

SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

May 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 Memorial Day

Happenings

May 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
May 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 22	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
May 27	Memorial Day
June 8	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
June 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
June 22 – 23	Field Day, more information coming
June 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 26	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
July 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
July 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:30
July 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
August 8	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
August 13	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
August 26	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
September 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
October 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
October 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
November 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00

Hamfests

May 5	Warminster ARC - Annual Hamfest Warminster ARC Bucks County Community College-Lower Bucks Campus, 1304 Veterans Highway (Route 413), Bristol, PA 19007 Contact: George Brechmann, N3HBT, P.O. Box 113 Warminster, PA 18974 Phone: 215-443-5656 Email: WARMrcinfo@gmail.com Talk-In: 147.090+ 131.8
May 11	Hamfest at the Shore Old Barney Amateur Radio Club Surf City Firehouse, 713 Long Beach Island, Surf City, NJ

Contact: Richard Kennard , N2RPQ, 15 Jumping Brook Lane Barnegat, NJ 08005
Phone: 732-620-5252 **Email:** n2rpb@arrl.net **Talk-In:** 146.835 -6 127.3

- May 26 **MFMA Memorial Weekend Hamfest**
Maryland F.M. Association, Inc
Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794
Contact: John Elgin, WA3MNN, 518 Copley Lane Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-641-5313 **Email:** marylandfm@verizon.net
Talk-In: 146.76/224.76/444.0 PL107.2
- June 1 **Delmarva Swapmeet**
Delmarva Amateur Radio Club
QTH of Al Waller K3TKJ, 34087 Old Hickory Rd, Laurel, DE 19956
Contact: Jim Jester, KC3ITR at 443-356-5677 or Arthur Parks N3EAK at
amparks6@gamial.com **Talk-in:** 146.82 (-) (156.7 PL) Admission Free
- July 27 **CVARC Annual Hamfest**
W3ACH
Chambersburg Steam and Engine show grounds, 1500 Criders Church Road,
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Contact: Jim Stephens, KB3ICU, PO Box 121 Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: 717-382-8834 **Email:** cvarcw3ach@gmail.com **Talk-In:** 147.120+ 100 PL tone
- September 7 **Delmarva Swapmeet**
Delmarva Amateur Radio Club
QTH of Al Waller K3TKJ, 34087 Old Hickory Rd, Laurel, DE 19956
Contact: Jim Jester, KC3ITR at 443-356-5677 or Arthur Parks N3EAK at
amparks6@gamial.com **Talk-in:** 146.82 (-) (156.7 PL) Admission Free
- September 8 **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: 1-609-417-7802 **Email:** k2men@comcast.net **Talk-In:** 147.180 PL 131.8
- October 6 **CARA Fest 2024**
Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Howard County Fairgrounds, 221 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794
Contact: Andy Protigal , N3AWP, 6431 Skipton Drive Hanover, MD 21076
Phone: 410-218-3815 **Email:** n3awp@arrl.net **Talk-In:** 147.390 MHz (+) 156.7 Hz PL
- November 2 **Delmarva Swapmeet**
Delmarva Amateur Radio Club
QTH of Al Waller K3TKJ, 34087 Old Hickory Rd, Laurel, DE 19956
Contact: Jim Jester, KC3ITR at 443-356-5677 or Arthur Parks N3EAK at
amparks6@gamial.com **Talk-in:** 146.82 (-) (156.7 PL) Admission Free

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

You've probably already heard, and if not read below, that MFJ is going out of business. Martin Jue, K5FLU, is retiring after 52 years. It has been said by a number of people that this is the end of an era. MFJ has been around for as long as I've been a ham, and I'm not sure what will fill the advertising pages of QST now!

I have said before and will repeat for anybody, I am not a great CW operator, however I like working CW, nice "slow" CW. In April the 75th Anniversary of the Union of Spanish Radio Amateurs (URE) operating event occurred. There were pieces of paper (certificates) available for contacting so many of the special AO75, and one CQ75URE, stations. The AO75 stations ended with a variety of suffices, with a total 20 stations, 19 in Spain and one in Portugal. Work 10 stations, any mode, any band, and get a Bronze "diploma" (certificate), work 14 stations on any mode combinations on each of three different bands and get a Silver "diploma". The Gold required four different bands with 18 stations on each band. Lots of fun, since FT8 was one of the modes that could be used, and getting 10 stations would be no problem. The Silver or Gold, another issue.

