SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

February 2025

Officers		Repeaters
President	Paul Tuley N3BUH	146.970 (-) 77hz pl Dover
Vice-President	Danny Clay N3WCB	**146.910 (-) 77hz pl Camden**
Secretary	Tim Reisinger KC3OO	147.300 (+) 77 hz pl N3YMS
Treasurer	John Snyder AB3JS	444.550 (+) 77hz pl Dover (down)
		442.450 (+) 127.3 hz pl Harrington
		443.200 (+) 156.7 hz pl Millsboro
		449.775 (-) 114.8 hz pl N3IOC Felton

Happy Valentine's Day

Happenings

February11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
February 14	Valentine's Day, be nice to your sweetie!
February 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
February 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
March 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
March 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
March 31	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
April 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
April 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
April 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
May 8	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
May 13	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 26	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 10	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
June 28 – 29	ARRL Field Day, more info coming
June 30	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
July 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
July 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
July 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
August 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
August 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
August 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
September 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
September 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
October 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
October 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
November 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00

Hamfests

April 26, 2025 **Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention**
Sussex Amateur Radio Association
Cheer Center, 20520 Sand Hill Rd., Georgetown, DE 19947
Contact: Jamie Ashton , W3UC, 7446 Parker St Pittsville, MD 21850
Phone: 410-202-7690 **Email**: ashton@mchsi.com **Talk-In**: 147.090 156.7

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

Well, Winter Field Day is over. You will be able to read the observations and comments from the Chairman and Co-Chair below. Believe when it says that a lot was learned from the operation, both good and bad. We will be using some of what was learned at WFD at the upcoming Summer Field Day on June 28 – 29. The location is still to be determined, but the location is fairly well figured out. More will be forthcoming at upcoming membership meetings. Thanks to those who came out and worked all the event, and especially to Nick N3YMS, and Danny N3WCB, for their contributions which made this event possible.

One thing that is clear, operators will be needed, so plan on taking part in June. The idea was brought up by one of our officers, was to have mock nets and contest exchanges at meetings to give people an idea of how to operate. Sometimes everyone, no matter how long they have been licensed, needs a refresher course on how to do it. We will try to cover operations over the year.

In the Section Manager's piece, one of the new call signs has been assigned to Lake Forest ARC, KD3AME. Yelp, that's the Lake Forest High School just south of Felton. Our out-going VP, Hunter is instrumental in getting the school club station up and running. Be sure to give the Lake Forest High Radio Club your support when possible.

You will see a piece on nets available in the "club News" section. There have been similar pieces there before, and probably will be again. Participating in nets, whether it's our VHF nets or HF nets, is part of the training aspect. Unfortunately our Wednesday net occurs at the same time as a CW traffic net, and to be honest with you, I'm usually not out of bed at 0900 on a Saturday! I try to make the Delaware Traffic Net every day, MDD, and MSN, and sometimes 3RN CW at 7:45 PM every night. Don't always make MDD late (at 10:00 PM every night) and sometimes 3RN CW, I try to at least monitor them. Just listening can give new information on what works and what doesn't.

We also need to look at the FEMA and DEMA courses that are available to us, especially our retired people that have the time to attend daytime classes at DEMA or the Fire School. Lots of information can be gained by getting that piece of paper, and sometimes it really does impress emergency management officials and help improve our emergency communications response.

As a side note to training, Summer Field Day occurs June 28 – 29, this year the last full weekend in June is the fourth weekend. Plan on participating and get information about what we will be doing at our regular club meetings.

President's Column

With much planning and talk, Winter Field Day planning is over and the event has passed. This exercise was a true learning experience. We found out what worked and needed tweaking. This event was a Great learning experience for all. We had two vehicles setup with heat, food, and beverages. Our initial antennas were two multi band Yagi antennas and three Cobra Lite multi band wires as well as a 160-meter loop. Our thanks go out to Steven Keller for loaned us a Buckmaster wire antenna. When we found out there was a problem with one of the Cobra antennas.

Our operation was at the Moor Farm off Persimmon Tree Lane East of Dover. This property is part of Dover International Speedway's property hosted by Nick Fedirko N3YMS. Our operators were Danny Clay N3WCB, Jerry Palmer N3KRX, Larry Roll K3LT, Doug Covert KB3PRW, Hunter Greir W3CZ, Steven Keller KC3DSO, Franco Venturi K6VZ, Eric Hudson WG3J, Jim Perry KD3AHN, Barbara Vodvarka KD4AHQ, Josh Farrell KD3AHL, Mari Allen KQ4HNK, Paul Tuley N3BUH, John Schreiner N2LK, Jess Labosky KC3ZIY and Jamie Ashton W3UC.

