

SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

2024

Officers		Repeaters
President	Jim Moore KC3BTV	146.970 (-) 77hz pl Dover
Vice-President	Hunter Grier KC3VTB	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 New Year

Happenings

January 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
January 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
January 27 – 28	Winter Field Day, more info to come
January 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
February 8	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
February 13	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
February 26	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
March 9	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
March 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
March 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
March 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
April 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
April 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
April, 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
May 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
May 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 8	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
June 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
June 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
July 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
July 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
July 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00

Hamfests

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.

Editor's Comments

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that Santa brought that new rig under the tree, and left the instructions with it! No new rigs here, wouldn't have much room on the radio table! The XYL did give me a very nice and useful gift, a year's supply of my favorite toothpaste!

Ten meters is beginning to open up and yes, you Technicians have phone, data, and CW privileges on 10 meters, so get on and see what you can hear. I worked South Africa on my Cobra Lite all band dipole, so when ten is open, it's open! There are lots of digital signals on ten also and yes, Technicians you can work the "dark side" on 10 meters. A modest antenna will work well, such as a vertical, and doesn't take much power. So get on and have fun.

Coming up at the end of the month is Winter Field Day, because communications emergencies do happen in the winter time too. Winter field Day will take place the last weekend of January and the club has already made plans to participate. More details at the meeting on the 9th.

In the Tidbit section there is a piece about Massachusetts residents being without power and some may wonder why I included it. The storm that caused the outages was the same one that came through here and turned my backyard into Palmer Ocean. Two Hundred eighty-five thousand people is more than the populations of either Kent (182,400) or Sussex (240,668, last counts) counties and if not the whole county could have been put in the dark, a big portion could have. Were you ready, or was this just "another Nor'easter " or nothing to see here?

President's Column

Welcome to a new year playing amateur radio. My philosophy as club president is twofold, serve the Department of Public Safety (our served agency) as best we can if we are called upon to do so and, second, have fun playing ham radio. I am not interested in petty politics so leave the attitudes at home when you come. The club is a way to improve our skills, share ideas and tips with one another, and have an excuse to talk radio. I hope to be able to get a variety of speakers in but also believe we have a lot of talent within our own group. I would like for us to get out and do more out of the building – play radio activities.

There are lots of ways to play ham radio, no one way to play is "better" than another, just different. Ham radio encompasses a pretty big tent. Some love contesting, some like public service events. Some are into satellite or moon bounce while others like playing with FT8. Some love SSB voice while others thrive on CW. Some enjoy POTA while others are happy sitting at home in front of their radio. Some swear by digital while others swear at digital. Participate in what you enjoy but be open to learn about other ways to play radio.

One tip that I follow is to have a SO239 double female connector screwed onto one end of each piece of coax I have, other than short jumpers. That way it is easy to join cables together or join to the cables in the trailer. And keep a couple spare connectors in the go box.

Think outside the lines, be creative but radiate!

73,

Jim KC3BTV

President KCARC

Vice-President's Column

In the late months of 2017, I was inspired to start playing with electronics. It wasn't until 2 years later I learned enough to start my own Linux server to run video games for my friends and I. In the years following I've learned a plethora of different technical skills, from basic command line skills to soldering and building computers.

About 5 and a half years into my hobby of electronics tinkering I was inspired by my friend to get my ham radio license. March of 2023 I got my technician license and summer of 23 I upgraded to General. Technology and Volunteering make up a big portion of who I am and this makes me excited to work with everyone in the club as well as help those outside of the club too. I would like to thank everyone for providing me with this opportunity and hope everyone has a great new year!

73, Hunter

From the Section Manager's Shack

Delaware Section,

As I step into the role of the ARRL Delaware Section Manager, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who supported me during the election process. A special thank you goes to the outgoing Section Manager, John Ferguson, K3PFW, for his dedicated service to the section.

