

SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

June 2024

Officers		Repeaters
President	Jim Moore KC3BTV	146.970 (-) 77hz pl Dover
Vice-President	Hunter Grier W3CZ	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 First Day of Hurricane Season

Happenings

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 below in Club News
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
June 24	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
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
August 28	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
September 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
September 25	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
October 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
October 23	DARC Meeting, Salisbury, see https://www.qsl.net/darc/ for details
October 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
November 20	DARC Dinner Meeting, Salisbury, No program. See qsl.net/darc for details
November 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00

Hamfests

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, as many are and have been.

Editor's Comments

This month is ARRL Summer Field Day which happens on June 22-23. Details are in a couple of places in this newsletter, but basically things will kick off Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon. This year the club will be using the special call of N3Y again, and will be operating 4A. That means quite a few operators are going to be needed!

The club has used "1X1" calls in the past. The first time was in 2000 when we used the call "W3W". I remember being asked often what the rest of the call was, as 1X1's were relatively new. KCARC worked as a 3A with no GOTA and made 1515 contacts. That year we started to spread out the stations at the C&R Center and used a router to live stream contacts with all computers. We did have a six meter station that gave us some contacts, but most were made on HF SSB and some CW, no digital Qs. We had some very good propagation that year!

Sounds impressive since we made 850 contacts last year as 3A, but really those 1515 contacts in 2000 are less than 20 contacts per hour for the three stations, plus some six meter contacts. Our breakdown from last year was 110 phone contacts, 681 CW contacts (thank you Eric) and 59 digital. In 2012 we were 6A and had 2199 contacts, which really isn't good as we did in 2000, as that is only 15 contacts per

hour for the six transmitters.

The “fun” of ham radio is making contacts with people. It is no fun to sit there at a radio and not talk to anyone, but to make those contacts and that “fun” means you need to be proactive. Either call “CQ” or slowly tune across the bands (S&P) and jump into that “pile-up”, if there is one. Don't be afraid of the mic! As the tee shirt says, “ham radio is a contact sport”!

Field Day helps give people experience to be a Net Control on a local, or regional net. It also helps with handling emergency traffic, as does most phone or CW contesting because you need to copy the report accurately. Just as you would copying emergency priority traffic under less than ideal conditions. As one publication stated; “ARRL Field Day was started to prepare amateurs for portable operation, as was necessary for disaster situations when commercial power and means of communication were down. In 1935, the ARRL Emergency Corps was formed with the goal of having an amateur radio emergency station in every community. This goal remains just as urgent today as it did then! Just look at today's emphasis on the neighborhood and community as a “first responder” and on self-reliance in the post-disaster survival chain.”

So come out to Field Day and ask questions of the people who have been doing amateur radio for a while, have fun, and operate. Contact Hunter and get your name on the list for operation and make some contacts, and eat a burger too!

In the Emcomm Column our EC mentions listening to someone taking 20 minutes to pass three NTS messages. One of the reasons for that is the person sending, and sometimes receiving, the message is not following NTS standard protocol. This happens often on all of the nets I listen to except MDD, MSN, and other CW nets. I'm not saying that CW is perfect, but in a CW net you send one character at a time and nothing is added. Using the proper pro-words and following the form, will speed up the passing of traffic. See “Too Many Words / Not Enough Words” in the Tidbit section.

President's Column

Stuff happens. Not long after I was first licensed, I used to prowl the dial looking for conversations. Every morning there was a chat on 75 meters from somewhere in the Carolina's. After listening for several days, not thinking closely about what frequency they were using, I thought I would answer their call for any additional check-ins. I gave my call, adding that I was a newly minted General. After a couple of seconds of silence, one of the group advised me that I was in a section of the band reserved for Amateur Extra licensees. Oops! I was more careful after that to observe my band restrictions.

Earlier this week I was observing a plumbing contractor employee digging a trench for a water line when he hit an energized power line. He commented on seeing sparks as he hit it and said he would splice the wire. The next day, after a rain shower, the breaker controlling a pond aeration pump would not reset and some other outside outlets were dead. The general contractor had the plumber come back to the job site to fix the problem. It turned out that there were two wires that the employee had hit and neither one had been repaired. The plumbing company owner was not happy and said the extra cost would come out of the employee's paycheck, not because he cut the wire but because he didn't report it and fix it.

Sometimes we accidentally break something, drop something or whatever. Like I said to begin, stuff happens. Either properly fix it or let someone in charge know so it can be fixed to be usable in case of an emergency. No blame, just to be prepared to fulfill our mission if needed. By the way, there are signs pointing to an active hurricane season.

