

SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

September 2023

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

Happy Labor day

Happenings

	Labor Day
September 4	
September 9	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
September 9	Swap Meet, at K3TKJ QTH, Laurel
September 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
September 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
Sept 30 – Oct 1	MS City to Shore Bike Ride (NJ), more below
October 7	MS Bike to the Bay (DE), more below
October 14	Apple Scrapple Festival, Bridgeville, more coming
October 10	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
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

Hamfests

- September 9 **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 **Talk-In:** 146.82 (-) 156.7 PL
Hours: 10 AM – 2 PM
- September 10 **ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention and Hamfest**
Gloucester County ARC
Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds, 235 Bridgeton Pike (Rt 77), Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
Contact: Sheldon Parker , K2MEN, 643 Betty Rose Ave. Gibbstown, NJ 08027
Phone: 609-417-7802 **Talk-In:** 147.180 PL 131.8 **Email:** sheldonparker@comcast.net

- 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
- 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
- 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 **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 **Talk-In:** 147.090 156.7

More hamfests listed at 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

While sitting in one of my favorite (?) places, the doctor's waiting room, I was reading an interesting article and had a crazy thought (I know, you now say, "what's new?"). With the big push for "climate change" legislation, what happens when there is a disaster like what has happened in Maui? And then could the effect of such legislation have an adverse result on evacuations here in Delaware?

First of all, it is doubtful Delaware could have a wildfire of the magnitude of what we have seen on Maui, though a fire like that could devastate some of our natural woodlands, especially in Kent and Sussex counties. But it is doubtful a wildfire would cause massive evacuations that would jam up highways and shut down needed infrastructure. But a major hurricane could.

Now think about legislation and policies being introduced aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of tiny Delaware in order to save the planet that centers around electric vehicles. Only new electric vehicles, or vehicles that cause no emissions, are proposed to be sold after 2035, with 43% of such new vehicles starting in 2027. I was reading an article by Stella Morabito, a senior contributor at The Federalist, about her and her husband renting a long-range Tesla Model 3 for a trip. They found that the 450 mile range promised was really about 150 miles and it took three hours to bring the battery up to 85% from 30%. Now think about that with a strong Category 3 hurricane bearing down on Delmarva. You've got about, maybe, 300 miles if you have a good charge on the car batteries providing you've not driven around too

much and have plugged it in often, if nothing holds you up, and maybe with temperatures in the 90's the air conditioning isn't used too much (if the air conditioning works in an EV sitting still), if the tourists have decided to actually heeded the warnings and are leaving before the storm gets bad! Which we all know they probably won't.

So maybe things will not be that bad and infrastructure won't go down, and there will be plenty of electricity to power all those essential (?) items that everyone will need (keep the Margaritas blenders going!). Aren't we all being asked to refrain from using electricity on hot days now, without the added strain of charging vehicles?

The point to this little brainstorm I had while sitting there waiting for the Doc, we all need to think that if our infrastructure becomes unavailable, what have you done to make sure you can communicate or evacuate as need be? Looks like either individual wind or solar are going to be our only options. As the amount of gas powered vehicles are being phased out, and with the push to do away with all "fossil fuels" , the availability of those fossil fuels to run generators will go away leaving those useless. And if fuel is available the price to run a generator will be high. And with the price of batteries (might as well buy the factory!) that suit either solar, or wind, any alternative energy source is not going to be cheap, if it's available. Plan now by thinking what you would do if one of the disasters we are seeing occurred here.

Along the lines of preparation we have SAFECOM, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) premier public safety communications advisory council, is made-up of public safety stakeholders with a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds. The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) highlights the importance of training Auxiliary Communicators (AUXCs) to strengthen communications coordination during emergencies when traditional communications systems are down. The training examines how AUXCs have assisted communities with essential emergency communication that saves lives.

These auxiliary communicators (AUXC) are vital during emergencies as they can enhance communications between first responders and the public even when phone lines and internet may be down or disrupted. Due to the key role AUXCs can play during a crisis or event, the Cybersecurity in Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) created a standardized training called auxiliary communications (AUXCOMM).