Throughout the election process, I had the privilege of speaking with many radio operators, both league members and non-members, who shared their thoughts on various topics. I want you to know that your concerns have been heard, and I am committed to addressing them. Communication emerged as a common theme, and to facilitate improved dialogue, I have created the ARRL Delaware Section reflector on groups.io. This platform will serve as a hub for section-wide communication among radio operators and between operators and section staff. You can find the reflector at <https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>.

As Section Manager I am pleased to introduce the ARRL Delaware Section Staff for 2024:

- Joe Grib, KI3B, Assistant Section Manager
- Wendy Horn, W3NRN, Section Emergency Coordinator
- Marty Brett, AD3J, DEMA Radio Officer/DVOAD Coordinator
- Dave Scott, KC3BEJ, NCC Emergency Coordinator
- Joseph Farnan, KB3PTM, Wilmington Emergency Coordinator
- John DiGiovani, N3LUD, Christiana CARES Emergency Coordinator
- Jim Moore, KC3BTV, Kent Emergency Coordinator
- Jim Baker, N3XKJ, Sussex Emergency Coordinator
- James Tracy, KC3JJS, SHOC Emergency Coordinator
- Pat Ryan, KW3Z, State Government Liaison
- John Low, K3JL, Section Traffic Manager
- Chris Cote, KE5NJ, Section Youth Coordinator

Our dedicated section staff members have diverse experience, not only in league activities but also in emergency communications and contesting. They will be visiting clubs in the coming months, so please take the opportunity to introduce yourself.

Emergency Communications is a primary focus, and our Section Staff will be updating both county and section Emergency Operations Plans, along with the Emergency Reference Sheets, before the 2024 Hurricane Season. You can find a new DELMARVA frequency list on the section reflector in the files section, providing a valuable resource for radio programming. Additionally, the FCC has removed the outdated baud rate on HF, allowing Pactor 4 usage starting 08 JAN 24 - a significant upgrade for the

EmComm community. An asserted effort will be placed on expanding/upgrading the Delaware State 2m analog linking system. Having statewide communications is essential for us to have a prepared section. Assistant Section Manager Joe Grib, KI3B, successfully ran the Section's Volunteer's On The Air Event as W1AW/3. Kudos to all stations representing Delaware, making over 1200 contacts and accumulating over 14k points.

I extend a warm welcome to new/upgrading amateurs in our community:

- KB3ZIK Carmine Annone III Wilmington
- KC3BGU George Segeda Newark
- KC3WZR Sarah Bucic Wilmington
- KC3YAS Anne Kurtz Ocean View
- KB3KRJ Christopher Sanger Wilmington
- KC3BPL Colin Van Every Wilmington
- KB3ZOP Eric Remington Newark
- KC3YDD Michael Miles Laurel
- KC3YDX Michael Faulkner Felton
-

January brings not only a change in weather but also several contests, including Kid's Day on January 6 and the VHF Contest from January 20-22. For details on all contests, visit the ARRL website.

In closing, I want to emphasize my open contact policy. Please feel free to call, email, or text me with any questions. I am eager to work with each of you over the next two years to enrich our shared hobby.

73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager
Email: kc3dso@gmail.com
Cell: 240.515.0620
Office: 302.604.7470
<https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>

The Emcomm Corner

I frequently use FT8 for making contacts. The other day I turned on the radio and started WSJT-X and saw CQ's coming in as usual. I attempted to answer one and had no response. I happened to look at the SWR meter on my tuner and saw ZERO RF output when transmitting. I thought that was strange as everything had worked fine the night before. I checked the sound card output level and it was at zero. I moved the output level up and I still had no power. I substituted a dummy load for the antenna to do further testing. I tried psk31 on fldigi and still had no output. I was starting to fear that the finals in my IC-7300 had seen magic smoke from digital use even though I never exceed 40 watts output power. I next checked output using SSB. Hooray! It was normal – my finals were happy. So why no output on digital modes. I checked the cables and radio settings which were fine. Then I noticed a little icon at the bottom of my computer screen – a speaker with a line through it. Somehow, the USB speaker output had been muted! I un-muted it and everything on the digital side worked again.

