



ARRL Delaware Section Manager Newsletter – September 2024



Greetings from Sussex County

The change of weather is certainly in the air. Cooler temps, low humidity and soon the changing colors and scents that make fall. With fall comes the months where we truly enjoy operating portable stations. Whether they be for POTA, IOTA or just to test out your new portable kit. This weather is also the best time for a Fox Hunt. All of these operating types offer skills for providing Emergency Communications. Get hooked up with your local ARES group or club and get in on the fun and hone your skill set.

Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Saturday, October 26, 2024 Reminder

Reminder to 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. Get in on these valuable EmComm building drills by contacting your county ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). Your county EC can be found by visiting the ARRL Delaware Section webpage at www.arrl.org/Groups/view/delaware.

ARRL Grant for \$25,000 – Application is reviewing process

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, 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. The application packet was received by the ARRL and is being reviewed. They received over 100 applications for this year's grant cycle. I should hear back from the ARRL within the next two months or so.

ARRL Service Disruption Almost Fully Restored – LOTW Online

LogBook of The World, LOTW, is back online and running at full capacity with no data loss. The ARRL had over 100 systems that were taken offline due to the cyberattack. Currently there are only a few still left to be resolved. The ARRL has some finishing touches on DXCC data and the ability of Section Managers to email their section and some .org addresses are still inoperable. If you need to get a hold of me use my contact information at the bottom of all newsletters. I highly recommend all Delaware licensees join the ARRL Delaware Section group.io group to get the latest information on the Delaware Section. This group is where drills, meetings, events, etc. are posted in the calendar and discussions. This group has become my main way of getting to radio operators in Delaware since my ability to email via the ARRL website is down.

Delaware Section Statewide Simplex Drills a success!

The Delaware Section held a statewide simplex test on August 24. This test involved 20 stations throughout the state. These stations included hospitals, emergency operations centers including DEMA, and shelters. The main objective of the drill was to pass a message via not only the statewide simplex frequency (146.550 MHz) but also each county's assigned VHF & UHF simplex frequencies. Messages started at the top of the section in Wilmington and ended in Nanticoke. Then the process was reversed to go back North. Early morning hours provided superb propagation via simplex from Rehoboth Beach to Wilmington Hospital! Stations were required to document the signal report and audio quality to enable a spreadsheet to be completed with the After-Action Report which will be available shortly.

Weather Update – Some good and perhaps bad news

August provided a relatively tame storm month then was predicted. AccuWeather has now reduced the number of named storms from 20-25 to 20-23. That is the good news. The bad news is the Atlantic Seaboard could be facing a busy September...the peak of hurricane season. From AccuWeather... "We could see a parade of storms developing during the month of September. There's a possibility that we could see multiple tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic basin on the same day, similar to the frequency of storms that we've seen during other supercharged hurricane seasons like 2020." We need to keep our guard up into November. Visit Prepared.org to get information on making a plan and building a kit. Know your Evacuation Zone so you know when and how to evacuate. Listen on your local county primary 2m repeaters for Skywarn traffic. Keep your radio gear charged, updated and ready for use for both you to use in an emergency but also to assist your community. Become a Skywarn Spotter to know what to report and to whom by visiting The National Weather Service Philadelphia Skywarn Page at www.weather.gov/phi/skywarn. This page has not only class data but also under the "Frequency Info" tab all of the primary Skywarn repeaters in the entire DELMARVA peninsula.

Upcoming Events & Contests

- **Sussex Amateur Radio Association to host all-welcome Fox Hunt** – September 28, 2024: The Sussex Amateur Radio Association (SARA) is hosting an all-welcome Fox Hunt on September 28, 2024 at Trap Pond State Park. This near all day event will encompass using a radio (ham radio HT, scanner, etc.) to find a small low power transmitter (The Fox) hidden within the park. This event is open to all...you do not have to be a ham as you are receiving signals from The Fox; no transmitting is required so you can even use a hand-held scanner! A great opportunity to get your family involved and practice your Radio Direction Finding skills. Food is being planned. Contact the club via sussexderadio@gmail.com.
- **September 14-16: ARRL VHF Contest**
- **September 21-22: EME 2.3 GHz & Up**

- **October 5:** MS Bike To Bay Public Service Event – Put your radio skills to work for a good cause. The MS Society is hosting a benefit bike ride through Kent and Sussex Counties. Radio Operators are needed to support the 350+ riders on the course. The ride starts in Dover and ends at Cape Henlopen State Park. About 8 rest stops and several course locations need radio operators. Contact Jim Baker, N3XKJ, Sussex County ARES EC for info or to get signed up. New operators can be paired with experienced operators. Contact Jim via n3xkj1@verizon.net.

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:

- KC3ZOT: Michael Anggono

Maintaining our Skill Set at Radio Operators

We have all heard about ‘use it or lose it’ or “perishable skill’ in many circles. This is a true aspect of our work as amateur radio operators. Do you remember the phonetic alphabet? Q codes? Band segments for general? We must exercise ourselves to operate equipment/stations often and outside our comfort zone. This pushes us to remember how to hook up a TNC to a radio or a tuner to our radio/antenna system. Many of the events and drills mentioned in my newsletters will do just that. Join your county Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group or club and get in on the fun and challenges that keep us sharp. One local club just had an antenna building event where everyone built 2m tape measure yagi for an upcoming Fox Hunt. Sometimes we need to push ourselves.

As always feel free to contact me about anything radio and hope to hear you on the air.

73,
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Delaware Section Manager

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Useful Links:

- [ARRL Sections – Delaware \(https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/Delaware\)](https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/Delaware) • [ARRL Delaware Section Groups.io Reflector \(https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection\)](https://groups.io/g/ARRLDelawareSection)