AUXCOMM encompasses multiple volunteer-led organizations including the Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT), Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), and state-led groups. Learning to work together as a well-oiled machine is what the AUXCOMM training is all about, and prepares amateurs for emergencies and disasters.

In a recent bulletin from the ARRL concerning the approaching Hurricane Idalia, there was the following paragraph; "In a planning call Monday night with leadership of ARRL Florida sections and ARRL Headquarters staff, Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Northern Florida Section Arc Thames, W4CPD, shared plans for activation of Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers within the section. "Beginning at 7:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday, August 28, ARES volunteers will begin to staff AUXCOMM positions at the State EOC," he said." Obviously the ARRL leadership in Florida has the common sense to recognize AUXCOMM.

Government agencies will be using the Incident Command System (ICS) and following recommendations provided by SAFECOM, the reason that ARRL having a "seat at the table" with SAFECOM is extremely important. Now if the ARRL can represent amateurs in a productive light, if government officials will actually listen, and if hams actually take the training provided so they will know what is expected of them and the procedures to impeditment them.

President's Column

No input from the top!!

Vice-President's Column

Most mornings I try to take a one mile walk around our subdivision. Tuesday is trash/recycling collection in our neighborhood and many bins have been placed at the curb for pickup. As I walk, I am amazed at the number of people that seem to be unable to follow simple directions. The directions are printed on the top of each bin so they are not hidden. Some bins are so close together that they seem to be huddling to keep warm when they are supposed to be three feet apart to allow the pickup arm access. Some have the lid hinge toward the street which can hinder the lid opening properly when dumping. Some recycling bins have their contents enclosed in plastic bags which can jam the handling equipment and slow the sorting process. When I walk by, I sometimes ask myself, do they not care, are they ignorant, or simply being jerks?

What does this have to do with our amateur radio operations? It has to do with attention to the details as well as our attitudes. Do we properly identify at the end of our final transmission as required? Do we listen on a frequency before we transmit? Do we tune up right on top of someone else's QSO? Do we make sure that we are operating within the frequency limits of our licenses? Do we take the time to help new hams when their HT is not playing nice (Remember we were ALL there once)? Amateur radio is meant to be a fun hobby so let's work to keep it that way.

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for lots of ways to go out and play radio and help our communities.

Go out, emit and have fun.

Jim KC3BTW
KCARC Vice President

From the Section Manager's Shack

Section Manager's Column for September 2023

If you've been watching the Weather Channel, you have then just recently observed the phenomena of "scheduling a weather related disaster". From the initial predictions to today (8/30), it's been just about right on schedule over the last week.

If they can schedule a disaster, why can't we schedule an exercise that would have us practicing our skills to prepare for a visit from Cantore, or Seidel, who is actually sort of a local, or Goodloe? Earlier last month we had discussions with leadership in all three counties, and couldn't find a date without a conflict. I wonder how many schedules, appointments and events just got canceled in this last week in Florida and on up through Georgia and the Carolinas? Which brings up another question for the leadership, who were the ones with the schedule conflicts. For those of you that are in a position of responsibility, do you have somebody that can step up and take over if you are not able to meet a current situation, and is that person as capable as you might be? The Incident Command System (ICS) is the law of the land for all response and recovery operations. Principals in the organization chart have Deputies that are required to have the same credentials as the individual they support. The ARES organization would do well to modernize and adopt the language and requirements of the ICS.

We now have a date for a section-wide SET (Section Emergency Test) of October 21st,, thanks to the efforts of Jim Moore, KC3BTV, EC for Kent County. Sorry if that doesn't fit your schedule. One of the problems we have in emergency and disaster preparedness in the Delaware Section is that we aren't serious about being ready for what could and may happen. If we were, those that are responsible for public safety might look at us with a more favorable opinion. Those few groups that have an interactive working relationship with their local emergency management organizations are in a much better position than the overall situation in the state. It's high time that across the section from leadership to members we all get serious, starting now, to respond to a section-wide exercise on October 21st. Plan for widespread power outages that take local repeaters off the air. Plan for using VHF and UHF simplex. Plan for possibly having to set up operations at a remote site to cover communication needs there. The leadership will be asked to defer to their subordinates to figure some of this out, and direct the response. Don't have one? Get one!