Well I did get the Silver piece of paper, working 14 stations on 15, 17, and 20 meters. Now I can order their printed "diploma" and pay well for it, or just download from the internet. Since I'm cheap, it's the internet!

Now working these stations didn't require a great CW presence, as it was obvious that first four characters were AO75, or one CQ75. I just had to figure out the last two, or three in case of two stations, which wasn't that hard. They got my usual 13 wpm right back at them, and they answered me. Now I did get two on SSB on 17 meters, but I did get my 14 on CW on 17. The SSB contacts were just "insurance"!

So when the 13 Colonies special event occurs the first week of July, don't hesitate working some of those stations with whatever mode you can. Technicians have privileges on 40 meters on CW, so there is no reason why you all can't get your own "piece of paper" to hang on the wall.

President's Column

It's springtime and time to play with antennas. I recently put up a 10/15 meter fan dipole. The doublet I use has lots of lobes on 10/15 meters due to its long length compared to the frequency and I thought I might be missing some signals. I was also interested in seeing the loss introduced by the tuner compared with a resonant antenna. It is nice not having to adjust the antenna tuner when switching to the 10/15 fan. The last few days ft8 on 15 meters has been very active in the daytime and I have picked up a number of new maidenhead grids. So far my observations between the two antennas are inconclusive. Unfortunately I was shortsighted in running only 2 HF coax lines to my shack. One is connected to my 4BTV vertical and the other I use for experimenting. I may have to invest in a remote antenna switch.

Take advantage of the opportunity to participate in field day in June. Join in the festivities and camaraderie.

Whatever you do, get out and be radioactive while having fun.

Jim KC3BTV
President KCARC

Vice-President's Column

I enjoy helping out where I can. I had the opportunity to visit a Kent County Crime Watch meeting this month at the KC Levy Court and learned a lot. Most of their concerns can be applied to amateur radio and especially the EmComm aspect of amateur radio. Their motto being "see something, say something" is a great motto for emergency groups because it helps relay in the important information where it can be hard for officials to monitor constantly.

For example in Sussex County, at the CODEL Marathon, there were a few medical issues with some runners, most of which were reported via ham radio. We worked hand-in-hand with the Rehoboth Police, Fire, and EMS to be the eyes and ears on the ground reporting for where they couldn't be.

73

Hunter Grier - KC3VTB
KCARC Vice President

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

Spring is here in its full glory. Pollen, warmer weather and the increasing potential for storms. Hurricane season starts in just a few short weeks. The Hurricane researchers at Colorado State University have released their prediction that 2024 will have an extremely active season; they expect the hurricane season to include 23 named storms with 11 reaching hurricane strength and five storms will be major hurricanes. The CSU predictions can be found at <https://tropical.colostate.edu/forecasting.html>.

Another Delaware State Convention/Hamfest is in the books

The Sussex Amateur Radio Association sponsored the Delaware State Convention and Hamfest on April 20 at the Cheer Center in Georgetown. The convention was well attended with many clubs and operators selling gear. Two forums were run providing updates on several topics. Wendy Horn, W3NRN, Section Emergency Coordinator provided ARES and EmComm updates; Pat Ryan, KW3Z, State Government Liaison, provided updates on the federal HOA bill; Bob Famiglio, K3RF, Atl Div. Director and Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM, Atl Div Vice Director provided ARRL and other updates. Chris Cote, KE3NJ, Section Youth Coordinator ran several stations out of his bus using Yagi antennas making some satellite contacts. Clearly the topic of the day was the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.

Legislative Update: Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA)

The "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act" bill is making progress at the federal level. As of this newsletter, I and other section staff are attending as many meetings as possible to get all licensee's in the state to complete letters of support of the federal bill. These letters will be hand delivered to our Delaware legislators making it clear Delaware licensees want this bill passed. Once the federal bill is passed; section staff will be introducing a complementary bill in the state legislature to ensure licensees are covered. Pass the word about the bill and section staff having letters to sign. This is an 'all hands' operation where every letter will count.

