

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings to All Delaware Hams!

As we bid farewell to the winter chill, the promise of spring beckons us outdoors, presenting the perfect backdrop to refine our EmComm skills. I recently joined a group of enthusiastic operators at a local park, troubleshooting antenna and radio intricacies. Remember, our EmComm abilities are akin to muscles - regular exercise keeps them sharp and ready for action.

Our Delaware Section Staff convened in Dover on February 10th, engaging in a series of enlightening discussions on a variety of topics including DTS/NTS, Skywarn, DEMA, WinLink, DEVOAD, and legislative matters, among others. With the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on the horizon, planning efforts are gearing up, with preliminary information set to be unveiled at the Delaware State Convention & Hamfest this April.

The "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act," now under consideration in both the House and Senate, symbolizes a beacon of hope for those living in HOA's. This federal bill, aimed at addressing HOA antenna restrictions, has garnered our full support. Additionally, we're drafting a state-level bill as a contingency plan. Your involvement is crucial; for further details, visit [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) (Bill S.3690) and sign up for updates. The recent AT&T outage underscores the urgency of our advocacy.

A warm welcome to Mike, N1MWU, the new President of the Lewes Amateur Radio Society (LARS). With the club in a phase of transition, Mike's leadership comes at a pivotal time. LARS meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Lewes Diner at noon.

Excitingly, Keith, WU3X, (formerly N3SVB) has stepped into the role of Technical Coordinator for our section. With a rich background in electronics and a passion for amateur radio, Keith is a valuable asset to our community. Those interested in technical support or collaboration are encouraged to reach out via Keith's contact information posted on the ARRL Delaware's webpage. If you are interested in providing technical support to hams in your county as a Technical Specialist contact Keith. Sussex's TS is Eric, WG3J, who lives in Ocean View. Eric has a vast knowledge of HF, antenna builds, baluns, and contesting.

Like many radio operators in the section, I will be participating in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest the first weekend in March. Running a contest station provides valuable EmComm skills. From listening to logging, every minute increases your ability to run a station as NCS, one of the hardest positions to fill during an incident. Like POTA, contesting provides other benefits such as learning your radio's settings, understanding propagation on HF bands, and increasing computer skills, just to name a few. These events also foster camaraderie within our vibrant community.

For those yet to join, the ARRL Delaware Section Reflector on groups.io is your gateway to a world of resources, classes, and events. Ensure you're part of this dynamic platform to stay informed and engaged.

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

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| AC3LG | Zhaohan Dong |
| KC3AEA | Mark Mullenhour |

March brings the popular ARRL International DX Phone Contest. This phone contest is being held the first full weekend in March; March 2-3, 2024. A look ahead tells us the Delaware State QSO Party is the first weekend in May. Visit the ARRL's Contest Calendar for details on these and other contests throughout the year.

Your thoughts, questions, and participation are what drive our community forward. Feel free to reach out to me at any time; let's keep the airwaves alive with our collective passion for amateur radio.
73,

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