Jim KC3BTV
President KCARC

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

As I write this newsletter on Memorial Day, I can't help but think of all of those who sacrificed so much. Although I was in public safety for nearly 40 years, I did not serve in the military. My daughter was a soldier, her husband still is, my dad and one Uncle were in the Navy during WWII. We can never thank our Veterans enough.

Legislative Update: Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA)

The "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act" bill is being pushed along. I currently have several hundred letters but that is not enough. As a section we need to get as many as possible. In addition to all licensees, club presidents and other group leaders have been asked to provide a letter as well representing their members. As it stands now all letters will be hand delivered in DC. Pass the word to all licensee's you meet. Anyone can contact me for blank copies of the letters to keep on hand.

Field Day 2024

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air events held annually in the US and Canada on the fourth weekend in June. Every year more than 40,000 hams set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. This year's Field Day is being held June 22-23. The June issue of QST has a superb Field Day Guide with a checklist. I would be remiss to not mention a few things about Field Day with the most important being safety. The ARRL has a great list of items you should consider for Field Day such as having a GOTA station, proper band plan and antenna planning and media coverage. On the ARRL site has a superb set of media and social media coverage documents including a press release. Points add up! So, send a message to me via WinLink, post to social media, get a GOTA station on the air, and have a Safety Officer. The best way to have a safe Field Day is to plan ahead. Such items as fire safety, tripping hazards, self-supported masts, protection from heat just to name a few. I will be visiting Field Day sites on Saturday with other section staff. Post your Field Day site on the ARRL Field Day Locator site so others can find your site. Visit the ARRL website for details.

ARRL Service Disruption

The ARRL is in the process of responding to a serious incident involving access to their network and HQ based systems. These outages include .org emails (include both Division and Section emails), LogBook of the World, ARRL Learning Center and others. Please be patient while the ARRL restores its systems.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members

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

KC3BRL Daniel T. Brown JR

KC3DAI James Brown

KC3ZCD Ronald Lawson

Upcoming Events

June 1-2 is the International Digital Contest; June 8-10 is June VHF Contest; June 15 is Kids Day and Field Day 2024 is June 23-24. Looking ahead to July, the first week of July is the 13 Colonies event where Delaware Stations run the K2E callsign. Details can be found on the ARRL Contest Calendar.

Let's Stay Engaged & Challenged

Many have, including myself, have called Amateur Radio Service a hobby. It's more than a hobby, it's our passion. We must continue to grow inviting youth to join us, to provide challenges to keep licensees engaged and increase our skill set to make us more useful to our communities. This is not just a hobby; it's what we love; the Amateur Radio Service. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss our ARS in Delaware.

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

The other day I attended a “class” on how not to run a regional traffic net. The net control chatted while trying to find his script, he hemmed and hawed with “ums” throughout the net, he used non-standard phrases while trying to receive traffic, and insisted on having a round of comments even though propagation was not good. The net took 20 minutes to pass three messages. I would hate to see what would happen in a real crisis. The answer to the problem is practice, practice, practice. The idea is to make your words and actions automatic both sending and receiving. When everybody uses standard terms, both ends of the transmission know what to expect thus eliminating confusion, repeats, and wasted time. There are specific instructions in phraseology and formatting available at <https://www.arrl.org/table-of-contents-nts-methods-and-practices-guidelines>.

The Delaware Traffic (SSB) net meets Monday thru Saturday on or about 3905KHz at 2230Z and the Delmarva Emergency Net meets at the same time/frequency on Sunday. All with General or above licenses are invited to participate and anyone can listen using a web sdr such as <http://websdr.k3fef.com:8901/> even if you are restricted by HOA or license limits. In addition, the 3rd Region Net (MD, DC, PA & DE) meets seven days a week at 3918KHz at 1600 local time and all with General or above licenses are invited to participate and anyone can listen using a web sdr. Participate to broaden your skill set.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

AUXCOMM News

We’ve been saying, all of us, “sooner or later we’re gonna get it”. Well, if we don’t “git got” in the coming Hurricane Season, it’s going to miss a good chance, one of the best it’s had in a while. If you’ve been watching the weather in the rest of the country, and who hasn’t, Mother Nature is certainly on a rampage. Her Winter Season was a doozy out west, her Tornado Season is setting records in the mid U.S., so why not give the east coast a little fun, too. If we’re to believe the predictions for the coming season, this is supposed to be the worst season ever.

