

SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

November 2023

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

Happy Thanksgiving

Happenings

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
December 12	Annual KCRAC Christmas Gathering at the EOC
January 9, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
January 11, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
January 27 – 28, 2024	Winter Field Day, more info to come
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
August 8, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
August 13, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
August 26, 2024	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
September 10, 2024	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 12, 2024	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30

Hamfests

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

If you haven't received it already, you receive a ballot from the ARRL for Vice-director and Section Manager. Probably the most important one for us in Delaware is the race for Section Manager. This individual will be the one who helps us navigate the mysteries of the ARRL as they relate to Delaware.

Delaware is kind of unique in its make up, making it a little hard for people who do not live here to understand our situation. The history of Delaware often repeats as to weather, especially the hazardous type. For instance, during April of 1962 Wilmington experienced riots that caused property damage, but no lives lost. Lower Delaware, such as Georgetown, had no trouble at all. The Ash Wednesday Nor'easter of 1962 caused quite a bit of damage to the coast in Sussex County, some in Kent, but nothing in New Castle. An ice storm in February of 1994 caused much damage to infrastructure in Kent and Sussex Counties, hardly anything in New Castle. Snowmageddon, or the twin blizzards of 2010 really hindered infrastructure, including phone lines, in 2010. I know we had snow, I was out in it fixing phones!

The point is someone who hasn't lived here long, or been involved in the way things are done here in Delaware will need to get up to speed to be effective in providing representation to the amateurs in Delaware. And the Section Manager needs to represent all amateurs, not just the ARRL members. Often this fact gets lost with some of the amateurs when they complain to the Section Manager, the Division Director, or to Newington directly. For instance, Skywarn is a very valuable volunteer program associated with the National Weather Service (NWS), and provides the NWS with some very important "ground proof" reports. The NWS has a training program for Skywarn. However, when the EOC, especially the ones in Kent and Sussex Counties, activate the reports that are relevant are forwarded to the NWS. A second report becomes unnecessary and is redundant. Something that is unique to Delaware, so I have been told.

Also the layout of the land is something that is not learned overnight. In fact it doesn't surprise most people that the highest point in Delaware is in New Castle County. It is very close to being into Pennsylvania, as it is Ebright Azimuth at an elevation of 441 feet above sea level. In contrast the highest point in Sussex County is Wilson Hill at 49 feet. Even lower is Kitts Hummock at 3 feet for Kent County (the landfill at Sandtown is probably higher!)! When I spoke with a ham in New Jersey and told him we usually use VHF simplex for emcomm, his reply was, "that won't work here!" I never claimed it would, but then we were not talking about working in New Jersey!
So the bottom line is when you get ready to cast those ballots, or talk to others about what they think about the candidates, think about how involved those people have been in the "history" of Delaware.

Have they been here long enough to actually have a grasp on what we, as radio amateurs, will need in the coming years.

Politics aside; Unless you're living under a rock (and some of you are!), there has been much on the news concerning possible terrorism here in America. The Director of the FBI came out and made the statement; "The threat is very much ongoing and in fact, the threat picture continues to evolve," Director Wray further said, "we've got to be on the lookout ... for lone actors who may take inspiration from recent events to commit violence of their own." Director Wray also urged citizens to be vigilant and share intel to stop 'lone actors'. We have lived with the idea of "see something, say something" for many years, and in fact is one of the reasons we got to "play" at the air shows in Ocean City. So that's nothing new.

I recently had the pleasure (?) of a conversation with a member of one of the three lettered agencies who is familiar with amateur radio and its capabilities. He suggested expanding that "see something, say something" be expanded to "see or **hear** something, say something". He noted that most communications between such groups would probably be on cell phones, however there might be a chance radios might be used especially for "group" communication announcements. Hear some weird communications on the radio, HF, VHF or UHF, "say something" and report it.

President's Column

I guess silence is golden?