Take this date of October 21st as seriously as the hams in Florida took August 28th – 29th. OK, for them this is almost a “rinse and repeat” of last year's Hurricane Ian that they are still in the process of recovery from, but ready and prepared they were, both times. They've had an up close and personal experience with what can happen. That is our second problem in the Delaware Section, no current disaster memory for the majority of the people. Can you recall the Ice Storm of '95 or the Double Blizzards of 2010? I wonder what Mother Nature has in store for us in 2025? Will you and your family be ready for what may happen?

Later, 73
John, K3PFW
ARRL Section Manager, Delaware.

The Emcomm Corner

Sometimes the attempts that end in failure are the most instructive. The other evening I had to open Belmont Hall for a meeting that coincided with the Delaware Traffic Net time. I thought it would be a great opportunity to set up a new end fed half wave antenna and run my Xiegu G90 portable to check into the net. I had an hour before net time to set up. I thought it would be a good idea to run the antenna from a porch rail on the east side of the building to some low trees about 70 feet away for an NVIS configuration. I discovered that my pinched nerve precluded my throwing a line over the tree so I had to settle for tying the far end of the antenna to a bush about 6 feet off the ground. It is now 30 minutes until net time. Rather than take the time to hook up the manual tuner that I had (that I knew would tune the antenna) I just assumed that the G90's internal tuner could handle it. I hit the “TUNE” button and it made noises like all was well. I didn't check the tiny screen on the G90 to make sure all was well. Net time came and I could hear the check-ins but the net control couldn't hear me. I looked and the power output was about 2 watts. Apparently the SWR was too high and the power folded back to protect the finals. The next day, John Law K3JL, said he thought he could hear me but wasn't sure. It wasn't a big deal that I couldn't check into the net but in the event of a disaster, it could have been a big deal.

What should I have done differently? I should have made sure that the antenna was properly matched to the transceiver instead of assuming the internal tuner could handle it, especially when using a new antenna. The time to test equipment is not when disaster strikes but beforehand. That is part of the purpose of exercises. Sometimes, you should try logging into a net using something other than your tried and true base station with the tall antenna.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

AUXCOMM News

Hamming it Up

Fall is approaching and along with it are multiple opportunities to be “Radio Active” and take your Ham Radio involvement up a notch or two. If you have at least one radio (of course you do!) and are available on one or more of these dates how about coming out to exercise your equipment and skills, maybe learn a new one (or teach an old one!), share some time with other hams, and serve the community. Besides the following events there are club meetings and ham fests (many of which are listed elsewhere in this very publication), and contests all over listed on ARRL.ORG. Locally.....

Oct 7 – The MS Bike event has been held annually in southern NJ for many years. For 2023 the MS Society will also be hosting the new Delaware Bike to the Bay event through southern Delaware featuring rides of 20, 50, 75, and 100 miles beginning at the Delaware Technical Community College Terry Campus in Dover and ending at the Delaware National Seashore State Park in Bethany Beach. A lot of ground to cover. Ham Radio Operators are needed to monitor sections of the course throughout the day to help ensure a safe event. How about grabbing your radio gear and helping out? They also need volunteer help for the southern New Jersey event Sep 30 – Oct 1. Event information and signup is available from <https://www.n3mss.org/>

Oct 12 – Sussex County DE 9-1-1 Awareness Day 2023 is a free event from 9a – 2p located outside the newly named Emergency Operations Complex at 21911 Rudder Lane in Georgetown (directly across from Arena’s at the Airport). This “open house” type event will feature representation from multiple local Emergency Services including the Sussex Mobile Command Unit. Sussex AUXCOMM will be presenting “Ham Radio – What is it?” and “Morse Code – The oldest form of texting” to those attending which includes the general public and fifth graders from schools around the county. Volunteers are needed to interface with the public and help show them what Ham Radio is all about! Contact ws3eoc@gmail.com for more information.