So, what’cher plan? You do have one, don’t you? Got your kit together, yard cleaned up, family preparations in place? The calendar is moving forward, but there is still time to at least do something. There’s been plenty of publicity based on “Be informed, Have a Plan, Build a kit”. Don’t know where to start, what to do? Google it!

Do not think for even a New York minute that you have nothing to worry about. The situation that there is very little ‘storm memory’ around here is a real problem. A big one! The last real weather emergency that had a multi-day impact on Sussex and Kent County was nearly 14 years ago, the Double Blizzards, a.k.a. “Snowmageddon”. Hurricane Sandy was only a near miss, nothing to get excited about. Think of “Sandy” coming up the Chesapeake Bay. It’s a possibility. Or maybe a Category 5 following the Gulf Stream up the coast with a 10 – 12 foot storm surge. A very large percentage of the Sussex County residents, particularly the recent influx into the myriad of planned communities gobbling up farm land, do not have any concept of what can happen, nor how fast it will go from “sunny and bright” to “Oh S __ T!”.

So, are you prepared and ready? Update your plan, check your kit, and review your family’s Emergency Plan. Do a good inspection of the house and yard. Correct any problems you find. Then, get ready for

Field Day, June 22-23, and get out there and practice your communication skills! Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see plans for several of the downstate clubs and groups and where they will be operating. Or go it alone, hit a park, and do POTA and Field Day at the same time!

Yes, there is a chance that there will be some real weather emergencies in the next few months. That's the reality. The good news is this is also the opportunity you need to take advantage of as an amateur radio operator to show what amateur radio can do, "When All Else Fails". And fail it will! It won't take much to knock the majority of telephone service in the county out. That will put a whole lot of people on the edge of panic. It could be a life threatening emergency for someone with a personal or family emergency that can't call 911. We (AUXCOMM) have been pushing and talking up the concept of the "Ham in the Community". You could be that ham, and the operator that saves the day. We will be talking more about this program and the coming Hurricane Season at the next AUXCOMM regular monthly meeting, Thursday evening, June 13th, at 1900 in the Training Room of the EOC. Want to know more, come on out. By the way, despite the new construction, it is still the EOC; the new name is the Emergency Operations Complex.

The Sussex AUXCOMM Field Day, Saturday June 22, 1000 – 1800 will be doing a combined CERT and AUXCOMM event with displays, literature, demonstrations, and of course radios in operation. It is also anticipated that the long awaited interior renovation of the CERT Trailer by the County Maintenance Shops will be finished, and it will be on display. The trailer radios are being set up, antennas added, and cables installed and they will be ready for operation that day, if nothing else gets done. The complement of radios will allow operation on the amateur bands from HF through UHF, along with the County's 800 MHz dispatch system, and the County UHF channels, with 12 Motorola portables for CERT Team use.

Later, 73

John K3PFW

Club Happenings

Test of 146.910 Successful

In one of the rare times that your editor was awake and upright on a Saturday morning in time for the ARES net, a test of the 146.910 repeater was conducted by Tom, N3ARX, immediately after the net on 146.970. It was a very successful test as HT's were able to get into the machine from Smyrna. Very impressive. A complete report will be given at the club meeting.

KCARC Participates in Radiological Drill

On Tuesday the 21st, members from KCARC participated in the biennial Salem Radiological drill. Assistance was provided by setting up the amateur station and demonstrating the ability to make contacts that would be available if all other systems went down. This is part of the redundancy aspect of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), which is available on line if you're interested.

Kent was the only EOC participating in the exercise, a fact that was probably noticed by the FEMA grader at Dover, no New Castle, no DEMA. The radio room gave a demonstration of multiple modes of communication, even some of the "dark side". I was waiting for Darth to walk in the room.

Our Vice President Has A New Call

When you see Hunter, congratulate him on getting a new vanity call sign, W3CZ. Rolls off the tongue a little better than the old. If you listened to the REP drill on Tuesday, you heard it on the air.

Field Day Coming!!

Some or most of the meeting this month will be about preparations for Field Day and will be your chance to sign up and show your support, either by operating or by helping to set up and tear down. Right now,

plans are for having a 4A operation, but semi long range weather forecasts may change that. The club has the use of Brecknock County Park in Camden again this year so we will have access to the pavilion and the rest rooms all night.

We are hoping for a very good showing this year and that can be done only if you help. Plan on coming to the meeting and throw your hat in the ring for helping the club achieve that goal.