Vice-President's Column

Here's a story about close but not good enough. Early last year we had our back room of our house remodeled which included moving and enlarging a bathroom. Move forward to this spring. We started to see water seeping up between the cracks in the bathroom's vinyl plank flooring. At first we suspected the cleaning people were too generous in their mopping. The cleaning people were let go (for other reasons) but the water continued. We called the general contractor and he sent out the plumber who reset the toilet but the water continued. The plumber thought it might be the shower, a hole was cut in the wall to check, nothing significant was found, but the water continued. The contractor pulled up the vinyl planking and finally we could see that water was coming from under the vanity. Shutting the hot water to the bathroom stemmed the flow. The vanity was removed along with some sheetrock to expose the plumbing and the culprit was a leaking joint in an elbow. Subsequent investigation revealed that the cpvc pipe had only been inserted about a third of the way into the elbow. The joint had passed the pressure test but heating/cooling cycles made the joint fail. The failure of the plumber's helper to properly do the joint did water damage that the plumber will get to pay the general contractor to repair.

You may ask, what's my leak problem got to do with ham radio? I have a QRP Labs QDX transceiver which will do digital modes with a 3-5 watt output. It has 4 output transistors with no protection for high SWR. They are known to emit magic blue smoke in a heartbeat with a mismatched antenna. Some owners have actually installed sockets for the output transistors to make replacement easier. I have to make sure I always use a resonant antenna to protect the finals. Of course a resonant antenna is always best with QRP anyway to minimize losses. It always pays to not cut corners but to do things right the first time, even in ham radio.

Jim KC3BTV
Vice President KCARC

From the Section Manager's Shack

Section Managers Column November 2023

Ten Percent

Ten percent, a dime on a dollar. Is that enough activity to maintain a viable, trained, responsive auxiliary communication support organization? I think not, yet recently in the amateur radio domain, it's what we're seeing. The ARRL sent out a survey on dues and QST. Did you as an ARRL member respond? It was a very small sample that was returned to headquarters, a little over ten percent. This past month of October, we had activities across the section, in all three counties. There were five activities, fifty one participants in total, which is about ten percent of the ARRL members in the Delaware Section. Even less if you subtract the duplicate participation, with several operators participating in multiple activities.

Ham radio is a hobby of doing; you have to "do" to get something out of it. Therefore the more you put into it (not necessarily money) the bigger the return, like DXCC for example. Ham radio is a service, per the FCC rules. The "Funny Candy Company" expects us to serve the public needs in times of disasters. Auxiliary communication support in a disaster scenario is a lot like racing a bicycle on an event course, "ya gotta practice or you'll fall on your butt!" That's why we have exercises. That's why we serve the public in community events. A benefit of doing public service events is that the public gets to see ham radio in action. Ham radio is also supposed to "advance the art". We've certainly done that, and the current hobbyists benefit from that. We can also say, "Use it or lose it". Encroachment by commercial interests is already on the horizon, in action before the commission to put high power digital service adjacent to some of our current HF bands. If we don't have activity on the privileges we currently have, we won't have them long. The RF spectrum is a finite resource that is getting crowded and polluted with man-made noise. So what are you going to do, that you can do, to make this great hobby thrive and be there for future hams?

The Emcomm Corner

The 2023 SET is behind us and I thank those who participated. Some had predicted a rain-out but after a few sprinkles prior to the ARES net, partly cloudy skies reigned. We pretended that Hurricane Elmo caused a loss of power and repeater antenna damage so we operated simplex using off-grid power at portable locations. Larry Roll, K3LT, was at Port Mahon, east of Little Creek. Doug Covert, KB3PRW, was parked at the Dollar General in Kenton. Bobby Speakman, N3HPA, and Diane Acker, KB3SVU, were situated next to the 97 repeater which happened to be running on battery power. Tom, N3ARX, and Debbie Libertore, AJ3L, were in Felton, while I camped in the EOC parking lot with a 25 ft tall portable antenna. A number of messages were passed and we learned a few things for next time. Overall it was not a bad day to play radio but it would have been nice to have a few more participants.