Oct 14 – Apple Scapple is an annual all day “street fair” held in downtown Bridgeville, DE. Sussex AUXCOMM will be supporting the Mobile Command Unit again this year in helping to make this a safe and fun event for all. We need volunteers to wander around the event taking in all of the sights, sampling all of the great food, checking out the classic car and craft shows, listening to some great live bands, and putting more than a few steps on your favorite fitness app. Last year some of our volunteers played a key role in reuniting a couple of families who had separated in the crowd. It takes a lot of volunteers to cover this event. How about it? Can you spare the day (or half day) to help out and have fun? Contact ws3eoc@gmail.com for more information.

Oct 21 – Plans are underway for a Delaware SET (Simulated Emergency Test) on this date. Details are yet to be released, so stay tuned to your local club or EMCOMM group news and, in the meanwhile, get this date on your calendar.

Nov 29 – Delaware is again in the spotlight with the ARRL VOTA program in late November. In January, Delaware totaled 2,546 QSO points. Contact Joe Gribb, K13B (ki3b@comcast.net) for more information on how to operate while representing the W1AW station callsign.

Dec 2 – The Rehoboth Beach Marathon includes full and half marathon races with thousands of runners participating in this Boston Marathon qualifier. The course winds through downtown Rehoboth Beach and Cape Henlopen State Park. Many volunteer Amateur Radio operators are needed to fully cover the miles of roads and trails, and your involvement contributes to making this a

safe event. We have roles that can fit just about any skill and physical comfort level including biking, walking, standing, sitting, and mobile operations. Contact ws3eoc@gmail.com for more information.

Lastly, with the fall calendar, and fall weather, beginning soon, this is a great time of year for all the POTA-heads to get out to the parks and tally up more and new contacts. In addition to acting as deployment practice and providing an opportunity to show ham radio in action to the other park-goers. It seems like a great way for new hams to get active or for “old” (experienced?) hams to help new hams learn a thing or two. Not sure how to get started with Parks On-The-Air? Try out one of the above activities or local club meetings and I’ll bet you will come across other hams who can help get you started. Isn’t that how ham radio has always worked? Hams helping other hams?

Plenty of opportunities. Plenty of need. You will soon hear brief public service announcements on WGMD and other local media outlets promoting a Sussex County DE AUXCOMM call for volunteers. This is serious business and an unashamedly desperate cry for help. In order to operate successfully in these and other events it takes people who are prepared and willing to give just a bit of their time and talents in service to the community. We need more active volunteers. If you are willing, please contact us. If you know someone who would be willing, have them contact us.

The type of weather event that will be crossing the Tampa, FL area by the time this gets distributed will someday cross our peninsula. We repeatedly see that volunteer ham radio operators play a key role in the recovery efforts from every natural disaster. Our time is coming. Will you be prepared to help? It’s through these local events, drills, and exercises that we get our “ham” on, tuned up, and ready for action. Hope to see you involved. 73’s

Bill, N3ID

Club Happenings

VE Testing Next Saturday

For those who want, or need to upgrade, a reminder that VE testing will take place at 9:00 AM at the Wyoming Methodist Church. Enter through the door on the North side. There is no need to pre-register, walk-ins are welcome. For more information look at the ARRL website at www.arrl.org under “find an exam”.

Swap Meet at K3TKJ's

A reminder, there will be a swap meet at the QTH of AI, K3TKJ, west of Laurel. See more information above in the “hamfest” section. Entry is free and hours are between 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Maybe you can find that piece of gear you absolutely must have to complete your ham radio journey!

ARRL Elections Coming

Candidates for the Atlantic Division of the ARRL have been announced, and for those who are not familiar with the Organizational Structure of the ARRL, Delaware Section is within the Atlantic Division. The position of Director was unopposed, and Robert Famiglio, K3RF, has been again named as Director.

There will be an election for Vice-Director, as current Vice Director Martin Pittinger, KB3MXM, will face challenger Robert Weinstock, W3RQ for the seat. ARRL members, look for ballots and candidate information to come out. Ballots will be mailed to full members of the ARRL as of September 8, 2023, and will be mailed out no later than October 2, 2023. Look for them in the mail. Returns will be on November 21, 2023 and the two year term will take place on January 1, 2024.