Delaware QSO Party – May 4-5, 2024

The First State Amateur Radio Club (FSARC) sponsors the Delaware QSO Party every year. I encourage every radio operator to jump in and make some contacts. Brush off your HF rig and jump on the radio for an hour or a day. This contest is very easy and a great primer for the larger contests. This event is one of the best ways to put Delaware on the map for contests. There are thousands of QSO party operators who look forward to making a contact with a Delaware Station. Visit the FSARC club for rules.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members

Join me in welcoming the latest additions to our vibrant community:

KB3LGM Frank Clowes
KC3BPO Stanley Gorak, Jr
KC3CLZ Catherine Twyford
KC3YUI Robert Willemin
KC3YUJ Joe Trybulski
KC3YUN James Larrimore Jr
KC3YUO Dale C. Robertson
KC3YUQ Foufu Ding
KC3YUT James E. Logan
KC3YWR Matthew S. Duphily
KC3YXE Kevin J. Lehman
KC3YXP Susan T. Hines
KC3YXQ Jarel A. Harrison
KC3ZAD Richard H. Cullen Jr

Upcoming Events and Contests

The Delaware State QSO Party is this weekend, May 4-5. Also a look ahead notes the 13 Colonies event where Delaware Stations run the K2E callsign. Details can be found on the ARRL Contest Calendar

Let's Stay Connected

Your insights, questions, and active participation are the lifeblood of our community. I'm here to support and engage with all of you, whether you're new to the hobby or a seasoned operator. Together, we can keep our passion for amateur radio thriving.

73, Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

Email: kc3dso@gmail.com

Cell: 240.515.0620

Office: 302.604.7470

ARRL Delaware Section Reflector (<https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection>)

ARRL Sections – Delaware (<https://arrl.org/sections/view/delaware>)

The Emcomm Corner

In the 60's my father had a sailboat in the Chesapeake Bay moored in Solomons Island near the mouth of the Patuxent River. Many times while we were under sail at an appropriate trolling speed we would drop a line in the water looking for Bluefish or Rockfish. Sometimes we caught one which made a nice dinner. Other times we would anchor atop an underwater hummock near Drum Point and bottom fish for Spot. I remember one time when the fish were so thick that we actually hooked one in the dorsal fin and brought it aboard. There was a fellow who had a good sized power boat that was moored two slips down from us. He loved to fish but didn't like fish so he would give his catch away after each trip. I have known fishermen who like to sit on the river bank with a cane pole and a bobber while others spend untold effort making the perfect fly to tempt a Rainbow Trout.

What does this talk of fishing have to do with us as ham radio operators? Just like there are all kinds of ways to fish, there are all kinds of ways to play radio. There are those who consider ft8 and other forms of digital communication as "going to the dark side". Some hams love to set stuff up but get no joy in pressing a microphone switch. Some like participating in community events and others could care less. Some strive to catch that elusive station using 2 watts of power while others believe that life is too short for QRP. Some are gifted in CW ops and get a great deal of satisfaction with it while others of us sweat bullets with visions of a root canal in our brains. Some of us prepare for the one percent chance that we

will be called upon in a disaster situation while others would rather do a park activation. What you do with the hobby is up to you. The most important thing is to do what gives you satisfaction. The final question asks "what this has to do with ARES"? Simple, If you want to help prepare for that one percent, do the courses, participate in the exercises, and be able to mobilize. If you aren't interested, I promise not to browbeat you as there are lots of other ways to play radio.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County Emergency Coordinator

AUXCOMM News

AUXCOMM

From a popular song of many years ago (June is Bustin Out All Over) "April cried and stepped aside and along came pretty little May". Well if the rain we've had was April's tears, I for one am glad she's gone! Rain, flooding tidal issues, saturated ground, it's been a mess. Are you noticing that the weather issues all over the country are the same weather issues we've seen for years; except somebody put Mother Nature on Steroids! The number of severe weather incidents has increased more than just dramatically. The numbers have literally exploded.

So, what are you doing about it? Not what you are going to do, but what are you currently in the act of doing? Waiting around until it's convenient for you to get off your duff, may be a bit too late. We, ham radio operators, are trying to sell the idea to a wide and varied audience, that we are the "be all to end all" when it comes the point when "all else has failed". I'll ask the same question again that I asked above, "what are you doing about it", as in present tense, in the act?

"The HOA won't let me have an antenna?" So again, what are you doing about it? And, I can go on and on with the same question, different subject. What the basic issue here is, if you're asking "what can I do?", the problem is you don't have a plan. There is an old (why are they always 'old') proverb that says, "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance". It's become known as the "Five 'P's" of progress. Progress moves forward on the wheels of planning. So, make the plan, work the plan, and see what happens. Maybe you'll be successful on your first try. Most likely not. There was a German General in WWII that was known to say. "Plans rarely survive first contact with the enemy". He was Eisenhower's counterpart, who as the Supreme Allied Commander for the European Theater in WWII said; "Plans are nothing. Planning is everything".