Mark your calendar for January 27-28 for Winter Field Day to play radio from the EOC.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

AUXCOMM News

Crossing Borders

On October 14th, 20 volunteer amateur radio operators hit the ground in Bridgeville to help with the 2023 Apple Scrapple Festival, an annual Sussex County event. The rainy conditions provided some challenges, but the group did a commendable job in covering the event. Communications were clear and reliable, the several NET Control operators managed traffic well, and a last-minute change in tasking was coordinated smoothly. Significantly, almost half of those volunteers came from Kent County. Some

were familiar faces who regularly participate in Sussex County AUXCOMM events, and some were brand new. We are very thankful for all!

When it comes to serving the public (one of the tenets of amateur radio) borders don't (and shouldn't) matter, and these volunteers from Kent County get that. Hams regularly deploy to locations across town, across the state, across the country, or across the oceans to help the public somewhere with disaster recovery events. It doesn't (or shouldn't) matter whether "borders" are political, geographical, philosophical, or organizational; all amateurs should be prepared and willing to step across and volunteer their help if they are able.

An opportunity to do just that is approaching on Saturday, December 2nd. The Rehoboth Seashore Marathon will kick off at 7am from the boardwalk in Rehoboth Beach. This is another annual Sussex County event. Sussex County AUXCOMM will again be seeking volunteers to help cover the half and full marathon courses to monitor race progress and assist with reporting any runners in distress. It takes a lot of volunteers to adequately cover a 26-mile marathon course, especially where almost half of it is on state park trails. Anyone able to help should reach out to ws3eoc@gmail.com in order to receive further information about this event opportunity. All are welcome and appreciated, no matter which side of which border you hail from!

73's! Bill, N3ID

Club Happenings

Nominations Are In.....

The first round of nominations have for officers for 2024 are in and are;

President	Jim Moore, KC3BTV
Vice-President	Hunter Grier, KC3VTB
Secretary	Tim Reisinger, KC3OO
Treasurer	Tom Libertore , N3ARX

Nominations will remain open, as per the By-Laws, until next month at which time elections will take place.

Winter Field Day Is Coming

It was decided by the club to hold Winter Field Day inside the EOC. Winter Field Day will take place on January 27 – 28, 2024, and is a 24 hour event. Out trustee, Doug, KB3PRW, has secured the special event call sign, N3Y, for this event. More details are forthcoming at the next meeting.

Christmas Party At the EOC

It was decided that the club will hold its Christmas gathering at the EOC again this year. The affair will be a "pot-luck" covered dish event. There will be a committee formed at the November meeting to oversee the dishes being brought, as there are some food allergy concerns, and there will not be twenty dishes of mac and cheese. So plan on beginning your favorite dish to share. More details forthcoming as we have the November meeting.

New Tribune In Delaware

It is with pleasure that I announce that Dave, KC3AM, has achieved the title of Tribune with the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). To achieve this level and title, one must first join SKCC, which is free to do, just apply and a number will be given to you. Then Centurion (the first level after joining) is achieved when a SKCC member makes contact and exchanges SKCC number and name with 100 different SKCC members.

Tribune is then achieved when a Centurion makes contact and exchanges SKCC number and name with 50 different SKCC Centurions, Tribunes, or Senators, in any combination. So Dave has made at least

150 contacts with other SKCC members. The next step up the ladder is to achieve TX8. What does the "X8" status mean? Tribune X8 means Tribune award 8 times over. Since each step of the Tribune award is based on 50 contacts, then Tribune X8 requires a total of 400 (50 x 8) valid contacts.

Senator is achieved when a Tribune who has already attained Tribune x8 status makes contact and exchanges SKCC numbers and names with 200 unique(distinct) SKCC Tribunes or Senators. So if you are a member, and have achieved your "C", and hear Dave on the air, give him a contact to help him on his way.

Free General Class on Zoom

I realize that this is very short notice, however I got this just before the club meeting;

If you or anyone you know is interested, here is the information for our upcoming, free, live General Class Licensing course on Zoom. Please feel free to share the following announcement on line or at your club meetings.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio General Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Nov 2, and will run through Thursday, January 11. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Prerequisite is to have or be studying for the Technician Class License. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email Roland Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks.