Also, we will be having an election for Delaware Section Manager. The incumbent John Ferguson, K3PFW, is being challenged by Steven Keller, KC3DSO. Information will be coming from the ARRL in

the future, meanwhile you can go to each candidate's call sign on QRZ for more information on each one.

ARRL members, make sure you send in our ballots and make your choices be counted. Let's have a better turn out for the election than the 12% response of members for the survey that was sent out earlier this year!

Nets are Still Available On HF

Every day there is a traffic net that occurs on HF. The Delaware Traffic Net is held Monday through Saturday at 6:30 PM (time will change for standard time change) on 3.905 MHz, and the Delmarva Emergency Net happens at the same time and frequency on Sunday. Everyone with the proper class of license (General and above) is welcome to join in the nets and handle traffic, if any, on the radiogram format. It is great practice for time that health and welfare traffic will need to be sent.

Also, the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia (MDD) CW traffic net meets every night at 7:00 PM on 3.557 MHz. Again, anyone can check into the net, but it is advisable to be able to handle CW at a moderate speed.

For those who are new to CW traffic handling, the Maryland Slow Net (MSN) meets most nights at 7:30 PM on 3.563 MHz. The net control will slow to your check in speed and your CW can be quite slow. Practice radiograms are available that will teach you how to handle CW traffic. Great way to get your feet wet in CW operation.

Upcoming Public Service Events and ICS Class

Sept 16 Red Cross Winlink Exercise in New Castle County, Salisbury, Fairfax, Baltimore, Gaithersburg

Sept 23 Delaware Family Emergency Preparedness Day 10-2 at Brecknock Park.

Sept 30 - Oct 1 MS City to Shore Bike Ride (NJ). Over 7,000 bicyclists participate in this fundraiser - 25 to 100 mile routes, 2 day event – can work one or both days. Saturday dinner and Motel room provided for 2 day workers. Sign up at N3MSS.org. Last year 166 hams – this year so far 44 hams

Oct 7 MS Bike to the Bay (DE). Multiple Start locations with finish at Delaware Seashore State Park CG About 500 participants cover 20, 50,75 and 100 mile routes. Sign up at N3MSS.org

Oct 14 Apple Scrapple Festival, Bridgeville. Assist Sussex AUXCOMM. HT event in pairs. Contact ws3eoc@gmail.com.

Nov 7 DEMA ICS-700/ICS-100 Combined Class - Sign up through DEMA website. ARES Basic training fulfillment (Tuesday). Free

73, Jim KC3BTV

Useless Facts of the Month.....

10,000 years ago Lions were the second most widespread land mammal, after humans. They existed across Africa, Eurasia, and America. (Now, in the USA, they are in Detroit!)

The cafeteria scene in Spider-Man where Tobey Maguire catches falling food on a tray is actually real with no CGI involved, it took Tobey 156 takes to nail the shot. (Good catch!)

The state of Tennessee was originally called Franklin. (Maybe after old Ben??)

It is illegal to run out of gas in Youngstown, Ohio. (So eat your beans!!)

Christopher Columbus brought the first lemon seeds to America. (So he's ultimately responsible for lemonade!)

Someone on Earth reports seeing a UFO every three minutes. (ET looking for a phone booth??!!)

OMG was added to dictionaries in 2011, but its first known use was in 1917. (OMG, that was a long time ago??!!)

An electric eel can release a charge powerful enough to start 50 cars. (A pool of these for emergency power??)

Tid Bit of Information of the Month Department

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Bilingual Net Control Operators

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) is looking for new members who are willing to train to become Net Control Operators. HWN is especially interested in recruiting bilingual operators who are fluent in Spanish and English or French/Creole and English. Net Control responsibilities can entail hours of duty to ensure all received ground-truth weather reports are forwarded directly to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The net generally activates whenever a system has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass. This can vary, however, due to the forward speed and intensity of a storm, or at the request of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Once activated, the HWN continuously operates until a storm is no longer a threat to life and property.