Thanks to all who helped with the event and a very special thanks to Nick Fedirko and Danny Clay, we couldn't have pulled this off without you two.

73, Thanks,
Paul Tuley / Club President and Winter Field Day Chairman

Vice-President's Column

Winter Field Day has come and gone. We use these events to learn what works and what doesn't work. We recollect things we learned previously and because we do not use that knowledge regularly it slipped through the memory banks into the area of the brain that holds it for future use. Not quite into the abyss, but hinging on. We may do and say things that are meant to be right at the time, but after further thought and personal observation, it could have been done better, and in a more tactful way. I relearned that I can not be at the site for extended periods of time. Even though I felt good at the time it took two days to recover, and was still a little fatigued on the third day. I made a commitment with myself and the club that my body could not fulfill. For that, I apologize to the club for not being able to to help with the Sunday take down. Cancer has taken most of my strength and energy away from me, I can't do what I used to do. I need to reassess my future abilities and Commitments.

There were only three that were there on Sunday for take down, Larry, K3LT, Nick, N3YMS, and Paul, N3BUH. No one else showed. I commend them on their dedication to fulfill their commitment to be there. I want to especially thank Nick for his time and his personal equipment, and what was borrowed that he was able to provide for the event. He was able to fill all the borrowed equipment with fuel, at his expense. The site is excellent. I hope it could be made available for future events.

We will have some work parties to improve the trailer's ability to serve us better. We need to get rid of the spider web inside the trailer, under our feet, and make it less confusing, and more stable. Another thing I learned years ago is never think I'll just stay home, others will be there, because the others are thinking the same thing.

Summer Field Day is coming up in June. We go from the freezer to the heater. What we learned from Winter Field Day, we need to put into practice at Summer Field Day. We, as a club, need to reassess what our abilities are. Realistically what can we do successfully?

Operators are the real problem. Operating is not a difficult thing to do. In the next few months we will have a demonstration of what is needed to make a successful contact. For those that think you can not do it. It is really not difficult. It takes a little patience, but yet with some perseverance anyone can do it.

I want to thank everyone for the time and assistance you were able to provide, it is really appreciated. We had a good showing of new members. I hope to be able to work with everyone in the future to get to know you better.

Sorry it's so long winded. My message is to reassess and fulfill your commitment.

I'll reluctantly get off the soap box, I know you have better things to do than listen to me.

Danny, N3WCB

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

I write this month's newsletter having just completed visiting several Winter Field Day Sites in the section. I operated at two of them and assisted with initial antenna and radio/computer setups. WFD was a success. This EmComm event went well with many clubs and groups running stations. The setup varied from mobile (trailer), inside building and even a converted motorhome. Stations ran the gamut on modes, digital, SSB and CW. One common for all but one station was the use of computer software for logging. M1NN and the N3FJP Winter Field Day programs were the ones I saw most. Using software, even without an internet connection, provides efficiency and accuracy when logging. With an internet connection software provides instant feedback on the callsign you are entering to ensure you have the correct callsign. It's never too early to start planning for Field Day on June 28-29. Reservations for shelters, yurts, campsites are best done early.

I operated in the January 18-20 VHF contest from Cape Henlopen State Park with three other radio operators from Sussex County. A series of antennas, some handmade along with three radios we operated from HF to 1.2 GHz. Simple equipment can be used for most of these contests. Just about all HF rigs run 6 meters and many are 'multi band, multi-mode" to allow 1.25m, 2m, & 70cm. February brings the start of QSO parties, another School Club Roundup and International DX CW contest.

ARRL Delaware Section Youth Initiative
The ARRL Delaware Section, in collaboration with QRZ and Gigaparts, is excited to announce a new Youth Initiative aimed at fostering youth engagement in the Amateur Radio Service. This initiative will provide a free dual band radio Jump Start Kit to all newly (30 days) licensed operators 17 and under. As part of the QRZ Jump Start Program, the Delaware Section is expanding its reach by offering these kits at no cost to residents of Delaware. The QRZ Jump Start Program consists of:
• QRZ Explorer QRZ-1 dual band HT
• Radio manual
• Gigaparts' New Ham Guide book
• USB programming cable
• RT Systems Explorer QRZ-1 Programming software with a license key

By participating in the Delaware Section Youth Initiative, young amateur radio operators can quickly get On The Air with everything they need to begin their journey into the world of ham radio. Additionally, this program bypasses some standard QRZ requirements to ensure a smooth and swift start for youth. For questions about the Delaware Section Youth Initiative contact me, Steven, KC3DSO, via the contact info at the bottom of this newsletter.