73,

Rol Anders, K3RA

Speaking of CW.....

Pete, KC3MVS, has been overly kind and generous to give the club a Morse Code practice oscillator with a built in straight key. Members who are learning CW will benefit from having something to practice with that will give instant feedback as to how well you are sending. Couple the oscillator and a computer, or one of the MJF Code Readers, and you can see if what you're sending is actually correct.

Thanks Pete for the oscillator!

Just Another Baofeng!

Don't ask me why because I don't know why, but I felt compelled to purchase another Baofeng HT. The cost was a mere \$28. This HT is the UV-17R (non Pro, non GPS). The gating item in my decision was I wanted an ORANGE HT for Field ops. Unlike the UV-5R, the HT has a bluish color screen, 999 memory's, USB Type C charging and is FCC Type Accepted (FCC ID: 2AJGM-UV17). One caveat is the bluish screen gets washed out in direct sunlight.

The HT is longer and feels heftier than the UV-5R series of radios. It also uses a different battery than the "5R". When I purchased mine I bought an extra battery at the same time for minimal costs. Given you can use the desk charger, included, or the USB Type C cable, included, the HT is easy to charge during travel or field ops. The HT also comes with a 16" Orange gain antenna and earpiece/microphone. For a purchase price of \$28 for the radio and accessories, I saw no reason to buy a protective case. But I did install a screen protector.

The radio is easy to program with RT Systems programming software. I did have programming problems with CHIRP, and other programming software. Caveat emptor! A word of caution though, if you use RT System software not all MENU items can be programmed at this writing. I had to go into the radio's

MENU system and SET a few menu items manually. The radio's manual leaves some things to intuition. I am sure this will change in time, or be dealt with by a third party author.

I like the radio for its features and it allows me to listen into public Service analog frequencies. The radio does not have the ability to listen into the aviation band, but it has been reported that the "PRO" version has the aviation band in it. Remember the radio is \$28.

Take a look at the radio online. I believe it will have its own following.

73 de W2PB Paul

Useless Facts of the Month

It is illegal to climb trees in Oshawa, a town in Ontario, Canada. (Need a slingshot for those wires!!)

About half of all Americans are on a diet on any given day. (And I'm one of them!!)

Each anteater eats about 35,000 ants and termites each day. (Hungry suckers, aren't they??!!)

October 8, 1956

Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in a World Series as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers 2-0 in Game 5. (Go Yanks!!!)

October 12, 1810

The German festival Oktoberfest was first held in Munich to celebrate the wedding of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. (Wonder if the beer was as good back then??!!)

October 30, 1938

Radio broadcast of The War of the Worlds, starring Orson Welles, caused nationwide panic among listeners. (Watch for "little green men"!!)

Theodor Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, cruised the streets of California in a stylish gray Cadillac adorned with a fitting custom license plate that read "GRINCH." According to a 1979 Washington Post article, Geisel had to wait several years to secure his own character's name on his license plate because the custom plate was already registered to someone else in California. However, as fate would have it, the Dr. Seuss fan eventually relocated to Iowa City and relinquished his cherished "GRINCH" plate, along with a note of apology to Dr. Seuss.

Tid Bit of Information of the Month Department

FCC LEVIES RECORD FINE UNDER PIRATE ACT

Charging a New York City broadcaster with radio piracy, the US regulator is fining them an unprecedented amount. In the US, the Federal Communications Commission has levied a record pirate radio fine of \$2.3 million against an unlicensed New York City broadcaster. This is one of the earliest actions the agency has taken under legislation passed in January of 2020 to toughen the FCC's enforcement.

The law, known as the PIRATE ACT, gives the FCC increased ability to act against pirate broadcasters, authorizing fines of as much as \$100,000 per violation up to a total of \$2 million. The acronym stands for Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement.