The mission of the net is to disseminate the latest advisories issued by the National Hurricane Center, and to obtain real-time, ground-level weather conditions and initial damage assessments from amateur radio operators in the affected areas. The net then relays that information to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC, and when required, the Canadian Hurricane Centre. It also functions as a backup communication link for the National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service Forecast Offices, the Canadian Hurricane Centre, Emergency Operations Centers, emergency management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other vital interests that can involve military relief operations. Such operations can be involved in the protection of life and property before, during, and after a hurricane event.

HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says training will be provided and each candidate will go through a probationary period with a mentor. Graves, an ARRL member, says an applicant's station must be reliable. "While having a tower, beam, and/or amplifier is not a requirement, your station must allow you to hear and be heard. Therefore, directional antennas and amplifiers are preferred," he said.

The net coverage area includes the hurricane-prone areas of eastern Canada, the US East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The net specifically seeks applicants in the middle-to-western sections of the US, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean. "As always, the HWN is hoping for a quiet season, yet [we are] prepared for the worst," said Graves.

Those interested in learning more can visit the HWN Net Control Information web page at https://hwn.org/about-us/ncs_info.html.

Thanks to the ARRL News

Old Time Radio

August 31, 1920...

clipped from WRITERS ALMANAC, Garrison Keillor:

The first radio news program was aired on Detroit's 8MK on this date in 1920.

In 1920, radio was still a medium for hobbyists, and no one really used it for the widespread distribution of up-to-the-minute information. The Scripps newspaper family, which owned The Detroit News, provided the first push in that direction. They were worried that radio would put the newspapers out of business, but they were also worried that they would look bad if their radio news experiment failed to take off. They hired a teenager named Michael DeLisle Lyons to start up a radio station as a kind of trial. They told him to set it up in his own name, so that if it bombed, the Scripps name would not be associated with it. Lyons got government approval on August 20, and he played nonstop music for 10 days while he worked out the bugs. August 31 was the date of the primary elections, and The Detroit News reported that returns would be announced that evening over the radio.

The next morning, the newspaper reported: "The sending of the election returns by The Detroit News' radiophone Tuesday night was fraught with romance and must go down in the history of man's conquest of the elements as a gigantic step in his progress. In the four hours that the apparatus [...] was hissing and whirring its message into space, few realized that a dream and a prediction had come true. The news of the world was being given forth through this invisible trumpet to the waiting crowds in the unseen market place."

The radio station that began as 8MK is still in business, operating under the call letters WWJ, and it is still an all-news station. 8MK changed its call letters to WBL in 1921 and then to WWJ in 1922. The Detroit News would later launch Michigan's first television station.

Annual Masonic Lodges on the Air

The 3rd annual Masonic Lodges on the Air (MLotA), an amateur radio special event, will occur on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from locations across the United States. The event is open to all amateur radio operators. The idea for the event grew from the realization that many Freemasons also have a love for amateur radio. The Fulton County Amateur Radio Club and Ohio's Fulton Lodge #248 first hosted the event in 2021.

The mission is to promote fraternal bonds within the ranks for Free and Accepted Masonic lodges and its many amateur radio operators, who are also brothers in the fraternity while encouraging contact with amateur radio operators around the state, county and world. The event will take place from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM ET, on 80 - 40 - 20 -15, and 10 meters SSB. Amateur radio participants are asked to honor all band plans, and all contacts must be on the phone portion of the bands. Stations may be contacted once on each band. Complete contest rules and more information can be found at www.cqmorelight.com/rules.

Visit the ARRL Special Event Stations database at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations. To find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

Thanks to ARRL Letter

Joke of the Month

Some to Groan Over.....

Q: Why did the witches' team lose the baseball game?

A: Their bats flew away.

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump.

Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?

A: Because he was always spotted.

Q: Why was six scared of seven?

A: Because seven "ate" nine.

Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?

A: "Put it on my bill."

Q: What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?

A: It gets toad away.

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?

A: Envelope.

Q: Why couldn't the blonde add $10 + 5$ on a calculator?

A: She couldn't find the "10" button.

Quote of the Month

"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children."

President George W. Bush, On the Anniversary of 9-11: