 Rudder Lane in Georgetown. This “open house” will feature emergency equipment, including the Mobile Command Unit, on display to the public. Sussex AUXCOMM will have a display associated with the MCU promoting Amateur Radio and our role in supporting the EOC. We need volunteers to provide demonstrations and engage with the public.

On Saturday, October 14th, the town of Bridgeville will host their annual Apple Scrapple festival, a street fair that occupies the center of town and features food, rides, exhibits, a classic car show, crafts, and more food. Sussex AUXCOMM will be supporting the MCU with Amateur Radio teams observing and assisting the crowds. We need volunteers to help with this event either for a full day (8a – 4p) or a half day. It's fun, and important!

If you haven't already contacted us, simply email [ws3eoc@gmail.com](mailto:ws3eoc@gmail.com) to get further information.

73's!  
Bill, N3ID

## Club Happenings

### Nominations for Offices in October Meeting

A reminder, nominations for club officers will be held this month. Have something in mind for the club and want to see an agenda for the coming year, throw your hat into the ring for a position of officer. Or nominate the person you would like to see in the office.

First nominations will take place during the October meeting and remain open until November when elections will take place. Make sure you are at the following meetings to let your voice be known. A list of those nominated will appear in the November newsletter.

### Apple-Scrapple This Month

Remember that the Apple-Scrapple Festival happens in the town of Bridgeville on October 14 and Sussex AUXCOMM is looking for volunteers to help with communications. Apple-Scrapple is one of those events where you can see a great many things and have a fantastic time while providing support for the Sussex Mobile Command Unit. Apple-Scrapple has crafts, cars, politicians, and some great food. Think about volunteering some of your time to help out. Contact Bill at [WS3EOC@gmail.com](mailto:WS3EOC@gmail.com) to sign up or get more information.

### For the Youth Members.....

#### Announcing our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth "Dream Rig" Essay Contest.

The Intrepid-DX Group is a US based 501 C (3) nonprofit organization that promotes Amateur Radio activities around the world. The Intrepid-DX Group recognizes the importance of including Youth in our great hobby because they are our future! We are continuing with our annual "Dream Rig" Youth Essay Contest to gather the views and ideas of young people involved in Amateur Radio.

What are the Prizes?

The First-Place prize is an ICOM IC-7300!

The Second-place prize is an ICOM ID5100AD dual band mobile radio with D-Star.

The Third-place prize is an ICOM ID52A dual band handy talkie with D-Star.

Contest Rules:

- 1) Two-page Essay answering this question: What attracted you to amateur radio?
- 2) Contestants must be USA or Canadian Amateur Radio License Holders Aged 19 or younger. All contestants must be in the US, including US territories or Canada.
- 3) Promise to keep the radio for one year, not flip it, trade it or sell it, and to use it on the air.
- 4) Send an essay in plain text, PDF or MS Word attachment to [intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com](mailto:intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com) by November 30th, 2023.
- 5) You may alternatively mail it to: The Intrepid-DX Group, 3052 Wetmore Dr, San Jose, CA 95148, USA. Must be postmarked by November 30, 2022.
- 6) Those that have previously submitted an essay may compete in this year's essay contest as long as all other criteria are met.
- 7) The winner of the Essay Contest will be announced on our Website and Facebook page on December 15th, 2023. Winner must agree to provide a photo with their prize. All submissions become the property of the Intrepid-DX Group and the winners authorize the Intrepid-DX Group to use their photographs to promote the contest.

Questions: Send an email to [intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com](mailto:intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com)

You can follow our contest and receive updates via our Facebook page.

Good luck to everyone!

Dave WD5COV

Vice President, The Intrepid-DX Group

**A Note From the Straight Key Century Club....**

Just a reminder: the monthly slow speed saunter (SSS) begins at 0000z on 01 October. That is in just a few days. That "start time" translates into 8pm local time east coast USA; 5pm local time west coast USA on Saturday 30 September. SSS runs 24 hours and it occurs the first day of EACH month.

This is an ideal event (note: "event", not "contest") for new operators, "re-treads" relearning cw, and those of you experiencing hesitancy about getting on the air to make actual contacts. SSS is a slow speed, relaxed atmosphere, and a very low threat level event. There is no such thing as "going too slow". This is your chance! Look especially around the slow speed watering holes (7.114; 10.114; 14.114 etc) and utilize the sched page. Make sure after the event closes you make some comments in the soap box section of the website.

Full details available at SKCC - Slow Speed Saunter (skccgroup.com)

See you all starting Saturday night!

Dave / W1DV / SSS Manager

**For the Dxers.....**

For those who need KH8S for their DXCC;

OC-200; KH8S, SWAINS:

The operators (DJ9RR, DL2AMD, DL6JGN, KO8SCA, NG7M, PA2KW, PA3EWP, PA4WM, PA5X, PG5M) of the upcoming DXpedition to Swains Island, W8S, are due to meet on Hawaii on Sept. 27. On the 28th they are flying to Pago Pago on Samoa where they will embark a few days later. They plan to spend their time on Samoa checking their gear, configuring laptops and radios, and also operating a bit, signing

KH8/home calls. The group is due to arrive on Swains Island on Oct 4 and operate until the 17th. There will be a log live-stream and a Club Log online log.