Nobody knows that better than the practitioners of the Planning Section in an agency that follows the Incident Command System (ICS). Of course your emergency communication groups do follow the ICS, don't you? And, if you are not, why not? The ICS is required, by FEMA directive, that it be used by all response and recovery organizations receiving federal funds. Get caught working outside that directive, and you might force the agency you are volunteering for, to pay the feds back their money. Think about it. AUXCOMM is ICS compliant. Per a recent comment from an individual at ARRL HQ, "ARES is not ICS compliant, we're aware of that". Also, in their defense, they are working on the issue, and trying to resolve it. Florida, statewide, has recently gone AUXCOMM. This was once one of the strongholds of the ARES.

Later, 72
John K3PFW

Club Happenings

End Of An Era; A Notice From MFJ

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies: Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s

Martin F. Jue, K5flu

Delaware QSO Party

The Delaware QSO Party will be held on the first weekend in May, this year May 4 from 1700Z (1:00 PM) to May 5 at 2359Z (7:59 PM). The object is to contact as many stations as possible, with stations outside of Delaware attempting to contact Delaware. Modes are CW, SSB, and digital (yelp, that includes FT8).

The county designations are:

New Castle County NDE

Kent County KDE

Sussex County SDE

The exchange is RS(T) and County for Delaware stations, and RS(T) and SPC for those outside the State. Scoring for Delaware stations is 1 point per phone QSO, 2 points for digital modes to include CW. Stations outside DE, 10 points per phone QSO, 20 points per digital QSO.

Power Multiplier: Stations not indicating power level within their log will be scored as operating with greater than 100 watts.

-Greater than 100 watts (>100 watts), total score X1

-100 watts or less (< = 100 watts) total score X2

-5 watts or less (< = 5 watts), total score X3

Scoring: Final score = the total of QSO points X location multipliers X power multiplier, + 50 point electronic submission bonus if applicable.

FT8/FT4---WSJT-X contacts: (The “Dark Side”)

Stations using these modes must use the Field Day contest overlay in WSJT-X.

DELAWARE stations will use the county number below and letter combination, and “DE” as the section.

For NEW CASTLE COUNTY, the exchange needs to be 1A DE.

For KENT COUNTY, the exchange needs to be 2A DE.

For SUSSEX COUNTY, the exchange needs to be 3A DE.

Out of state stations would use a 1A prefix followed by their ARRL/RAC section or DX. All WSJT contacts must be submitted in a second Cabrillo log file named “<callsign>.cbr” (which is how WSJT X default labels the file—so do not change that name until after you have attached a copy to your entry)

Awards will be presented to the following:

Top 3 scoring stations in Delaware

Top 3 scoring stations in each Delaware County

Top 3 scoring stations in the Continental United States

Top 3 DX stations

Make sure to put your call sign and DEQSO in the Subject Line, example: (K3QBD DE QSO Party Log).

Paper logs with less than 50 contacts may be sent within 30 days to

DE QSO Party, P.O. Box 1050, Newark, Delaware 19715-1050

More information can be found at www.contestcalendar.com or at <https://www.fsarc.org>.

ARRL Emergency Communications Training Courses Update

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, reports that ARRL is discontinuing the ARRL Emergency Communications training courses EC-001 and EC-016, effective April 1. "We plan to launch the new Basic EmComm course on the 1st, as well as a new Intermediate EmComm course," Johnston said. "An Advanced EmComm course will be released by the end of June," he said. "We will also be releasing an ARES Leadership course in the near future." The update of courses will be enhanced by the release of an ARES position task book update as well. "Upgrading and refreshing our course offerings is important to keep the training relevant and in tune with current EmComm topics and tasks," Johnston said.

Hurricane Season Coming

AccuWeather is sounding alarm bells for a supercharged 2024 Atlantic hurricane season (February 21, 2024). -- Months before the official start of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season the news is not good. And that's even before the National Hurricane Center, AccuWeather and Colorado State University have issued their first, early predictions for what the season will hold. The reasons are twofold: the return of La Niña and record high ocean temperatures. "Neither are good news when it comes to hurricanes and especially not when they work together; ocean temperatures in February are already as warm as they historically have been in mid-July," said Jon Porter, AccuWeather chief meteorologist. "That's a big concern."

FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications News Clippings and Topics of Interest Vol. 14 Issue 4, February 16-29, 2024

Delmarva Swap Meet at K3TKJ

In our hamfest calendar, you will find swap meets being held in Laurel at the QTH of AI, K3TKJ. These swap meets are being put on by the Delmarva Amateur Radio Club and AI is kind enough to let the club have them there. There is no admission and the times are from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Come to AI's and see friends and maybe pick up the one piece of equipment that you just have to have! Talk-in is on the

Sharptown repeater, 146.82, which one can access from Dover easily! So come have fun with like minded people!

Delmarva Hamfest A Success

If you didn't get to Georgetown, you missed a fun event. People got to see folks they hadn't gotten to see for a while and have some great conversations. Lots to see and the burgers were good too! Even though Ham Radio Outlet wasn't able to make it, there were many people that had tables inside, and the tailgate section had some good representation also. Nice event, and if you missed it this year, plan on coming next year!

Need A Test?

Have you been taking those practice tests online, studying that book, but missed the chance to test at the recent hamfest or the regularly scheduled sessions that the club holds? Well, after consultation with our club president, it has been decided to offer the chance to take that test just before a regular club meeting at the EOC. This offer is for pre-registered candidates only, and you get one shot at one exam. If interested, or for more information, contact Jerry at n3krx@aol.com or 302-359-1121. Only a maximum of three each time, and all usual requirements apply. You can take advantage of this, or see us at the usual advertised testing dates at the church.

What's It All Mean Alfie???

WPC (Space Weather Prediction Center) has produced the Space Weather Outlook Advisory since 1996.

It uses NOAA's storm scales to advise of the potential for minor to severe HF propagation degradations caused by solar flares and geomagnetic storms. It can be found at www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation. This email describes how space weather storms discussed in www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/space-weather-advisory-outlook on how it might affect HF propagation.

Radio blackouts are caused when M-class and X-class solar flares release vast amounts of X-ray radiation affecting only HF propagation crossing the dayside of the Earth. When the X-rays reach the dayside ionosphere, they ionize atoms and molecules creating a dense layer of electrons in the day side D region. The D region then blacks out HF propagation crossing the day side of the Earth for a few minutes to a few hours. See more at www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/solar-flares-radio-blackouts.

Geomagnetic storms are caused when the southward oriented interplanetary magnetic field in the solar wind degrades HF propagation mostly (but not only) over high latitude paths especially during local nighttime hours. Solar wind conditions that are effective for creating geomagnetic storms are sustained periods (several to many hours) of solar wind at about 500 km/second or more, and most importantly, a southward directed interplanetary magnetic field (opposite the orientation of Earth's magnetic field). More at www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/geomagnetic-storms.

Solar Radiation Storms are caused by some (but not all) strong M-class and X-class solar flares that sometimes (but not always) degrade day and night HF propagation paths crossing Earth's polar regions. Strong M-class and X-class solar flares often (but not always) produce shocks that accelerate protons to relativistic speeds approaching one-third the speed of light. Earth's magnetic field guides these highly energetic protons mostly into the D region in Earth's polar regions. More at www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/solar-radiation-storm.

Useless Facts of the Month

Your taste buds are replaced every 10 days. (The new ones might even like liver!!)

Interestingly, when Betty Boop made her debut in 1930, she wasn't depicted as a young woman, but rather as a talking and singing French poodle. Over time, she evolved into a human-like character with her trademark big eyes, button nose, and distinctive voice, becoming a symbol of the Jazz Age. Actress

Clara Bow is often given credit as being the inspiration for Boop. However, it was actress Helen Kane who sued Betty's creators, claiming the character was simply a copy of her own stage act, right down to her catchphrase "boop-boop-a-doop".

Approximately 66 million years ago, a giant asteroid measuring 6 miles in diameter and traveling at an estimated 43,000 mph through space, slammed into what is now the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. This momentous event set off a chain reaction of environmental chaos, unleashing ferocious wildfires, towering tsunamis, and a prolonged period of darkness known as an impact winter. The collision produced an enormous crater measuring 125 miles in width and 24 miles in depth, and resulted in the eradication of nearly 70% of all life forms on Earth. (One really big rock!!!!)

Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

THE FIRST FEMALE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR FROM CANADA – A GIRL WITH "A MAN'S COURAGE"

From Radio Officer Ivar Haug:

As a former telegraph operator, I see it as natural for me to honor all the female telegraph operators that once sailed the Seven Seas, both in war and in peace. And there's hardly a better example of this than Fern Sunde, the telegraph operator on "Happy MOSDALE." She was the first Canadian woman to hold a professional telegraph operator's degree, and the first female radio telegraph operator on a Norwegian merchant ship.