Sometimes it is the little things that drive us crazy. This is a case where a checklist of all settings, including mute status, would have been useful. Pilots use them all the time even for routine evolutions that they have done a thousand times, just to make sure they don't forget something simple – like putting down the landing gear before landing. Once you have everything set and working properly, make a list of your settings. It could save you lots of time. That is something we will do on the equipment in the trailer along with some basic setup instructions.

Keep being radio-active!

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

AUXCOMM News

For the first time, and I hope there will be more times in the future, the Sussex AUXCOMM Group was joined by members of “reborn” Sussex County CERT, in support of the Rehoboth Marathon on December 2nd. By way of explanation of “reborn”, there had been CERT in the county before, and this is the first year of the new community groups, of which there are three. Ed Donnelly, coordinator of the Ocean View Police Department sponsored group has used the term ‘reborn’ to describe the comeback.

There were 24 ham operators and 10 CERT members covering the 26 plus miles of the marathon course. The 10 CERT members were teamed with operators at key points of the course, particularly turns and busy locations. There were four ham operators “bicycle mobile” on the trail portions of the course. The 2800 plus runners, I’m sure, appreciated the fact that there were people out there whose primary purpose was watching out for their safety and well-being. By all of the after action reports, it seems to have been a very positive experience for those involved.

So what is CERT, and how was it an asset to the event coverage? CERT is the acronym for Community Emergency Response Team. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is part of the Citizen Corp program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It was developed and is supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It traces its roots, as does the Incident Command System (ICS), to the mega-disasters of California in the 80’ and 90’s. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community, a critical element of the program, and all are essential to building a Culture of Preparedness in the United States. There are over 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program. The CERT Teams are made up of members from the communities they serve with standard basic training requirements, dictated by the program. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. The volunteers are trained in basic disaster response skills. These include fire safety, light search and rescue, First Aid, and team organization. Some members get additional training in traffic direction and disaster medical operations.

Putting the two groups together for the event support introduced the CERT members to the communication activities of the AUXCOMM Group, and the AUXCOMM members met other community service oriented people. From my perspective teaming a CERT person with an AUXCOMM operator is a ‘force multiplier’, bringing a broader skill set to bear on issues that may arise. If we can interest some CERT members in ham radio, and they get a license, this puts more licensees in the organized communities, and members that are part of the communities’ response. Might be a left-handed way to get ham radio accepted in planned communities. On the other hand, ham operators would do well to pick up a few CERT courses along the way to improve their own personal and family preparedness.

Want to know more about AUXCOMM, the CERT program and how the two work together? There will be a joint meeting January 11th at 1900 in the Training Room of the Sussex County EOC. Anyone is welcome to attend. You might find it beneficial to you and your family’s emergency preparedness planning.

John S. Ferguson K3PFW
Auxiliary Communication Leader
Sussex County(DE) EOC

Club Happenings

Winter Field Day in January

Plans are that KCARC will participate in Winter Field Day from the warmth and comfort of the EOC the last weekend of the month, January 27 and 28. Plans for the event will be finalized at the January meeting, so if you would like to take part in the fun, be sure to come to the meeting.

"Shack Time on Saturday Night"

Every Saturday evening around 2000 (8:00pm) local time. Stop in to hear what is going on, brag about your grandkids, or complain about the weather. This VHF/UHF/Fusion repeater was anonymously donated and then installed by Sussex County. The antenna is at 250' on a tower near Long Neck. Program your frequency to 443.200 + (PL 156.7). No net control, there will be a host; but this is an analog rag-chew so feel free to introduce a subject, comment on what you are hearing, or throw out a question for more info or how to fix something going wrong in your shack. With no net control, remember to give your call sign regularly. Mark your calendar for each Saturday evening to join the fun.