Speaking of getting new hams, the Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club is hosting a 1.5 day Technician Class. The class will be February 22-23, 2025. Testing at 2pm on 2/23/25. For more information contact Pat Ryan, KW3Z, at pryan@ryanarchitect.com.
World Amateur Radio Day 2025 Open House – April 18

To help promote amateur radio science and technology, and to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), ARRL is inviting radio clubs and schools to organize a Ham Radio Open House in April, built around World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18.The event is intended to highlight the Amateur Radio Service for its development and practice of the latest radio communications and technology, and as a hands-on pathway into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields for the next generation.

In April, amateur radio clubs, school stations, and other groups will have the opportunity to advance public knowledge about ham radio by welcoming their communities into their stations for the Ham Radio Open House, as part of World Amateur Radio Day. The focus will be on scientific advancement and demonstrating cutting-edge technology. This is a chance to not only shape the conversation about modern ham radio but also to show how it serves as a stepping stone and testbed for many young people pursuing STEM education and future high-tech careers. For more information search Ham Radio Open House on www.arrl.org.

Intro to the ARRL – Part 1
I attend just about every club meeting in the state and other events and am often asked about who is the ARRL, what they do for us and what is my 'job' as Section Manager. I am starting a short mini-series of articles on the ARRL to answer those questions.

ARRL Headquarters
Located in Newington, Conn, HQ staff is composed of about 100 paid employees and a few contractors who produce four magazines (QST, QEX, National Contest Journal and On The Air) and a variety of technical books pertaining to amateur radio. The ARRL has a few contracted staff who represent the interests of amateur radio before the FCC and certain international organizations. A large variety of operating awards are offered by the ARRL to reward members for their skill in contacting amateur stations around the world. The ARRL also publishes technical evaluations of new amateur radio equipment and urges amateur radio operators to participate in public service events. One of the largest activities of the ARRL is Field Day in June in which amateur operators and clubs are encouraged to operate away from home, using temporary antennas and emergency power. Points are awarded for the number of stations contacted in a 24-hour period. Information about Field Day 2025 can be found at www.arrl.org/field-day.

The HQ staff is responsible to a Chief Executive Officer who is chosen by the ARRL Board of Directors. The CEO is responsible for seeing that ARRL policy is implemented and that staff at HQ. The ARRL is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors that represent geographical areas. The board is elected by ARRL members for a staggered three-year term. Five of these Division Directors are elected each year for terms that begin January 1. Each Division also has a Vice Director who can stand in for an absent Director and can vote during Director absences or in conflict-of-interest situations. Vice Directors for the Divisions are elected at the same time as the Director for a particular Division.

The ARRL Board meets twice a year in Newington (January and July) and hear from ARRL committees before establishing policy. Among the three major committees (Administration and Finance, Programs and Services and Emergency Communications and Field Services) the Administration and Finance Committee reviews budgetary matters and sets the ARRL budget. Next month's newsletter will start with the 71 Sections within the 15 divisions.

Upcoming Events & Contests
• School Club Roundup – February 10-14, There are two School Club Roundups during each school year in October and February. Each 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 109-hour event.

• ARRL International DX – CW – February 15-16. To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE (W=US, VE=Canada) stations.
• ARRL International DX - PHONE – March 1-2, 2025. To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations.