In The Pages of QST.....

Looking in the June edition of QST, I ran across a couple of familiar call sign. In the results of the 2023 November Sweepstakes, phone results under the "Top Ten Youth Overlay" I found KC3VTB. Hunter was not first, but he was not last! Good job Hunter.

In the same issue under the results for the 2023 160 Meter Contest under "Single Operator Unlimited High Power" was Jon, AA1K, who placed third in his class in the USA and Canada. Congratulations Jon, and we hope to see you at Field Day.

Updated 5/29/2024 (from Mike Walters, Field Services Manager)

This update includes information about the status of several services as we continue to respond to a serious incident involving access to our network and systems.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) has resumed the processing of Amateur Radio License applications with the FCC. A more comprehensive update on the status of ARRL VEC services is available here.

There has been no interruption to visitors operating at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. The station resumed voice bulletins on Thursday, May 23. All other scheduled transmissions, including Morse code practice, and code and digital bulletins, will resume on Thursday, May 30. Please refer to the regular operating schedule at www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule.

After last week's distribution of the ARRL Letter, our e-newsletter service has resumed. Current editions of ARRL Club News and The ARES® Letter have also been distributed.

ARRL Store orders have resumed shipping. Orders are being fulfilled from earliest order dates to the latest. Please allow additional time for our processing.

There has been no disruption to the @arrl.net email forwarding service, though forwarding email addresses and aliases cannot be modified at this time.

Our telephone system is unavailable at this time.

We appreciate your patience as we continue working on restoring access to affected systems and services.

Useless Facts of the Month

There are two ATM machines in Antarctica. (Talk about "cold cash"!!)

The University of Glasgow offers a Homer Simpson philosophy course. (D'oh)

The average person has about five dreams per night, or 1,825 dreams per year (Maybe I Dream of Jeannie?)

On average, more than 100,000 people a day get a speeding ticket in the United States. (And some just "ride too fast")

NASCAR can trace its roots back to the Prohibition era in the United States. In the 1920s and early 1930s, bootleggers needed fast cars to outrun law enforcement officers while transporting illegal alcohol. To evade capture, these bootleggers would modify their cars to enhance speed and handling, essentially creating the first stock cars. After Prohibition was repealed in 1933, these drivers found themselves with souped-up cars but without a purpose. They initiated informal races, paving the way for the creation of formal racing circuits that later developed into what we now know as NASCAR.

Originally named "Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda," 7 Up was launched two weeks before the Wall Street Crash of 1929. The drink originally contained lithium citrate, a mood-stabilizing drug, until 1948. Its name was later shortened to "7 Up Lithiated Lemon Soda" before being further shortened to just "7 Up" by 1936. The origin of the name "7 Up" is shrouded in mystery. One theory suggests it reflects the seven primary ingredients of the drink, while an alternate theory speculates it is a subtle nod to the atomic mass of lithium, which is 7.

Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

Sussex AUXCOMM / CERT Combined Field Day

The Sussex County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and Sussex County AUXCOMM are having a combined Field Day, Saturday June 22, 1000 – 1800 at the Sussex County EOC located at the Georgetown Airport. The two groups came together in a shared administrative support arrangement in January of this year. The two groups have complementing community service, disaster preparedness and communication support activities.

Since it is the ARRL Field Day, members of the AUXCOMM Group will be demonstrating a variety of amateur radio equipment and operations. There will be individual operators setting up portable operation on the patio and the AUXCOMM Room will be operational for the more contest minded operators. Both groups will have literature, displays and videos in the Training Room. Members from several of the active CERT teams in the county will be on hand to explain the CERT program and answer questions.

The two groups support and will be using the CERT Trailer which it is hoped will have its first public appearance following a renovation and refurbishment by the county maintenance shops and the AUXCOMM Group. The two groups will use the unit in both individual and combined activities. For the CERT Teams it will serve as a Command Post and supply cache if a team is activated in its community for a disaster response. For AUXCOMM it is a portable communication asset featuring HF through VHF capability, as well as county 800 MHz and UHF. For a disaster incident response, both groups will support the operation, with CERT doing its thing and AUXCOMM providing communication support on scene and back to the county EOC.

Mark your calendars and come out and visit, or request an opportunity to operate amateur radio, yours in a portable configuration on the Patio, or ours in a sit down air conditioned environment. Contact WS3EOC@gmail.com for more information. This is Field Day, rain or shine, with air conditioning and flush toilets! It should be a great opportunity to learn about ham radio, CERT, and the support of the county's emergency response by these two groups.