Straight Key Night

The New Years brings us Straight Key Night from the ARRL. SKN is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC, which for us simple time people, is 7:00 PM Sunday the 31st for December to 6:59 PM on January 1. This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

Here's a chance for low speed operators to get on the air and make some contacts at your speed, as most operators will slow to YOUR speed. Listen for those stations calling CQ SKN, or you will find some stations sending "SKN" instead of "RST" or sending "SKN RST" for signal reports. Get on the air and have fun.

Straight Key Month

Yelp, you read that correctly. The Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) will be running Straight Key Month from January 2 through January 31. Event stations in the US will be operating as K3Y/1, K3Y/2, etc., according to their geographic location. In addition to these ten mainland call regions there will also be operators in Hawaii (K3Y/KH6), Alaska (K3Y/KL7) and Puerto Rico (K3Y/ KP4). In any given US call region only one operator will be on the air at a time. Each call region has Coordinators who are responsible for scheduling operators and processing logs. Their email contact addresses are listed on the web page. More information can be found at www.skccgroup.com/k3y.

Here's a chance to work stations, again, at your speed, as the operators will slow down to the speed sent to them. This is a chance to fill in those WAS logs and get a WAS award from SKCC. If you are not a member and don't have a number, go to www.skccgroup.com and get one. They are free for the asking.

Free Extra License Course.....

Please publicize our upcoming Extra course with any person or organization you think might be interested.

A FREE, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 18, 2024, and will run through Thursday, March 28. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks.

73,
Rol Anders, K3RA

Nets Around Delmarva.....

We still have a number of nets around the area that people can check into. First we have our two club nets, the Wednesday Evening Net at 7:00 PM local, and the Saturday Morning AES Net at 9:00 AM local. Both are on the club repeater of 146.970 (-) 77 Hz PL.

The Maryland Emergency Phone Net (MEPN) comes on every day of the year at 5:00 PM local in the winter, 6:00 PM local in the summer, on 3.920 and has a Delaware representative each day. Everyone is welcome to check in.

Next we have the Delaware Traffic Net at 5:30 PM local Monday through Saturday on 3.904. This net will move come Daylight Savings Time in the summer. Check in and learn how to handle NTS traffic.

Next we have the Delmarva Emergency Net at 5:30 PM local on Sunday also on 3.904.

The Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia (MDD) CW Traffic meets each day of the year, the early net at 7:00 PM local on 3.557 and the late session at 10:00 PM local on the same frequency.

Lastly, we have the Maryland Slow Net (MSN) CW Traffic Net that meets at 7:30 PM local on 3.563. The net will slow to your speed. Check in with one letter of your call, be acknowledged and then give complete call with either "QRU" (no traffic for the net) or "QTC" (with traffic) and number of messages. There are training messages you can copy, again at your speed, and help you learn the procedure.

Any questions can be directed to me, or any of the net control stations within the club. Come join a net and have a good time on the air.

From the PVRC Reflector.....

Many hams have noted not receiving paper copies of CQ magazine since earlier this year, and the last electronically published issue was October.

Quoting Rich Moseson, W2VU, editor of CQ Magazine: "Unfortunately, CQ has temporarily suspended publishing at this time. We are working very hard to secure the necessary funding to continue operations but until we can make those arrangements, everything is on hold."

The CQ contests will continue to be held, uninterrupted, by the WWROF (as they have been for many years now).

I myself - the CQ Contesting Editor for the past several years - am launching a contesting website that will specialize in short turnaround news flashes and gossip from the contesting world.

Tim N3QE

Thanks to PVRC

Here's the latest DX Activities from DXReport online

EA, SPAIN: The radio club EA5RCL operates as EH5XMAS until Jan. 7. QSL via EA5RCL.