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:
• John Hightower, KC3EDF
• Louis Perna Jr., KC3EDI
• Robert Kellam, KD3AJG
• Ronald Reid, KD3AJP
• Paul Nuwer II., KC3EOT
• John Voznak, KD3AKT
• Sonia DeRiggi, KD3ALX
• Richard McMahon, KD3AMD
• Lake Forest ARC, KD3AME

Get and stay active!
As we wrap up this edition, let's remember that amateur radio is more than just a hobby—it's a community. Each time we tune in, we connect with voices from around the world, sharing knowledge, experiences, and a passion for communication. Whether you're a seasoned operator or just starting out, your contributions make our community stronger. Keep exploring, keep learning, and keep reaching out. The airwaves are filled with endless possibilities, and together, we can make them come alive. Until next time, stay curious and keep the spirit of amateur radio alive!
73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager
• Email: kc3dso@gmail.com
• Cell: 240.515.0620
• Office: 302.604.7470

The Emcomm Corner

Most hams have one or more go-kits for emergency communication preparedness. I have two personal radio go kits, one for HF using a Xiegu G-90 transceiver with the ability to do digital or analog operations either using Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries or household current. The HF kit also includes the needed adapters, power supply and charger and includes an end-fed half wave antenna and coax. My VHF kit includes an Alinco 735 dual band transceiver with batteries, digital interface, a slim jim antenna, and coax. I try to periodically use the kits to make sure everything works as intended. It is important to never borrow individual items from the kits for everyday use as things don't seem to find their way back where they belong. In case of an actual crisis, it is much easier to just grab a kit rather than try to collect pieces scattered here and there. I keep the kit contents in plastic bags so pieces don't get lost. Keep the kit light enough that you can walk a half mile carrying it.

It is also important to have a personal go kit in addition to your radio go kits. Sometimes in the event of an emergency you might have only a few minutes to evacuate. Prepare a kit for three days away to include copies of important documents, medicines, cell phone battery pack, flashlight, first aid kit and

personal hygiene items. Make sure you periodically refresh the batteries and medicines. There is an abundance of information online regarding personal go kit packing ideas. Be safe.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

AUXCOMM News

AUXCOMM - CERT Column February 2025

Sussex County AUXCOMM and CERT

It's just a little over a year ago that the Sussex AUXCOMM Group and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs in Sussex County were combined under one administrative unit, and it's been an interesting, challenging and successful first year. Both groups are benefiting from the joint venture in volunteer public service, and both are growing, attracting motivated volunteers. On a more interesting note, we're seeing that CERT people are interested in getting their ham license and hams in AUXCOMM are getting their CERT certification. This is leading to more acceptance of the supporting role of ham radio in emergencies with the management in planned communities with HOA's, and an easing of some restrictions on outside antennas for the hams supporting CERT.
Winter Field Day for the Sussex AUXCOMM Group was by all reports successful. We did not set out to be competitive in the contest, rather we did a "teaching – learning" event for the new and not-so-new members of the group. Everything from generators to batteries, to antennas and contesting, were discussed, as well as operating hints and coaching.
The Bailey Pavilion at the Redden State Forest Headquarters Tract was the location. An absolutely gorgeous location. The AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer was deployed for the event. Two HF stations were set up, one in the pavilion and the one in the trailer. We were operational on 40 through 10 meters, as well as the dual-band in the trailer on simplex. We had 11 operators and 4 visitors. With a charcoal grill right there we had hot dogs and baked beans, along with a variety of desert goodies. Food, fun, and ham radio, an unbeatable combination.
Although we didn't register him as a visitor, "Murphy"showed up early and stayed around for the duration. He gave us several good opportunities to explain and show how to track down why the rig in question was acting strange, and another one was a high SWR, that shouldn't have been. There was discussion about the radials used for the "home brew" auto-tune all-band vertical, which worked very well once the loose coax connector was found and tightened. Several operators noted the nicety of the auto-tune feature of the vertical, whether a QSY or a Band change, always a flat SWR. Stations across the eastern half of the US were comfortably worked during the afternoon. The principle of NVIS was also demonstrated with a low height dipole that gave solid coverage in the mid-Atlantic region on 40 meters. The 10 Meter band also was worked with a whip on the trailer. Jeff Stevenson, K3DI, gave two demonstrations of "how to run 'em" as he was able to 'own' the frequency on both the NVIS and vertical antennas. His logger, Don W3DCS, got a good case of "writer's cramp".
In other news, The Sussex AUXCOMM Group is changing its regular meeting to the "second Monday" evening of the month at the usual time of 1900 local in Training Room A at the Sussex County Public Safety Building. The Management Team meeting has also changed and will be virtual on the last Monday evening of the month.
The revitalized Sussex CERT program, now in its second year, has grown from two community teams to four, and nearly tripled the number of registered CERT members. There are currently two Basic CERT classes scheduled in 2025 with three more in the process of planning. Quarterly "Refresher Sessions" are on the calendar to help team members keep their skills sharp. The program is growing throughout the state under the new State Guidance for CERT Programs, which was ratified in December. New Castle County and the City of Wilmington have three established teams, and Kent County is starting its first.
73, de K3PFW

Club Happenings

Winter Field Day Over

Winter Field Day has come and gone. The total score hasn't been compiled as of yet, but maybe by meeting time we will have an idea of how we did.