According to a report in Radio World, the operators of Radio Impacto 2 received notices of apparent liability in March for their unlicensed operations on 105.5 MHz from a station located in the city's borough of Queens. According to media accounts, Radio Impacto 2 never responded to the FCC, as is required. Radio World's attempts to reach the station operators were unsuccessful.

The FCC said that collection of the record forfeiture payment may be referred to the US Department of Justice, which enforces such fines. In taking its further action, the FCC said that the station operators continued to be on the air, even now, and have promoted their programming to a prospective radio audience. According to the Radio World report, one of the station operators, Luis Angel Ayora, had also been issued a \$20,000 forfeiture in 2015 which was never paid, resulting in a seizure of broadcast equipment.

Thanks to Amateur Radio Newsline

Bill Johnson Introduces Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

Congressman Bill Johnson released the following statement after introducing H.R. 4006, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, to govern private land use restrictions on amateur radio. Johnson was joined in introducing the legislation by Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut.

Antennas are essential for all wireless communication, whether TV broadcasts, wireless internet, Wi-Fi, or amateur radio. Existing federal law provides for the installation of TV broadcast and wireless internet antennas and satellite dishes at private homes, but amateur radio antennas are not included in the statute as currently written. This bill would correct that. "I reintroduced the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act to remove barriers to disaster and emergency communications and training, and to promote education in STEM subjects related to critically needed wireless technology," Bill Johnson said. "Passage of this bill will promote developing and sustaining our nation's wireless future and facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit."

"As their actions during recent natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy proved, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction," said Rep. Courtney (CT-02).

Rick Roderick, K5UR, President of The American Radio Relay League, the National Association For Amateur Radio, extended on behalf of the ARRL, its Members, and America's Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Congressman Johnson in his tireless efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators and to further STEM education and the advancement of American expertise in wireless technology.

Bill Johnson Press release

“It’s not perfect, but I love this radio – most of the time.”

Sometimes after a lot of due diligence and research, I will still buy something that I know from the “get-go” that the item is not perfect. That is exactly the case when I decided to purchase the Xiegu X6100 10/5W HF portable radio. The radio outputs up-to 5 watts from the internal rechargeable battery, or up to 10 watts from external 12 VDC. The radio has a great ATU, CW and voice messages, mode related filter bandwidths. The radio weighs under 2 pounds. The radio also has a fantastic display with a spectrum display and baseband audio display. Plenty of controls to optimize signals and multiple filters per mode. Additionally, it can decode CW, RTTY and PSK. There are five message memories per mode listed here.

Ok, where is the Achilles heel? Depending on your operating location, if you are hill topping you might find the receiver overloads when high level broadcast AM signals are presented to the receiver input. However, there is an easy, and relatively inexpensive remedy. K9DP builds broadcast interference filters for the AM broadcast band. Costs are about \$40 for a prebuilt filter, and about half as much for a kit. Install the filter on the antenna input and hear instantly the BCI disappear. The BCI filter handles 20 watts. Voila’!

Take a look at the radio at [www. Radioddity.com](http://www.Radioddity.com) or on “YouTube”. There are lots of videos regarding the X6100 radio. I carried my investigation one step further. I found a book online by [Andrew Barron](#) “*The Radio Today guide to the Xiegu X6100 (Radio Today guides)*”. The book goes into great detail regarding the radio’s features, functions and specs. Well worth the money before spending \$560, or more, on the radio. As the old adage states. “Investigate *before you invest.*”

So why did I buy the X6100? For one I concluded I DID NOT need an Icom 705 radio for \$1400 for field ops. Secondly, I wanted a low power radio with an internal ATU and a moderate size internal battery. “Moderate size battery” I defined is a battery that would allow me two hours of operating time. The X6100 had all the features I desired, and more. If I had operational needs to have HF/VHF/UHF capabilities, I could take my Yaesu FT-817 to the field.