Fern Blodgett was born on July 6, 1918, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. She grew up in the town of Coburg on Lake Ontario. When World War II broke out, she was working as a secretary at a life insurance company in Toronto. Eventually, a whole series of training camps were set up in Canada for airmen from across the British Commonwealth. Many telegraph operators had to be employed, and under strong doubt the authorities decided that an attempt should be made to educate women. At a radio school in Toronto, six young ladies were to attend an evening class. Fern then decided to make an effort and signed up for the evening course in Toronto. However, it seemed that few ladies were interested, and only two showed up on the first evening of classes. One gave up after a week when she found it too difficult. Only one student continued on the course, Fern Blodgett, and she would not give up at all.

During the war it had become difficult to find enough crews for the allied ships, and several Canadians took up employment, some also on Norwegian ships. When she finished her radio course, Fern now hoped to

get a job on a ship in the Atlantic trade. She now wanted to do something real in the war. She thought: Why shouldn't I risk my life, when millions of men do? Is a woman's life more precious than a man's?

On June 13, 1941, she received her certificate as a radio telegraph operator. She was the first woman in Canada to earn a telegraph operator's license, and is also described as "the Western world's first female ship radiotelegraphist". While qualifying as a radio telegraph operator, the Norwegian ship M/S "Mosdale" belonging to Mosvold's shipping company was in port in Montreal in the absence of a radio telegraph operator. The M/S "Mosdale" was built for fruit shipping and had refrigeration equipment, and during the war was used to transport food supplies from North America to Britain. The ship was fast, had a chance to sail from German submarines, and therefore also sailed outside convoy.

Fern was given an exemption to take up employment on M/S "Mosdale". During World War II, she sailed 78 voyages across the Atlantic. There were three telegraph operators on board, as during the war there were telegraph operators on duty 24 hours a day. On M/S "Mosdale", Fern Blodgett was second telegraph operator from 14 June 1941 until 1943, when she was promoted first telegraph operator. Fern then became in charge of the radio station, and received subordinates in the positions of second and third telegraph operator. Fern Blodgett is credited with being the first woman to report over the radio the

position of an enemy submarine. Her work and efforts received great attention already during the war years, with articles in several newspapers and magazines. Her story was also told in 1941 in "Communications from the Director of Shipping". M/S "Mosdale"'s captain was Gerner Sunde from Farsund, Norway, and the two were also married during the war.

After Fern had begun sailing as a telegraph operator, 21 Canadian and two American female telegraph operators followed her on Norwegian merchant ships during the war. In 1943 she was awarded the War Medal for her efforts. When she was presented with the medal by King Haakon in 1943, she was the first female recipient of the award. The case received great international attention, and the Sunde couple were interviewed on the BBC, both in English and Norwegian. Fern Blodgett Sunde sailed as first telegraph operator on M/S "Mosdale" until March 1946, when the ship docked in Norway. She then settled in Farsund and sailed a few trips until she went ashore for good in 1952. Fern Sunde died in 1991.

SOURCES: «Happy MOSDALE» a biography written by Eiliv Odde Hauge – J.W. Eides Publishers 1954



Thanks to SKCC reflector

Start Your Field Day Planning

The 2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 and 23 and is always one of the biggest operating events of the year. Many clubs across the country say that Field Day is their most popular event for a variety of reasons. Some clubs treat it as a contest (even though no one wins Field Day). It is a great chance to see what contesting is like with much less pressure. Some clubs make it a training event for emergency operations by setting up in a different location and trying to communicate with antennas using power that is temporary. Other clubs hold a family gathering for members and guests to get together and have fun around the radios. It is also a fantastic opportunity to show off the capabilities of ham radio to the public. Invite the mayor, the fire chief, the police chief, or other local agencies to come by. Get them on the air to make a contact or two. And do not forget the GOTA station. Give new or shy hams the chance to operate HF.

ARRL resources are available online at field-day.arrl.org. Do not forget to check out the ARRL Store for Field Day swag to help make the weekend fun. Get a t-shirt, a hat, or other merchandise to commemorate the event. Also, make sure to put your club's Field Day site on the Field Day Station Locator at [Field Day Station Locator \(arrl.org\)](http://Field Day Station Locator (arrl.org)).