We did learn quite a bit. First and foremost, CW and digital can not be in the same area with antennas close to each other. We also learned that we should test and make sure radios and antennas are hooked up and functioning well, and if not get them working before the event starts. We did loose a radio, the Kenwood TS570 bit the dust, for now, but may be able to be revived. To be seen.

Planning for Summer Field Day will begin soon. Jerry, N3KRX, has been named as chairman and Hunter, W3CZ, has volunteered to be vice-chair. We are already talking and will have a report ready at a regular meeting soon.

Nets On the Air

There are a number of nets on the air that people can check into. On HF first is the Delaware traffic Net, which comes on in the winter at 5:30 PM (local time) on 3.904 MHz. Before that is the Third region Net, which comes on at 4:00 PM (local) on 3.918 MHz. Right after comes the Maryland Emergency Phone Net (MEPN) which comes on at 5:00 PM (local), with a pre-net at 4:30 PM, on 3.820 MHz. You are welcome to check into any of those nets with the proper class license, of course, a General or higher.

On VHF Kent County runs two nets on the 146.910 (-600 and 77HZ) repeater. On Wednesday evening at 7:00PM is the Information and Traffic Net. Join in and put your two cents into the conversation. On Saturday Morning is the Kent ARES Net, at 9:00AM. Again, anyone can check in and take part.

If CW is your thing, the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia (MDD) Traffic Net happens 365 days per week on 3.557 MHz. Sometimes the code is a little fast, but if you do check in, they will slow down and use Farnsworth for you. Another CW net is the Maryland Slow Net (MSN) which comes most nights at 7”30 PM on 3.563 MHz. They will answer you at your speed and they are a training net for how to handle traffic.

There are other nets out there, and if you look at the Net Directory on the ARRL, you can find nets for most purposes and on many frequencies. There are ones on HF, VHF, and UHF, and if you're interested you just need to look.

For Sale

2 meter 144 mhz yagi, 15 elements, 24'8" boom Directive Systems & Engineering DSEFO144-15 K1FO design. 16 dbi gain. $130 cash. See more at DSEFO144-15.pdf

432 mHz yagi: Directive Systems & Engineering 70 cm 33 Elements 432MHz yagi. Model DSEFO432-33. . 24' 5" boom with Phillystran truss. 17.8 dBd gain. $130 cash. See more at DSEFO432-33.pdf

AN Wireless self-supporting 65' tower. Rated 30-sq-ft wind load. $2,000 OBO.

73/Jon

Jon P. Zaimes, AA1K
Tower climber for hire
Felton, Delaware
http://www.aa1k.us/
Cell: 302-632-2353

Useless Facts of the Month

There are 328 people named "Abcde" in the United States. (Imagine that first name in a piece of traffic!)

January 6, 1838
Samuel Morse first publicly demonstrated his telegraph, in Morristown, N.J. (Dit Dit!!)

70,000 new computer viruses are found every day by anti-virus companies. (No wonder my computer is so cold!!)

The Empire State Building was originally designed to serve as a docking station for airships. Its pointed top, now a signature feature of the skyline, was intended to accommodate airship mooring. However, this ambitious idea proved impractical due to strong winds and safety concerns at such heights, as well as the logistical challenges of docking and tethering massive airships. While a series of dramatic airship disasters and the development of aircraft would spell the end of commercial passenger airships, the Empire State Building's mooring mast continues to stand there today.

On September 9, 1917, retired British Navy Admiral John Arbuthnot Fisher wrote a letter to Winston Churchill, then a prominent political figure, discussing matters of national importance during World War I. The letter contained a detail that has since become a topic of fascination for linguists and historians alike. In a strikingly modern twist, the admiral abbreviated the exclamation “Oh my God!” as “OMG.” This abbreviation, now synonymous with millennial text and internet culture, appeared decades before the advent of the digital age.