911 System Concerns

Former chairs of the FCC have expressed concern that the American 9-1-1 system, a vital part of the nation's emergency response infrastructure, is outdated and urgently requires a technological overhaul

to enhance public safety. Since its inception in 1968, the 9-1-1 system has saved countless lives, but it currently relies on aging technologies not suited to the data-centric and multimedia communication methods prevalent today. The advancement to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) is essential for improving emergency response capabilities, including better reliability, cybersecurity, accessibility for the disabled, and data sharing for effective emergency response. – Donnie Monette, Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator, Response Division, FEMA Region 04

Thanks to FEMA Reports

The Hurricane Names Are Out

Alberto, Beryl and Chris lead off the list of storm names for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which officially gets underway June 1. A tropical storm gets a name when its sustained winds reach 39 mph; it becomes a hurricane when its winds reach 74 mph. The names are given out in alphabetical order, and each new storm gets the next name on the list. There are no Q, U, X, Y or Z names because of the lack of usable names that begin with those letters. A typical Atlantic hurricane season averages about 14 tropical storms, seven of which spin into hurricanes, based on weather records that date from 1991 to 2020.

Forecasters are predicting a whopper of a season, with as many as 33 named storms possible, hurricane experts from the University of Pennsylvania said in a forecast released earlier this month. Here is the list of names for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season:

Alberto	Helene	Oscar
Beryl	Isaac	Patty
Chris	Joyce	Rafael
Debby	Kirk	Sara
Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
Francine	Milton	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William

If all 21 names are used this year, there is a supplemental list of 21 names that will be used after William. Here is that list, from the World Meteorological Organization:

Adria	Heath	Orlanda
BraylenIsla	Isla	Pax
Caridad	Jacobus	Ronin
Deshawn	Kenzie	Sophie
Emery	Lucio	Tayshaun
Foster	Makayla	Viviana
Gemma	Nolan	Will

Eastern Pacific hurricane names

There is a separate list for tropical storms and hurricanes that form in the eastern Pacific Ocean:

Aletta	Ileana	Rosa
Bud	John	Sergio
Carlotta	Kristy	Tara
Daniel	Lane	Vicente
Emilia	Miriam	Willa
Fabio	Norman	Xavier
Gilma	Olivia	Yolanda
Hector	Paul	Zeke

Eastern Pacific hurricanes seldom have any direct impact on the U.S., though Hilary did wreak havoc across portions of California and the Southwest last year. The eastern Pacific season begins on May 15, more than two weeks earlier than the Atlantic season.

There is a separate list of names for Central Pacific hurricanes, which can occasionally hit Hawaii. In addition, there are separate lists for typhoons in the western Pacific and tropical cyclones in Australia and the Indian Ocean.

Thanks to Government Technology on line and USA Today

Delaware Single Sign-On Adds Payment Portal for Residents

As governments nationwide work toward providing digital services via an Amazon-like experience, CIO Greg Lane outlines launching Delaware's single sign-on solution with a payment portal.

May 07, 2024 Lauren Kinkade, Noelle Knell

As part of its ongoing effort to establish a single sign-on portal for residents and visitors looking to do business with the state, Delaware has begun adding an online payment option to its offerings. In an interview with GovTech in January, Delaware CIO Greg Lane said the payment portal would allow users to access their payment histories with multiple agencies from a single website. At the NASCIO Midyear conference in Maryland last week, he reported that the first agency on the new payment engine, the Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Management, went live in mid-April. Lane said they wanted to "start small" and that they've already learned a lot from that first application, but that once the system expands to other agencies, it will ideally feel like checking out and paying on a website like Amazon.

The new system will be a big digital upgrade for a lot of Delaware's service offerings. "There are a number of agencies that still take checks and people walking in, so we're really excited to give those agencies a solution that they don't have," Lane said. "And for everyone else, we are leveraging this engine to ensure we have PCI compliance, something that they have to achieve, and it's just a great way to do that and give a good user experience to those whom we provide services to."

That seamless user experience was also a focus for Lane's predecessor, Jason Clarke, who described user-friendliness, along with security, as among the chief drivers of Delaware's identity and access management work.

Thanks to Government Technology online

Too Many Words / Not Enough Words

You may have seen this before, especially if you are not new to EAN Cycle 2. Some of you have been working on it and doing a good job. For some of you, it did not take. Amateur radio is a hobby. Traffic handling is a commitment.