FY, FRENCH GUIANA: Pete, F4GPK, pays the club station FY5KE a visit from Dec. 29 until Jan. 16 and signs TO2FY on 20-10m. QSL only via direct to F4GPK, eQSL.

G, ENGLAND: The special event station GB4NY will be active between Dec. 27 and Jan. 7. QSL via LoTW, ClubLog, qrz.com.

HS, THAILAND: Brad, VK2BY, is operating as HS0ZNR until Jan. 14. QSL via VK2BY (d).

OE, AUSTRIA: OE24BI draws attention to Bad Ischl, European Capital of Culture 2024. QRV from January until the end of June 2024.

OE, AUSTRIA: OE100RADIO celebrates the centennial of radio broadcasting during 2024.

OE, AUSTRIA: OE40WO celebrates the 40th anniversary of the club Wolfsberg ADL 084 until 4 April 2024. QSL via OE8XDX (d/B).

OE, AUSTRIA: OE205XMAS celebrates the premiere of the Christmas Carol "Silent Night" until Jan. 6. QSL via bureau, direct, eQSL.

ON, BELGIUM: The Radio-Club de Luettich (ON5VL) celebrates its 100th anniversary with the callsign OR100LGE during 2024. QRV on 160-6m (CW, SSB, FT4/8). QSL via ON6YH, CLubLog, LoTW, eQSL.

TR, GABON: Roland F8EN (ex FO8BV, 3C3CR) returns to Gabon and operates as TR8CR between Dec. 28 and Feb. 28 on 30-10m (CW). QSL via F6AJA (B).

VU, INDIA: The special event callsign AT3POG will be operated by Guru VU3GWN, Arvind VU3CIQ, Rajesh VU3TBU, and Shyam VU3UZD between Jan. 1 and March 31.

V5, NAMIBIA: Eric, F5LCX, signs V5/homecall between Dec. 28 and Jan. 11 from several locations in Namibia. QSL via homecall, LoTW, qrz.com.

They are out there, go get them!

Useless Facts of the Month

For every human on earth, there are roughly 1.6 million ants. (Watch those picnic baskets!!)

The world consumes close to 2.25 billion cups of coffee every day. (I do my share to keep the total high!!)

Seahorses don't have stomachs. (That's why they're small??)

As a society, we take more pictures in two minutes today than were taken in the entire 19th century. (Smile, you on candid camera!!)

Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women. (It's our magnetic personality!!)

The largest snowflake ever recorded reportedly measured 15 inches across. (Carolyn would be more than happy!!!)

Can you name the 27th letter of the alphabet? Well, of course not; there are only 26 letters in the alphabet. However, there was once a time when the alphabet boasted an additional character, namely the ampersand, commonly denoted as '&,' and it was considered a part of the alphabet until the middle of the nineteenth century. Today, it primarily appears in company names such as H&R Block or Ben & Jerry's. When the ampersand was part of the alphabet, it followed 'Z'. When reciting the alphabet,

children would say, "X, Y, Z, and per se and," which meant that "and" was the way to pronounce "&." This phrase was eventually shortened to "ampersand."

Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

Silent Keys

Their tubes may glow no longer,
and their transmitters no longer send;
Their keys are still and silent now,
but their signals never end.

Ham shacks are now silent and lonely,
their letters are no longer aired;
So let us not forget their calls,
nor the time together we shared.

Their souls are now of the stars,
as are the signals they did send;
Their CQs are traveling the heavens,
on and on they go for time without end.

Unknown

Thanks to the SKCC message board

From the ARRL.....

ARRL Bulletin 34 ARLB034
From ARRL Headquarters
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB034

ARRLB034 NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Two General-Class License Questions

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two General-class license questions. Pursuant to the November 13, 2023, FCC rule change to remove symbol rate restrictions on amateur radio digital emissions, the QPC of the NCVEC has deleted two questions from the General-class question pool because they are no longer correct. The web article on the symbol rate restrictions can be found at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-hails-fcc-action-to-remove-symbol-rate-restrictions>.