I have placed the X6100 in a case I found on Amazon that measures 8.5” x 3” x 3”. The case holds the radio, throw line, 67’ EFHW antenna with 49:1 Unun, associated RF adapters, earbuds, Apple AirTag. Notice I did not say anything about a microphone. The reason is the X6100 has an internal microphone that has received good audio reports, and a PTT on the top of the radio. So, you can use the radio as a large HT if needs arise. The little case I purchased in my eyes yields a true “shack in a box” with all its contents. In a belt accessory case, I have the hand microphone, mini iambic key, a 67’ 49 or 56 or 64:1 “X Tenna” EFHW antenna, and a power cable to connect to an external 12VDC battery. Speaking of which, I carry in the case a small lithium 12VDC, 6.8 amp battery to give me 10 watts output from the radio. I believe that covers most of my radio needs for field operation. Total weight 2.9 pounds.

But wait! After several weeks with the X6100, one annoyance has cropped up. That is, this is really not so much a radio as a Linux computer that emits RF. The “radio” has stopped receiving several times due to operator error, me! I have either turned on the radio, and in my impatience, tried to use the radio right away, or did not wait long enough when powering down the radio. Just because the screen is off it does not mean the radio has totally powered off. I have also turned off the radio and not waited 30 seconds to turn it back on. The result is corrupted firmware. No harm, just go to the MENU and press the “RESET” or “FIRMWARE UPGRADE”. Wait until either process is done and the receiver is functional again. Time lost, under two minutes. In cases like this I put the radio away for a bit and revert to my old reliable tried and true FT-817. The 817 does not have a spectrum display or waterfall, but it is very reliable! Newest is not always the best. The 817 has the advantage of being an all-mode transceiver (5W) for 80-6M, 2M and 70cM.

In conclusion, you don’t need a new radio to go out into a field and operate. Just plan your adventure and do it! One of the clubs I belong to up here on Long Island, does field outings, and radio talk, every

other month. It is truly enjoyable and it shows we could do HF field operations if we were called out with little notice. VHF/UHF ops has never been a challenge. These get together there are no towers, no generators, no large solar panels. But small solar panels <30 watts are tolerated. Antennas are kept to wire antennas, or portable vertical antennas (Gabil 7350T), or magnetic loop antennas. Power is provided by internal radio batteries or external rechargeable batteries. RF power is kept <25 watts. Additionally, stations are operated with band pass filters to minimize inter station interference. Remember everyone is outputting 25 watts or less.

So go out and play radio and enjoy! Start with a modest goal such as making one contact on multiple bands and work up from there. Any shortfalls you have regarding equipment, or operating procedures, will quickly present themselves. You will learn from your mistakes and omissions. There is always that cable or widget you left behind. Learn to adapt! You learn more from your failures, and missed steps, than your successes.

72 Paul W2PB

County Amateur Radio now a FEMA-certified Communications Team

BILL PEARSON Wed, 10/18/2023 – 8:45am

There has been a significant change in the County Emergency Management Agency's amateur radio team. In the past six months, members have used a substantial amount of their vacation time attending Federal Emergency Management Agency training sessions. Their dedication has resulted in Lincoln County becoming a FEMA-recognized communications unit.

County EMA Director Maury Prentiss made the announcement during the Oct. 18 commissioners' meeting. Amateur radio members took summer training classes for certification in communication technicians, auxiliary communications and unit leader classes. "Some took all three," Prentiss said. "With all these training's, we now, in Lincoln County, have by definition a FEMA-recognized communications unit (COMU)." The COMU is a role within the logistics section of the Incident Command System and designed to support the operable and interoperable communications needs for planned and unplanned events."

Members of the County Communications team are Assistant EMA Director Emily Huber, John Oakes, Jason Cates, Damon Leibert and Prentiss. The designation allows for integration into a federal response structure if a federal agency arrives in Lincoln County. "There are no other county-sponsored communications in the state with the capabilities and knowledge to do what this team can do," Prentiss said. "The hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. To say that I'm proud is an understatement."