The country Argentina derives its name from the precious metal silver, whose Latin name is "argentum." This is also the origin of silver's chemical symbol, Ag. When European explorers arrived in the region, they were enticed by tales of a land rich in silver. These tales led to the naming of the "Río de la Plata," meaning "River of Silver." The name "Argentina" evolved from "argentum," symbolizing this connection to silver. Although the legendary silver wealth proved to be mythical, the name Argentina endures as a tribute to this storied past.

Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

Delaware CIO Gregory Lane to Continue in New Administration

The chief information officer for the Diamond State has been in place since 2023 and was previously its chief technology officer. Lane has been with Delaware for eight years, following a 35-year private-sector career.

Gregory Lane, chief information officer for the state of Delaware, will continue in his leadership post, Gov.-elect Matt Meyer has announced. Lane was named CIO in 2023 by Gov. John Carney, and is also head of the state's Department of Technology and Information (DTI). In Delaware, the CIO post is a Cabinet-level position. Lane previously served as chief technology officer of DTI since 2017 according to LinkedIn. The incoming Gov. Meyer will be inaugurated Jan. 21.

“Greg’s proven expertise in technology and digital transformation is clear, and I’m excited to nominate him to continue as chief information officer,” Meyer said in a statement. “We are eager to revolutionize government services to 2025 technology, and Greg is the leader to get that done.”

Like other states, Delaware has been involved with using and regulating artificial intelligence tools, expanding broadband, as well as managing a department poised to see a number of employees retire in the coming years.

In 2024, the state earned a B+ grade in the Center for Digital Government* biennial Digital States Survey, for its work modernizing government processes — standing up the Delaware One Stop platform — and prioritizing data governance. The state had recently deployed the Delaware Integrated Data System, a repository in the cloud aimed at enabling cross-agency collaboration.

Thanks to Government Technology online

Trump Confirms Mystery Drones were from Federal Government,

CV NEWS FEED // President Donald Trump confirmed Tuesday that the mysterious drones that hovered mostly over the state of New Jersey during the final months of last year belonged to the federal government and were authorized by Biden administration officials. "I do have news directly from the president of the United States that was just shared with me in the Oval Office from President Trump directly," said White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt at the start of the Trump administration's first press conference. "An update on the New Jersey drones. After research and study, the drones that were flying over New Jersey in large numbers were authorized to be flown by the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] for research and various other reasons," Leavitt said, reading what she later called "a statement from the president of the United States. Many of these drones were also hobbyists, recreational and private individuals that enjoy flying drones," the statement concluded. "In time it got worse due to curiosity."

The revelation comes after Biden officials denied any knowledge of the drones despite mounting public fears and numerous calls for increased transparency from elected officials. As Reuters reported Dec. 13, "U.S. senators representing New Jersey and New York sent a letter to the heads of the FBI, DHS and the Federal Aviation Administration, demanding a briefing on how the agencies are working to identify and address the sightings." The letter from "senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Chuck Schumer, Cory Booker and Andy Kim expressed 'urgent concern' about the reported sightings," the Reuters report added.

CatholicVote reported the same day that Biden National Security Advisor John Kirby had told an interviewer 'the government does not know' what the flying objects are, adding 'I wish I could tell you why we don't know what we don't know.' Asked why the administration can't shoot one down to examine it and ascertain its origin, Kirby said 'We just don't know enough to take those kinds of actions,'" CatholicVote reported. "President Joe Biden, Kirby said, has 'tasked' officials with being 'energetic' in investigating the drones."
Rep. Chris Smith, R-NJ, reported hearing from a commander in the Coast Guard that "at least a dozen" of the drones had "closely trailed" a military ship one evening. Smith said that Coast Guard personnel had described the drones to him as "about the size of a car."

Then-candidate Trump himself publicly suggested the Biden administration knew the origin of the drones and called on President Joe Biden to tell the American people. "Our government knows what is happening," Trump told reporters Dec. 16. "And for some reason they don't want to comment. And I think they'd be better off saying what it is. Our military knows and our president knows. And for some reason they wanna keep people in suspense. Something strange is going on. For some reason they don't wanna tell the people, and they should…."

Thanks to The Loop and Catholic Vote

Ham Radio 101: What's the Best Way to Learn Morse Code?