Thanks to DX Newsletter

**For the Vintage Radio Amateurs.....**

Fellow Radio Enthusiasts,

I found your contact information through the ARRL Website or other sources. I am the V.P. of the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) that meets at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, 3727 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, Maryland.

We are holding our annual RadioFallFest event at the Davidsonville Recreation Center on 15 October, and would like to let you and your members know about that. I would say at least 20% to 25% of the items at our auctions and flea markets are Amateur Radio related, and about a third of our members are Hams. I have attached a flyer about the event, and the link to RadioFallFest details on our website is <https://maarc.org/radiofallfest-2023/>. I would appreciate it if you circulated this information to your members.

Dave Rossetti

MAARC V.P.

410-279-0226 (mobile)

Check out the website, neat!!

### **Simulated Emergency Test Coming Up**

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is set for 21 October in Kent And Sussex Counties. As usual, New Castle is playing by itself on 14 October (same day as Apple-Scrapple). The contact person for Kent County is Jim, KC3BTV, and can be reached on the repeater or at [kc3btv@arrl.net](mailto:kc3btv@arrl.net). The contact person for Sussex is Bill, N3ID, and can be reached at [N3ID@arrl.net](mailto:N3ID@arrl.net). Instructions will be emailed to you after registering.

Contact the contact person in your county and join in the fun.

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

The speed limit in NYC was eight mph in 1895. (Have times changed??!!)

George Washington insisted his continental army be permitted a quart of beer as part of their daily rations. (Maybe it was Grolsch?!)

A bolt of lightning is six times hotter than the sun. (Let's roast some marshmallows?!)

When Apollo 11 journeyed to the moon in July 1969 it carried as part of its equipment a Morse key for emergency radio communication with earth. (Interesting!!)

"Lurch" is a fictional character created by cartoonist Charles Addams as a manservant to The Addams Family. In the original television series, Lurch was played by 6'9" Ted Cassidy, who used the famous catchphrase, "You rang?" Lurch is a tall, shambling, lugubrious butler who somewhat resembles Frankenstein's monster with a deep, resonant voice. As originally conceived, Lurch was to have no lines, but in the show's pilot episode, Ted Cassidy ad-libbed the line "You rang?" in his trademark deep voice, and it was so impressive that it led to Lurch getting more dialogue.

### **Tidbit of Information of the Month Department**

#### **FCC, FEMA to Test Emergency System on Cell Phones**

(TNS) - On Oct. 4, you will hear your phone go off. Rather than receive a text from a loved one or co-worker, it will be a nationwide test ordered by the federal government. That day, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission will partner to test the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts on Americans' phones across the country. This two-part test is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. EST, according to FEMA. The EAS test portion of the test will affect radios and televisions and last about a minute.

The message to accompany the test will say, "This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, covering the United States from 14:20 to 14:50 hours ET. This is only a test. No action is required by the public." The test that will impact cell phone users will be the WEA test, the second time to be tested on phones but the third time in which the alert system has been tested. Phones will receive a text message displayed in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

In its statement, FEMA said it and the FCC were "coordinating with EAS participants, wireless providers, emergency managers and other stakeholders in preparation for this national test to minimize confusion and to maximize the public safety value of the test." "The purpose of the Oct. 4 test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on



the national level,” the statement read. “In case the Oct. 4 test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the back-up testing date is Oct. 11.”

Wireless cell phones should receive only one test text, with broadcast towers carrying out the tests for around 30 minutes. The message will read “THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed.” Phones set in Spanish will display “ESTA ES UNA PRUEBA del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Emergencia. No se necesita acción.”

In order for the alerts to be accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities, alerts will include a unique tone and vibration, FEMA said. Your phone will sound even if it has alerts silenced, according to Parade.

Thanks to Government Technology online

### **DITTY MORSE — WHAT’S THAT ?**

During world war II when things were desperate for all sides, many messages were sent in Morse. The need for secrecy was paramount so secret codes were utilized. Even the simplest of messages had to be coded before transmission and deciphered at the receiving end so the message could be understood. At the same time the enemy listening in was not supposed to be able to crack the code. But they often did.

Enter ‘ditty Morse’. Ditty Morse was first practiced by the Japanese signalers but then taken up by the British. It was a method of sending Morse in plain language so that it could not be understood. It was amazingly simple. An extra “dit” was transmitted after each letter if it was a consonant and an extra “dit” was sent before each letter if it was a vowel. For example, a t instead of being dah was sent as dah-dit, an a instead of being di-dah was sent as di-di-dah. This confused everybody on all sides, the ditty senders, the ditty receivers and the enemy listening in.

