

## From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

As I write this newsletter in the comfort of my air conditioning, I think back to just a few days ago I was visiting Field Day sites in both Sussex and Kent Counties where the temps were in the mid to high 90's. I camped at Trap Pond State Park enabling me to visit the nearby FD sites as well as work POTA from the park.

### Field Day 2024

Another ARRL Field Day is in the books! Field Day, the premier amateur radio event of the year, did not disappoint. I visited several sites and encountered a wide variety of setups. Some had GOTA stations, one was operated mainly within an EOC, and another was fully set up in a park with several command-type vehicles used by radio operators. The air conditioning in the vehicles made operating pleasant and safer. The social aspect of these events is a major draw. While not everyone is passionate about operating, everyone enjoys socializing with other operators. The food and camaraderie are often the highlights of the event.

### ARRL Service Disruption

The ARRL is still in the process of bringing their network back online. Some of the .org email addresses and other functions are still down. If you need to speak with anyone from the ARRL HQ I would suggest calling 1-860-594-0200 or 1-888-277-5289 (toll-free in the US), Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 7 PM Eastern Time, and until 5 PM on Fridays. LOTW data are secure and are now becoming intermittently usable.

### Club Grant Program

A new ARRL Foundation Club Grants program, funded by a grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), will make \$500,000 available to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. The projects will need to be "transformative" in nature. Visit the ARRL page and search "Club Grant Program" for more information.

### Club Commission Program

The ARRL Club Commission Program is a club benefit program that provides benefits to your club when your club members become new ARRL Members or renew their existing ARRL Membership. Each new ARRL Standard membership earns the club \$20 commission. Renewals the club \$5 each. There is no limit to what a club can earn. Visit the main ARRL page and search "Club Commission Program" for details along with documents and guidelines.

### Legislative Update: Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA)

AREPA is moving forward. Section Staff have been able to secure several hundred letters but we need more. Passing the word to all licensees will allow us to have the strongest voice possible with our legislators. Contact your county Emergency Coordinator or other section staff for blank copies of the letters. Contact me directly at [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com) to get copies.

### Upcoming Events

13 Colonies Special Event - July 1- 7, 2024.

This event allows amateur radio operators around the globe to learn about the original 13 Colonies and the city where independence began. This will be the event's 5th year. Delaware radio operators can represent Delaware running as K2E. This is a fun event where you can hunt all 13 Colonies and the 2 Bonus station, run as K2E or both. If you work a station please spot the station. It's suggested DX Summit is used per the 13 Colonies website. You don't need all 13 Colonies stations to get the beautiful certificate nor do you need the 2 bonus stations for a clean sweep. If you are interested in running as K2E contact Gene, NY3C, [ny3c@arrl.net](mailto:ny3c@arrl.net). The 13 Colonies event page can be found at [13colonies.us](http://13colonies.us).

IARU HF World Championship – July 13-14, 2024

In this event you contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Visit [contests.arrl.org](https://contests.arrl.org) for details.

**A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members;**

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

KC3ZGC	MacKenzie, Steven
KC3ZIK	Visalli, Anthony J
KC3ZIW	Hallenbeck, David P
KC3ZIY	Labosky, Jessica

**Let's Stay Engaged & Challenged**

The future of ham radio will rest on bringing in more young members. Too many hams apparently are losing interest as they get older, being nostalgic for what ham radio was when many of us started out several decades ago. The future always rests on motivating young people to become active. Field Day operations from your homes have limited the opportunities for the public to see passionate ham operators putting up temporary antennas and operating at parks and other public places using generators or solar power. With an average age of hams now at 75, what will ham radio look like in ten years? How many of today's hams will have lost interest in ham radio a decade from now? How many of today's hams will have passed away in ten years? We need to do more. Much more. Some ham clubs and groups in Delaware go out of their way to publicize upcoming license exams but more efforts are needed by clubs to offer radio classes prior to offering license exams. What is your club doing to reach out to the public schools to get kids interested in radio and electronics? Kids are likely to be less interested in contesting than many of our older members but the youngsters seem to be interested in satellites, radio direction finding and simple construction projects like a tape measure direction finding antenna. Ham radio's future rests with you.

73,

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

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