General-class questions G1C08 and G1C10 are withdrawn from the pool effective immediately and should be removed from examinations as soon as possible. Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General-class question pool web page at, <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>.

The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

Amateur Radio License Expiration's

While Canada has "lifetime amateur radio licenses," the United States and its territories do not. So, this is mainly for ham radio operators in the US and its territories, but also for those outside the US who plan to obtain an amateur radio license in the US.

For the US, the license term is normally for 10 years...and while the license can be modified at any time [for a change of name, email/mailling address, phone number or the "character question" (felony conviction status)], it cannot be renewed except during the time period of 90 days before, until two years after expiration. Once the two year mark after the expiration date is reached, the license and callsign is forfeited, and it's as if they were never licensed.

One of the benefits of ARRL and QCWA Membership -- they send notice to renew your amateur radio license, in the 90-day renewal window before expiration. Yet, a large majority of hams likely have no idea when their license expires, and some are still operating on an expired license!! However, you still have to pay the \$35 fee to the FCC for the renewal to be processed completely. Once the fee is paid online, the renewal can be processed within 24 hours, unless during a government shutdown, noted later in this article.

If you transmit on an expired license and if you're caught by the FCC, you likely will get a Notice of Violation and/or Monetary Forfeiture, for unlicensed operation. Worse, once your license expires...not only you are prohibited from operating on the air in any mode...you can no longer serve as a Volunteer Examiner. And, if you serve at a test session with an expired license, and you sign the paperwork, it invalidates that test session; and every examinee affected will have to test again, either in front of another VE Team or before the FCC. Needless to say, the examinees and VE's will not be happy with you...and it puts forth a bad face on ham radio!! Also, many ham radio clubs and organizations require that the individual's amateur radio license be current, and not expired or lapsed...otherwise, they are no longer a member. Indeed, the QCWA Bylaws do state this...and other groups may have similar rules.

If this wasn't bad enough, during a US government shutdown [although to me, the term "government shutdown" is "redundant" (hi hi)], the FCC will not process any callsign changes, new licenses, renewals, upgrades, etc. If your license expires during a shutdown, you are QRT (off the air). And, if it lapses (expires more than two years) during a shutdown, you will lose your license, your callsign, your privileges...and at a minimum, have to take the Technician Class license to get back into ham radio, and you'll get a brand new callsign. Plus, if you had a "prized callsign" (2x1, 1x2, 2x2, etc.), you may not be able to get it back under the Vanity Callsign System!! And, you'll have to pay a second \$35 fee to apply for your former callsign, besides the initial \$35 fee for getting re-licensed. As a side note, I understand that in some countries, the license fee can be 20 times more (around \$700)...so by comparison, \$35 is a bargain. I've known of hams who will pay out well over \$100 for "a brick of prize tickets" at a hamfest, or to buy a fancy rig...but they throw a fit on the paying of a club or organization dues amount. Obviously, if you have things like medical bills, or worrying about food, utility, and other costs outside of ham radio, that's more important than dues, etc.

Now, during a US government shutdown...if the 90 day pre-expiration window occurs...or if it expires, and is early in the two year grace period...you can still file the renewal, and continue operating until the shutdown ends, and the FCC reopens. But, those waiting until the FCC reopens will only have two days to file the renewal...because after that, their license will be considered as expired, and they will be QRT. The longest US government shutdown has been 35 days (if I remember right), but with the governmental gridlock in Congress, there's a possibility that future shutdowns could be even longer. So, before you go to the next article, find your amateur radio license, and check your expiration date. If you can't find the license, go to one of the callsign servers to look it up...because the FCC ULS is not available for searches during a US government shutdown...even though it's the "official place" for data.