The British persevered with ditty Morse but realized that operators who had learned regular Morse had no hope of adapting to the ditty version. A whole new generation of “cleanskin” ditty operators had to be trained to send and read the extra-dit code. The only criteria for the new trainees was that they did not know a letter of regular Morse to start with. So the letter b to them was dah-di-di-di-dit and u was di-di-di-dah. What happened was that 99 percent of signalers could only read normal Morse and one percent could only read ditty Morse. The ditty Morse program was abandoned.

### **USA Radio Orienteering Team Brings Home Silver and Bronze Medals**

At the 21<sup>st</sup> International Amateur Radio Union World Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championship in Liberec, Czech Republic, held August 27 through September 2, 2023, USA competitors won a silver medal for an individual competition, as well as two bronze team medals.

ARDF, also known as radio orienteering, is a multi-skill sport that involves running and navigation using only a map and compass. Competitors use a 2-meter (144 MHz) or 80-meter (3.5 MHz) radio receiver to locate multiple transmitters hidden in a forest. The sport directly applies to important activities such as search and rescue, wildlife tracking, airborne and seaborne navigation, and communications. The competition at the championship in Liberec involved mountainous terrain, intricate navigation challenges, periods of rain, and elite racing.

The USA fielded its largest team ever, including 21 athletes, with seven competing in a world championship for the first time. The (IARU) and Czech Radio Club hosted the event in the mountainous region of North Bohemia, with 28 countries and nearly 400 racers attending.

Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, won a silver medal in the W65 category during the 3.5 MHz "foxoring" event that combines orienteering and transmitter (fox) hunting. Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV, and Natalia Leoni earned a bronze team medal in the W55 category 144 MHz classic competition. Several USA athletes also finished within the top 10 results in nearly all the classes, including two fourth - place finishes by Scharlau. Scharlau was thrilled with the results. "All our newcomers performed beyond our expectations. The courses were extremely hard. We all got along and supported one another. Most importantly, almost everyone expressed their determination to improve and come back to compete again," said Scharlau.

ARRL's ARDF Committee Chair Charles Scharlau, NZ0I, who also raced, echoed the positive take on the USA team, stating, "They successfully navigated well-designed courses on rugged terrain against a field of skilled and experienced competitors. The Czech Republic is an ideal place to hold the world championships. They have great maps, excellent venues, and they know how to put on a world-class event," he said.

The USA Radio Orienteering Championship will be held in Michigan on October 7 - 13, 2024. Team USA will select its team members for the 2025 USA Championship, and that team will travel to Lithuania in 2025 to compete in the 22nd World ARDF Championship. A complete list of the 2023 results can be found at <https://vysledky.ardf2023.cz/>. Thanks to ARRL ARDF Committee and Event Director Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, for the information contained in this story.

Thanks to ARRL News

## **Winlink ShakeOut Exercise Next Month**

The Winlink Development Team (WDT) continues its successful collaboration with the US Geological Survey to provide real event and exercise "Did You Feel It?" (DYFI) earthquake intensity reports via Winlink. All Winlink users are invited to send Exercise Winlink DYFI reports on October 19, 2023, at or after 10:19 local time with Exercise ID: 2023SHAKEOUT. For step-by-step Winlink DYFI Exercise instructions and additional information see the Winlink ShakeOut Website and the details below.

### **What is ShakeOut?**

The Great ShakeOut is the world's largest earthquake drill. It is held annually on the third Thursday of October, and millions of people participate all over the world. In 2022 over 45.6 million people registered their participation. The goal of the ShakeOut is to teach people how to protect themselves during an earthquake. Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills across the U.S. are coordinated by the Southern California Earthquake Center in partnership with ECA, CUSEC, state and national emergency management partners, with support from FEMA, NEHRP, NSF, and USGS.

The ShakeOut drill is simple. At the designated time (or whenever it works for you or your organization), participants practice self-protective actions such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" or "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" if they use a wheelchair.

#### **How to Participate**

1. Register your volunteer radio group for the Great ShakeOut.
2. Send Winlink DYFI ("Did You Feel It?") exercise reports on October 19, 2023, after 10:19 (local time) to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Exercise ID: 2023SHAKEOUT
3. Conduct local radio nets or functional radio exercises to test your group's preparedness.
- 4.

The Great ShakeOut is also an opportunity to learn more about earthquake preparedness. Participants can learn about the different types of earthquakes, how to create an earthquake safety plan, and how to make their homes and businesses more earthquake-resistant.

The Great ShakeOut is a great way to get ready for an earthquake. Many preparedness lessons from the Great ShakeOut also apply to floods, fires, landslides, and other disasters. It is also a chance to connect with your community and learn how to help others in the event of an earthquake or other disaster. Look for more details on the Winlink ShakeOut Website in the coming weeks.

## **Joke of the Month**

### **Looking for a Job.....**

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?"

The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

## **Quote of the Month**

"Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it."  
St. Augustine