

From the Section Manager's Shack

ARRL Delaware Section Manager Newsletter – August 2024

Greetings from Sussex County

I am taking a break from working on the After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) for the statewide drill held on July 13 to write this newsletter. Every drill should have a thorough AAR/IP to analyze results, identify strengths to maintain and build upon, pinpoint areas for improvement, and support the development of corrective actions. Essentially, these reports help us understand what we did and how we can do it better. I want to thank everyone who participated in the statewide drill. Many aspects were executed well, while others need improvement. This is why we conduct drills.

Randall Carlson, WB0JJX, Former Delaware Section Manager, Silent Key

Last month, I received a call from Darvin Carlson, the brother of Randall Carlson, to inform me that Randall had become a Silent Key. Darvin mentioned his brother's passion for amateur radio, from joining local clubs in New Castle County to becoming the Delaware Section Manager in December 1992. Randall passed away on June 7, 2024, at the age of 66. He served as the Delaware Section Manager from December 1992 until 2005 and was originally licensed in the 1970s. Randall will be deeply missed by the amateur radio community.

Section Simulated Emergency Test – Saturday, October 26, 2024

Mark your calendars! The Delaware Section is holding our section-wide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The SET is the ARRL's annual national emergency exercise designed to assess the skills and preparedness of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers and those affiliated with organizations involved in emergency and disaster response. This section SET will be run by Wendy, W3NRN, Section Emergency Coordinator, and will involve the same stations that participated in the July 13 drill. This is a great opportunity to dust off your Go Box and engage in some SSB or digital work. We will be working with VHF, UHF, and HF using SSB and digital modes. More information will be coming shortly.

Application Made for ARRL Grant for \$25,000

As Section Manager and the Vice President of the Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club, I have applied for a grant from the ARRL for \$25,000 to install/upgrade the section's digital network. If approved, this grant will provide funding for several new WinLink Gateways strategically located throughout the state as well as some upgrades to existing stations. These new stations will provide a reliable backbone for intrastate digital communications during emergency and disaster response. Currently, there is a large section of the state not covered by existing gateways. Kent has no gateways, New Castle has one, and Sussex has six. Adding new gateways to these counties will allow us as EmComm operators to better serve not only our served agencies but also our communities.

ARRL Service Disruption Almost Fully Restored

The ARRL still has a few issues to resolve, but mostly the system is back up and running. Neither Division Directors nor Section Managers are able to send emails to their groups, and some .org addresses do not work. If you need to contact anyone at the ARRL, I suggest calling the toll-free number 1.888.277.5289. Logbook Of the World is back up and operational with all data.

Delaware State QSO Party Had Best Participation in Years!

The Delaware State QSO Party was a big success! 2024 tied for the largest turnout of Delaware Stations since 2020, with 22 stations participating. It was great hearing all of the Delaware Stations representing our state. Thanks go out to FSARC for hosting the event and to Jerry, KB2GCG, for compiling the data. The top three stations for the state and each county are listed below. Full results will be posted on the FSARC DE QSO Party webpage.

AA3R	355,928 pts	First Place DE,	First Place KDE
W3ASW	159,824 pts	Second Place DE,	First Place NDE
NU3A	158,418 pts	Third Place DE,	Second Place NDE

KB2GCG	44,640 pts	Third Place NDE
KT3W	20,138 pts	Second Place KDE
K3LT	3,018 pts	Third Place KDE
KC3DSO	25,856 pts	First Place SDE
KC3MAL	8,114 pts	Second Place SDE
WA3TVZ	920 pts	Third Place SDE

Upcoming Events

- International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – August 17-18, 2024: This popular international amateur radio event takes place on the third full weekend in August each year, attracting over 500 lighthouse/lightship entries from over 40 countries. Visit illw.net for a full list of participating lighthouses/ships, including the Overfalls Lightship in Lewes and the Fenwick Island lighthouse.
 - August 3-4: 222MHz and Up Distance Contest
 - August 17-18: 10Ghz & Up – Round 1
 - August 18: RTTY Rookie Roundup
 - August 22-25: EME 2.3 GHz & Up
- Visit contests.arrl.org for details on these and upcoming contests.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest & Upgrading Members. Join me in welcoming the latest additions to our vibrant community:

- KC3ZKZ: Raymond Chung
- KC3ZMK: Sean Erickson
- KC3ZML: Zac M Jackson
- KC3ZMO: David J Rossetti
- KC3ZMQ: John K Boland II
- KC3ZNG: Scott D Dresen

Keeping Our Radio Operators Trained, Active, and Sharp

Keeping amateur radio operators engaged is crucial for maintaining an active and responsive network of experienced operators. Regularly scheduled training sessions and workshops can enhance their skills and keep them up-to-date with the latest technologies and protocols. Encouraging participation in local and national drills, as well as organizing social events and recognition programs, can build a sense of community and appreciation. Additionally, creating opportunities for operators to share their experiences and knowledge through newsletters, forums, and mentoring programs can foster collaboration and continuous learning. By providing these opportunities, we can ensure that our amateur radio operators remain motivated and committed to their vital roles in emergency communications.

Consider running workshops in addition to presentations. Projects like building an antenna for a Fox Hunt, constructing a simple 40/75/80 Dipole for EmComm, or even a soldering class to assemble coax cables can be very beneficial. These workshops not only build our radio skills but also make getting your ARES Task Book signed off easier. The new version of the ARES Task Book has been released by the ARRL and can be found [ARES Task Book on the arrl.org website](http://www.arrl.org).

As always feel free to contact me about anything radio.

73,

Steven Keller

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Useful Links:

- [ARRL Delaware Section Reflector](#)
- [ARRL Sections – Delaware](#)