Field Day is something different to all hams, but the important part is that you have fun and "Be Radio Active." Be sure to read the "Club Station" column in the June issue of QST (the digital edition is available May 3) for some tips on how clubs can make Field Day their own.

Thanks to ARRL Club News

Researchers Expect 'Extremely Active' Hurricane Season

The Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team forecasts 23 named storms, including 11 hurricanes. The Climate Adaptation Center in Florida is predicting 24 named storms, 12 hurricanes. (TNS) - As the El Niño conditions likely transition to La Niña conditions during the summer and fall this year, researchers are forecasting an "extremely active" hurricane season. El Niño refers to the above-average sea-surface temperatures that periodically develop across the east-central equatorial Pacific, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It represents the warm phase of the cycle, and La Niña refers to the periodic cooling of sea-surface temperatures across the east-central equatorial Pacific.

The Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team forecasts 23 named storms, including 11 hurricanes, five of which will be major hurricanes. A slightly more intense prediction was released from the Climate Adaptation Center in Florida, which forecasted the 2024 hurricane season to feature 24 named storms, 12 hurricanes, and six major hurricanes.

Both research intuitions predict an active hurricane season in response to record-warm sea surface temperatures in much of the southern Atlantic, Caribbean, and even part of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the sea surface temperatures are forecasted to remain well above average this year during the active hurricane season. "These are record-setting warm temperatures for this early in the season," a portion of the Climate Adaptation Center in Florida stated. "A warmer-than-normal tropical Atlantic provides a more conducive dynamic and thermodynamic environment for hurricane formation and intensification. This forecast is of above-normal confidence for an early April outlook," a portion of the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team forecast read.

A second variable contributing to the increased hurricane activity this season is the shift in wind shear from El Niño conditions to La Niña. When El Niño occurs, the wind shear in the Atlantic Hurricane Development Area, which includes the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and southern portions of the Atlantic, is higher than normal, the Climate Adaptation Center report explains. The report adds that typically, during El Niño years, there are fewer hurricanes and fewer strong hurricanes. When conditions shift to La Niña, the less wind shear results in more clouds surrounding the eye of a tropical storm, which can stack up. When this happens, the storm can quickly intensify, and with warm sea surface temperatures, it can intensify quickly.

With the variables shifting to more conclusive conditions for hurricanes, researchers from both institutions anticipate that the environmental conditions offer a "well above-average probability" of major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and the Caribbean.

Thanks to Government Technology online

1 in 3 Chance of Major Tropical Storm in Connecticut

April 15, 2024 Vincent Gabrielle, Journal Inquirer, Manchester, Conn.

(TNS) - A Colorado State University team has predicted a strong hurricane season in 2024, with expectations that Connecticut has about a one in three chance of experiencing a named tropical storm off its coast this year. The CSU Tropical Weather and Climate Research team prediction comes part in parcel with an overall prediction of an intense hurricane season for the Atlantic seaboard. The team estimates 23 named storms, 11 hurricanes and an overall 65 percent chance of landfall somewhere on the East Coast.

"This is a big one," said Levi Silvers, a climate researcher at Colorado State University. "All of the indicators we have are pointing towards this being a very active season."

Every year, two centers produce forecasts of the Atlantic hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and CSU try to estimate whether a hurricane season will be "normal," above or below average. According to NOAA, the official hurricane season for the Atlantic basin is from June 1 to Nov. 30, with peak activity blowing in around Sept. 10, and most of the activity swirling around the area between mid-August and mid-October. Silvers said that two factors were at play making the hurricane forecast particularly fraught this upcoming season. The first is that the tropical section of the Atlantic Ocean was experiencing record temperatures. Warm water is the fuel that drives hurricane formation. The second factor is that a La Niña system is developing, which makes it easier for hurricanes to form. To put it in fire terms: it's like the forest has a ton of dead, dry wood, and it hasn't rained for a long time. The conditions are ripe for a massive blaze.

Neither NOAA or CSU attempt to say where or when particular storms will develop, nor can they forecast where they will make landfall this far out. Silvers said that weather events are simply too chaotic to forecast with that kind of precision. "The atmosphere is a chaotic system, that's why your weather forecasts don't go out beyond ten days," said Silvers. "We can predict in advance something like El Niño, how long the Atlantic might stay warm, and those give us the ability to make a longer term general prediction." What CSU does is try to reasonably forecast the number of named storms, tropical storms, major hurricanes and the likelihood of landfall for each state on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico. A CBS TV affiliate in Florida found that CSU's estimates for major storms were typically within three

storms, which is fairly accurate.

