

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

Fall has officially arrived, bringing with it the vibrant colors of changing leaves, cooler temperatures, and lighter traffic—a welcome shift for those of us in Delaware. However, for many others, this season has presented significant challenges. September is the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, and Hurricane Helene, a powerful Category 4 storm with winds reaching 140 mph, has left a trail of devastation. The storm tore through Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas, spanning over 800 miles and claiming more than 90 lives. Approximately 2.5 million people remain without power, with widespread disruptions to internet and cell service. Helene's torrential rains—nearly three feet in some areas—turned roads into rivers and wiped entire towns off the map.

This catastrophic event highlights the critical importance of disaster preparedness, not just as individuals but as members of the Amateur Radio Service (ARS). While monitoring active repeaters in the affected regions, I've heard distressing accounts of citizens trapped in rising floodwaters, seeking refuge in upper levels of buildings, and running out of food and water while being cut off from essential resources. Emergency Operations Centers are working tirelessly to coordinate rescue efforts, manage resources, and relay health and welfare messages. This situation reinforces the need for continuous training to ensure that we are ready to respond when disaster strikes.

One ham radio operator relayed a message urging anyone “with a battery, wire, and radio” to assist, as ARS resources were stretched thin. Another operator, after listening to the Net Control Station for two days, asked how he could join the group. As an ARS member, it's likely that your neighbors and community would turn to you for help during such emergencies. Even if you're not a member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), it's crucial to stay sharp and practice your radio skills. Now is the time to consider joining ARES and gaining the training and experience needed to assist when disaster strikes.

Section Manager Workshop at ARRL HQ.

As Section Manager I attend the Section Manager Workshop at the ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. The class provided insight into the workings of the league as well as Radiosport and Regulatory information, Education and Learning, Publication and Editorial, and several other topics. A tour of the ARRL's electronics testing facilities showed where all of the rigs in QST are tested. A tour of W1AW station allowed me to operate making about two dozen contacts before I had to close the station. ARRL member or not, ARRL HQ is a great stop if you are traveling nearby. On my trip I was able to activate 8 POTA parks!

The returning DELMARVA Fox Hunt was a great success!

The Sussex Amateur Radio Association (SARA) hosted for the first time in seven years the DELMARVA Fox Hunt. About 15 radio operators and guests met at Trap Pond State Park in Laurel. The day was being run by Eric, WG3J. The morning started with a beautiful weather and donuts at 9am. Upon setting up three POTA stations (20m SSB, 40m SSB, and 10m CW) which ran all day, the group had a quick class on how to participate in a Fox Hunt. Two hunts were completed before a great lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers and other picnic fare. A third hunt after lunch allowed plenty of opportunities for attendees to learn about Radio Direction Finding (RDF).

Last Reminder...Simulated Emergency Test – October 26

The Delaware Section will be participating in the Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The SET will start off with goals and objectives for the entire Delaware Section which will cover the first half. Then each county will run their own goal/objective specific drill for the second half. Contact your Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) on how to participate. The list Delaware Section Staff with contact information can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/delaware>.

ARRL Service Disruption Update - DXCC

LogBook of The World, LOTW, is back online and running at full capacity with no data loss. The DXCC online system is still not working however the ARRL HQ is accepting applications. Applicants can mail their application (online at <https://www.arrl.org/dxcc-forms>) with cards for processing. Once the DXCC System returns to service it will be several months before the applications are processed as a large volume of applications will need to be processed. Any questions can be directed to the ARRL Radiosport Department. Contact information can be found on arrl.org.

Upcoming Events & Contests

Delaware Section SET – October 26, 2024 ~0900-1300. The Delaware Section will be participating in the Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The SET will start off with goals and objectives for the entire Delaware Section which will cover the first half. Then each county will run their own goal/objective specific drill for the second half. Contact your Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) on how to participate. The list Delaware Section Staff with contact information can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/delaware>.
CQ World Wide SSB Contest – Worldwide contest. Visit www.cqww.com for rules and other messages.

Visit contests.arrl.org or www.contestcalendar.com 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:

KC3CTQ: Jon Malenfant

KC3DPG: Thomas Weaver

KC3ZSK: Philip Ruff

KC3ZSL: Dylan Harding

KC3ZSM: Youngsluck Sheen

KC3ZSN: Khader Shaik

KC3ZSS: Charles Buchta

Let's Get Together!

Staying active in the amateur radio community is key to enhancing your skills and staying connected with fellow operators. Whether through participating in local events, joining contests, or taking part in online forums, there are many ways to keep learning and sharing knowledge. Engaging in regular communication, experimenting with new technology, or mentoring new operators can enrich your experience. Let's continue to support each other and enjoy all the opportunities amateur radio has to offer—keeping the spirit of discovery and collaboration alive! As always feel free to contact me about anything radio and hope to hear you on the air.

73,

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