Prentiss awarded team leader John Oakes with a certificate of accomplishment for the team's achievement. Earlier this month, the team demonstrated its training at Pumpkifest in Damariscotta. Prentiss reported the festival has invited the team back next year. Piscataquis County EMA has invited the team for an event this April.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter

Largest EV Charging Station In World Powered By Diesel-Powered Generators

Kevin Killough Cowboy State Daily

The Harris Ranch Tesla Supercharger station is an impressive beast. With 98 charging bays, the facility in Coalinga, California, is the largest charging station in the world. In 2017, Tesla CEO said that all Superchargers in the automaker's network were being converted to solar. "Over time, almost all will disconnect from the electricity grid," Musk posted on X, formally known as Twitter. Superchargers

charge vehicles up to the 80% sweet spot in as little as 20 minutes, but to provide that kind of power for nearly 100 bays takes something solar can't provide — diesel generators.

Investigative journalist Edward Niedermeyer discovered that the station was powered by diesel generators hidden behind a Shell station. Reporters at SF Gate tried to find out how much of the station's electricity was from the generators, but couldn't get a response from Tesla. The station isn't connected to any dedicated solar farms, which means that absent the diesel generators, the station is powered by California's grid. According to the U.S. Energy and Information Administration, in June 2023, natural gas supplied nearly 5,000 megawatt hours of electricity in California, whereas non-hydroelectric renewables supplied about 7,250 megawatt hours.

Another Case

Energy analyst and writer David Blackmon, author of the "Energy Transition Absurdities," told Cowboy State Daily that the use of diesel-powered generators is not limited to the Harris Ranch station. He used to shop at a Whole Foods in Houston. The company had installed a charging station in front of the store for its customers. "It was the best parking spot in the lot, and it crowded out a bunch of handicap spaces," Blackmon said. He said there were diesel generators behind the store and whenever someone was using the chargers, the generators would kick on.

Destabilized Grid

Just as these charging stations find they can't run without some fossil fuel backup, the retirement of a coal-fired power plant in Kansas is being delayed to accommodate the energy demands of an electric vehicle battery factory that's under construction. Blackmon said that these stories illustrate well the lack of thought going into the demands that will be placed on the grid with increasing amounts of electric vehicle adoption.

As those demands pile on, U.S. energy policy pushes to remove coal, nuclear and natural gas from the grid. Blackmon said he watched all summer as the Texas grid, which operates separately from the rest of the country, nearly collapsed with the incessant heat. "We almost had blackouts on Aug. 24," he said.

State Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle, told Cowboy State Daily that despite claims that wind and solar alone can power the grid, they lack the reliability needed to satisfy energy demand. So, parts of the country, such as Texas, are facing shortages. "Adding the load required for electric vehicles and the transportation network to support them would exacerbate the looming shortages we already face in the near future if energy policies are not reformed," Steinmetz said.

No Way Out

Blackmon said that the footprint required to generate enough power to satisfy all energy needs with wind and solar is enormous. It's not just the wind farms, solar farms and battery factories, there are also thousands of miles of transmission lines to connect consumers with the power wherever it happens to be generated at any given moment. This calls into doubt Musk's plan to power charging stations off of solar.

"If that's what he wants, then he only wants the chargers to work six to eight hours a day. If they're purely powered by solar, there's just no way out of that," Blackmon said.

Musk has made many exciting promises that so far haven't come to pass. Someone went to the trouble to make a website documenting his pledges and how many days have passed since they were made. Musk has also been taken to task for his solar promises. Energy expert Alex Epstein ran a fact check on Musk's claim that we could power the world with a small area of the Sahara Desert and "some batteries." Epstein calculated that enough battery storage to create a reliable grid would cost \$590 trillion for the batteries alone. It doesn't include the cost of all the transmission infrastructure. And the batteries would have to be replaced every decade.

Thanks to Cowboy State Daily as reported through Newsmax

Joke of the Month

Back in School.....

Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?"

Student: "Meat!"

Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?"

Student: "Bacon!"

Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"

Student: "Homework!"

Quote of the Month

" A free society cannot survive the corruption of its legal system."

Dennis Prager,