Connecticut emergency management officials take CSU's predictions seriously. Brenda Bergeron deputy commissioner for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection said the state was following CSU's predictions closely to prepare for the upcoming season. "We are studying the hurricane forecast for this year and talking about how we would respond to it," said Bergeron. "We are very much conscious of the upcoming hurricane season, and we are doing preparations for anything that might come our way." It might seem odd that Connecticut would be in the line of fire for an intense hurricane season. We are, after all, very far up the coast from where hurricanes typically make landfall. Silvers said the risk wasn't so much that a major hurricane would make landfall here, but that extreme storms or the aftershocks of a hurricane could still cause major wind and flood damage.

"One of the now classic examples you can point to is what happened with Sandy," said Silvers, who formerly taught at Stony Brook University in New York. "It made a huge impact on the area." When Sandy made landfall in New Jersey in October 2012, it was no longer a hurricane but an extra-tropical cyclone, the remains of a hurricane that was later called a "superstorm." And the damage it caused was extreme in and around New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Silvers said the risk to our area wasn't so much that a major hurricane would make landfall, but that an intense hurricane season could create similar superstorms with extreme rain events and coastal surges.

Josh Cingranelli, a regional coordinator with the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security said that his primary concerns were with heavy rain, storm surges flowing into Long Island Sound and downed trees causing damage. But he said a hurricane making landfall here wasn't out of the question, either. "The last landfalling hurricane was in 1985 here in Connecticut," said Cingranelli. "We are well above the average return period, which is around 15 years, for a minimum Category 1 hurricane." Even at that lowest end of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, a Category 1 can produce winds of 74 to 95 mph, causing damage to mobile homes, trees, piers, power lines and poles that likely will result in power outages that could last up to several days. "One thing I'll say ... is that it only takes one storm," said Bergeron. "We always prepare as if the one storm that comes up this year is going to be the one that hits us." She encouraged people, particularly those on the coast, to be prepared with emergency supplies, radios, batteries, flashlights and water, well ahead of a potential storm.

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Thanks to Government Technology online

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test May 11, 2024

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 11, 2024. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations. The event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111.

These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All scheduled times will be in Zulu (Z), and all scheduled frequencies will be upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.

Information on frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day. Information for QSL cards and contact information is available at Armed Forces Day QSL request form.

AFD is classified as an observance -- not a federal holiday. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and it will be a time of honor. The establishment of AFD was first announced on August 31, 1949,

by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. It was meant to replace the separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. All branches were combined to create the US Department of Defense. The first Armed Forces Day was held on May 20, 1950. The day is celebrated with special events, tributes, observances, and parades.

Thanks to ARRL Letter

Amateur Radio Provides Communications Support for Boston Marathon

On Monday, April 15, 2024, ham radio operators provided communications for the 128th running of the Boston Marathon. More than 280 radio amateurs participated in the event.

The marathon is one of the largest events for which hams provide communications support. It drew volunteers from many different places. "Operators are volunteering across Start, Course, Finish, Transportation, and various operations centers, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Unified Command Center (UCC) and the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Race Operations Center (ROC) in Boston. They are performing communications duties that include logistics support as a primary function, and backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race as needed," wrote District Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Rob Macedo, KD1CY.

Amateur radio operators serving in the Unified Command Center (UCC) for the 128th running of the Boston Marathon. [Section Manager of the ARRL Rhode Island Section Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, photo] Amateur radio operator volunteers supported the BAA, the American Red Cross, and other agencies surrounding the event, according to Macedo.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter

Joke of the Month

Dates

Two fellows walk into a bar and order their favorite brew. Sitting at the bar around the corner from them is an older gentleman looking down at his beer, and shaking his head now and then and talking slowly to himself. After a while one of the fellows looks at the gentleman and asks, "You OK mister?"

The older gentleman looks up, smiles and says, "Yelp, just a lot of my mind."

The younger man asks, "Is there anything we can do for you, Sir?"

The older gentleman smiles again and says, "no, but I'll tell you what I was pondering. I have seen the dates of 5/5/55, 6/6/66, 7/7/77, 8/8/88, 9/9/99, 1/1/11, 2/2/22, and now 2/22/22. I just realized I'm getting damn old!"

Quote of the Month

"Real courage is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. Doing the unpopular thing because it's what you believe, and the heck with everybody."

Justin Cronin, American author