Besides, if your Driver's License expires (never mind if it is suspended or revoked), and you aren't aware of it...and get pulled over by the police, you'll likely be ticketed and fined, if not arrested and jailed. And, I'm sure other countries' amateur radio regulatory, and law enforcement agencies, have similar policies on "expired licenses" '...check with these for details. - Submitted by: Daryl Stout, WX4QZ

Thanks to the QCWA Journal

More Than 200K Without Power After Storm Hits Massachusetts

(TNS) – More than 200,000 Massachusetts customers were without power Monday morning as a result of a strong storm that brought high winds and heavy rainfall to the state. According to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), by 12:12 a.m., more than 285,000 people across the state were affected by power outages. The worst outage was in Pepperell, where 95 percent of customers, or over 4,800 people, were without power at one point. Other places affected by big outages included Belchertown, Marlborough, Mendon, Foxborough, Carver, Weymouth, Quincy and Melrose. By 12:01 p.m., Pepperell was reporting that the number of customers without power dropped down only to 72 percent still without power.

In general, Plymouth, Bristol and Norfolk Counties were the most affected by power outages, but major outages were also reported in Suffolk, Hampden and Hampshire Counties, as well as in southern Middlesex and Worcester Counties and northern Essex County. The National Weather Service issued a high wind warning for most of eastern Massachusetts until 7 p.m. Monday, though peak winds are expected to cease around 2 p.m. Weather spotters across the state recorded 45 to 55 mph winds early Monday morning, according to the weather service. Gusts up to 63 mph were recorded in Goshen, while gusts up to 56 mph were recorded in Norwood.

Thanks to Government Technology online

ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee, with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure. Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety. "Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter

New feature will let 911 callers show video to New Castle County dispatchers

By Caroline Goggin Friday, December 8, 2023 5:28PM

MINQUADALE, Delaware (WPVI) – Officials in New Castle County, Delaware have announced the launch of a video streaming feature for 911 emergency calls. They say this technology will significantly enhance the capabilities of emergency responders in the county by providing video to the call operators from those who initiate the 911 calls. "Video with 911 allows us to see an emergency through our caller's eyes," Donald Holden, the acting chief of the county's emergency communications division, said. "This will save lives. Without a doubt, this will save lives."

Dispatchers in the county have been trained to start using the 911 video streaming option created by Rave Mobile Safety. When they determine that real-time video could be beneficial during a call, they can text a special link to the caller. Upon clicking the link, residents have the choice to share their live video feed with 911. "I think we all can imagine many, many different types of emergency incidents where video in addition to audio adds information," New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer said. Once the video stream is terminated by either party, 911 cannot access the video again without a new authorization from the caller.

"We will continue here in New Castle County to employ the latest and greatest technology in a safe, secure and private way," Meyer added.

County officials said their call center will be the first in the state to use this video feature. They said it's especially important because they handle about half of the emergency call volume in Delaware. Officials, like Major Laura O'Sullivan with New Castle County Police, said the video feature could also help law enforcement solve crime. "You can interview ten different witnesses who are at a scene and get ten different statements," O'Sullivan said. "So, sometimes video is a little more concrete. In that way, it will certainly assist us in our responding and officer safety in general."

Thanks to "All Things ECC News"

Joke of the Month

The Juggler

A driver was pulled over by a police officer for speeding. As the officer was writing the ticket, he noticed several machetes in the car. "What are those for?" he asked suspiciously.

"I'm a juggler," the man replied. "I use those in my act."

"Well, show me," the officer demanded, still a little unsure.

So the man got out the machetes and started juggling them, first three, then more, finally seven at one time, overhand, underhand, behind the back, putting on a dazzling show and amazing the officer.

Just then another car passed by. The driver did a double take, and said, "That's it Maude. I've got to give up the drink! Just look at the sobriety test they're giving now!!"

Quote of the Month

"The wireless telegraph is not difficult to understand. The ordinary telegraph is like a very long cat. You pull the tail in New York, and it meows in Los Angeles. The wireless is the same, only without the cat."

Albert Einstein