Copy is made easier and more accurate in all conditions, when we are all on the same page. In times of poor propagation that we have been having and are having presently, knowing and using the proper procedures, proper pro-words and proper introductory words, not only makes it easier, but makes copy and especially correct copy possible. It is much easier for the receiving operator to hear and correctly copy a radiogram when the sending operator follows the correct procedures. The receiving operator knows what to expect next and the copy runs smoothly with no surprises and confusion. In contrast, when the sending operator fails to use proper procedures, copy and especially correct copy becomes highly more difficult and much more prone to confusion and errors. In the present poor propagation conditions that we are experiencing, we need as many things going correctly for us that we can get.

"Too Many Words and Sometimes Not Enough Words" -

The NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines states - On CW the characters and spaces are sent one at a time, making copy simple. Groups on CW are not introduced, and they are spelled as sent. On voice we are faced with a quite different situation. We must say words to induce correct copy, and are forced to deal with language perceptions. These tools and rules tend to minimize the variability caused by those perceptions and lead to accurate and efficient message transmission.

As for tools and rules, the NTS Manual and Methods and Practices Guidelines list Pro-words (procedural words), Introductory Words and Operational Words to facilitate efficient and correct copy. We must use these words and not the incorrect words that someone else has made up.

Some of us are using words that are *unnecessary and are causing errors and confusion, especially in difficult propagation. The following *wrong words are not listed in the NTS Manual or MPG's and are "not to be used" in handling traffic on phone;

"Please copy 'message number'" (All radiograms start with the word NUMBER or BOOK OF ____.)

"Check off" (Added for no reason. We have the radiogram form in front of us, we can see that the check follows the station of origin, it does not have to be introduced.)

"Today's date" (Don't expect the receiving operator to stop and look at the calendar, The date should be written on the radiogram form from which you are sending. Just say what it says on your radiogram. Just say, example – May 1,7 and not seventeen. Per the NTS, we must relay the radiogram exactly the same way it was written, so if I am copying and you say 'one seven", I will write 17. If you say seventeen, I must write "seventeen". If you say initials Mike Alpha, I will write MA. If you say Massachusetts, I must write down Massachusetts, every letter, so give me a long time to write every letter and check my spelling before you say the next word.

"Going to" (Unnecessary. Added for no reason. We have the form, we can see that the name of the addressee follows the date of origin.)

"Go" (Go is not an NTS pro-word. Do not use it. However, if you have received a fill and you are ready to continue copying, say "GO AHEAD". A quick go is difficult to hear and understand during poor band conditions, Go Ahead has a much better chance of being heard.)

"Break for text" or "break for signature." (These are not NTS pro-words. Just say, plain, short and simple,

"BREAK". Remember, there is no response to BREAK, unless you need a fill. The sender will say,

"Break", and if the receiving operator does not need a fill, he/she will remain silent, and after 3 or 4 seconds, the sender will continue. The result is high efficiency with less doubling and confusion. There are only 2 "Breaks" in a radiogram, one at the beginning of the text and one at the end of the text. There are many "Breaks" in a book because there can only be one END in a book and it is "End Book". The Breaks in a book are at the end of the Preamble, because we are not listing any addresses yet. Then at the end of the text as usual and at the end of signature. It has to be a break because we are not yet at the End. Then give the first addressee and address with a break at the end. Then a break after each address "except", after the last address you will say "End book" because you are at the "End" of the book.

"How did you do?" (It sounds like a nice greeting when you meet someone socially, however it is not included as an NTS pro-word. Do not use it.)

"Common parts" (It is not an NTS Pro-word and is not to be spoken in "sending" a book.) However, it may be used in asking a question about "the common parts of the book".

When we keep it simple, we are accurate and efficient. Added, non NTS, words cause confusion, errors, more fills and inefficiency (wasted time).

Thanks to Dennis, W8YS, EAN Net Manger

Joke of the Month

A proud and confident genius makes a bet with an idiot. The genius says, "Hey idiot, every question I ask you that you don't know the answer, you have to give me \$5. And if you ask me a question and I can't answer yours I will give you \$5,000."

The idiot says, "Okay."

The genius then asks, "How many continents are there in the world?" The idiot doesn't know and hands over the \$5.

The idiot says, "Now me ask: what animal stands with two legs but sleeps with three?" The genius tries and searches very hard for the answer but gives up and hands over the \$5000. The genius says, "Dang it, I lost. By the way, what was the answer to your question?"

The idiot hands over \$5

Quote of the Month

"Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life."

Jackie Robinson