Posted by Wayne KE8JFW on January 29, 2025 at 2:58 pm

2025 Marks the 190th Anniversary of the International Morse Code Alphabet

Ask a hundred ham radio operators about their history sending and receiving Morse code messages and you'll hear a hundred different stories of missteps and successes, struggles and triumphs. Some longtime amateur radio operators admit to never getting the hang of Morse code or CW (continuous wave)—the mode used by hams to transmit messages in the short blips ("dits" for dots, "dahs" dashes) that make up the International Morse Code Alphabet. For others, learning to send and decode these rapid-fire sounds came as easily as falling off a log, or, more applicably, filling out a log. Then there are a handful of enthusiasts who have achieved word-per-minute (WPM) speeds that border on superhuman.

In 2007, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) nixed the Morse code requirement on all ham radio licensing exams. The Technician class requirement of five WPM was eliminated in 1991. These changes were much to the chagrin of operators who feared the lack of incentive to learn the code would relegate CW to the ash heap of communication methods, right along with town criers and messenger pigeons. Mark, K8MSH, noted in his OnAllBands article, "Ham Radio 101: Help for the Morse Impaired," that within 72 hours of the FCC's axing of the CW requirement, requests for study materials from the ARRL doubled—an indication that Morsephobia or CW Aversion Syndrome (maladies we made up for this article) were indeed stumbling blocks to those yearning to earn their first license or upgrade to General or Amateur Extra.

But as Mark Twain might have opined, worries about the death of CW were greatly exaggerated. Incidentally, Twain was born in 1835, the same year Samuel F.B. Morse developed the initial version of the alphabet that bears his name. Today, as we celebrate the 190th anniversary of the Morse code alphabet, interest in CW continues to find its niche in a digital world that has failed to extinguish the passion of operators who prefer "QSO Party like it's 1899" (our apologies to Prince fans).

With growing interest in CW, the first question many ask is: What's the best way to learn Morse code? While opinions vary on the ideal strategy (e.g., Koch method vs. the more widely touted Farnsworth method), the points below are often cited as solid steps toward mastering the art:

Practice and Repetition: As Ward, NØAX, points out in "Choosing a CW Key or Paddle: Understanding What's Available," learning Morse code for CW operation—like tackling a musical instrument—takes diligence. And while you may not have the time or inclination to fulfill Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000-hours-of-practice rule, the more time you devote to learning Morse code, the greater likelihood of improving your acumen and enjoying it more.

Listen: Simply memorizing the alphabet and writing down characters in dots and dashes is an exercise in futility. You need to listen to the code in action and learn characters as sounds. As Mark, K8MSH, says, "You're going to have to actually listen to Morse code if you ever want to learn it.

Find a Partner: Having a friend or relative to practice with can provide inspiration as you learn together, and finding a helpful mentor (an Elmer, in ham lingo) with years of CW experience is a huge bonus. Joining an online club that offers helpful resources and folks you can partner with, like the FISTS CW Club or the Straight Key Century Club, is a step in the right direction.

There are several apps and online training courses that can assist you as well. Electronic learning devices, like Vibroplex Code Practice Oscillator Kits, can be economical tools for enhancing your CW skills when you're on your own.

Choose the Right Instrument: In the above article, NØAX stresses the importance of choosing a good first key or paddle that's a comfortable fit for you. Choices like the Vibroplex Original Bug Key may have to wait until you've gained sufficient experience.

Start at Your Own Speed: The quickest way to become frustrated is to engage in lightning-fast contests where you're driving a Kia Rio against top-fuel dragsters. You can work your way up to more frenzied action but stay in your lane until you're ready. Monthly contests like the K1USN Slow Speed Test and ARRL Rookie Roundup are great practice for beginning CW operators.

Relax and have a blast: Like most things in amateur radio, CW is supposed to be fun, so treat the process in this spirit. Enjoy learning a mode that has played a critical role in world history and continues to be embraced in popular culture and the ham radio community. Approach Morse code with this attitude and you're already halfway there.

Consult with Experts: To find precisely what you need for a successful plunge into CW, turn to a trusted amateur radio provider like DX Engineering for honest advice and the equipment required to get started.

You'll find many more tips for beginners who want to take part in CW contests in this two-part OnAllBands article by NØAX.

Thanks to All Bands On Line

ARRL Club Grants Fund Hardware for Florida students to make contact with the International Space Station

01/24/2025

Pine View School for the Gifted (PVS) in Osprey, Florida, has an opportunity to achieve a historic milestone on Tuesday, January 28, at 12:21 PM (EST), when students and faculty make live contact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The event marks the first time any school in Sarasota County has been selected to take part in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program and reflects PVS's commitment to inspiring future scientists, engineers, and explorers.

Partnering with the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC), an ARRL Affiliated Club in Venice, Florida, PVS will use radios, antennas, and expert operators to facilitate this rare connection. Sixteen students will engage in a live two-way conversation with astronaut Sunita Lyn "Suni" Williams, asking questions and receiving answers in real time. The ISS will be in communication range for just 11 minutes, traveling at over 17,500 MPH.

The station's equipment and satellite tracking ground station were funded by a grant from the ARRL Foundation, secured by TARC last summer. TARC members will assist in assembling the station and training students in its operation. "Connecting with astronauts on the ISS will inspire these students for years to come, emphasizing curiosity, exploration, and the limitless possibilities of science and technology," said TARC president Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Nienaber added that TARC has played a pivotal role in preparing for this event by training students, parents, and faculty to earn amateur radio operator licenses. So far, 13 students and five adults at PVS have earned their FCC licenses, paving the way for the establishment of a school amateur radio club. With equipment on long-term loan from TARC, the club will soon operate a fully functional amateur radio station, capable of global communication.

The Sarasota County School District will live stream the event on its YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@SarasotaSchools).

Thanks to ARRL News

Ham Radio 101: What Are the RIT-XIT Functions Used for on Your Transceiver?

By Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

As a newly licensed ham, you probably got started in amateur radio with VHF and UHF phone operation. A simple click gave you access to FM simplex channels and repeaters stored in memory—so easy a caveman could do it. No fine-tuning was necessary in the channelized world of VHF/UHF FM. But when you moved to the world of single sideband (SSB) phone operations, it was a whole different story. Changing frequencies required a new skill set to carefully tune in those weird sounds that reminded you of Donald Duck squawking in an unintelligible dialect. Also, you needed to match the frequency of the station calling CQ so they could copy you. Remember, by default, your radio transmits and receives on the same frequency. Practice helps, and most radios have receiver/transmitter incremental tuning (RIT/XIT) features to help keep you on frequency and hear those who aren't.

What Does RIT Mean?
RIT on a receiver stands for "Receiver Incremental Tuning," a control that allows you to slightly adjust the receiver frequency without changing the transmitter frequency. You fine-tune the incoming signal to improve clarity and reception quality without asking the other station to adjust their radio. For example, when you're talking to a group—like in a net—you can fine-tune the ham who's off-frequency while everybody else in the group hears you without detecting any change in your frequency. Many CW operators prefer to use RIT to tune the receiver slightly higher or lower than the zero-beat frequency, changing the demodulated tone of the received station without changing the transmit frequency. If you prefer to change the zero-beat tone you receive, use the RIT function so that both your station and the contact station can maintain the zero-beat transmit frequency, keeping bandwidth to a minimum.

What Does XIT Mean?
XIT, "Transmit Incremental Tuning," performs the reverse function. It keeps your receive frequency constant while you adjust your transmit frequency. Tuning with the big VFO knob will adjust both the transmit and receive frequencies simultaneously, while tuning with RIT or XIT will adjust only one of them. Yaesu calls RIT/XIT "clarifier" on their radios. It enhances the received signal by fine-tuning it to compensate for slight discrepancies between the transmitting and receiving stations. Icom uses ΔTX to represent the XIT function on the front panel.

Doing a Split
The RIT/XIT feature can also help you operate in split mode. So when do you use it? If there's a rare DX station calling CQ, you'll likely find a pileup—way too many stations fighting to make contact. To help control the chaos, DX stations often transmit on one frequency and ask stations to call on another. This is called an operating split. The DX station will say something like "Listening UP 5," meaning stations should move up 5 kHz from this frequency to make calls. It clears the original calling frequency for the DX station and hopefully relocates the stations seeking a QSO. Of course, there will be some people who didn't hear or ignore the instructions, and you'll often hear a chorus of "UP 5, UP 5″ from other stations as a reminder.
For most of us, we are on the opposite side of this pileup. This is where XIT is useful. Set your VFO to the DX station's transmit frequency and tune XIT up 5 kHz or so. Usually, you'll find stations lurking slightly above or below 5 kHz. While the DX station is running through a bunch of people calling, we can periodically listen in on our transmit frequency (XFC button on Icom radios located beside the VFO knob) to determine the frequency of the station currently being worked.

We listen to the DX station and as soon as the current contact is completed, we know where the last contact was transmitting and immediately call on the same frequency. This can greatly improve our chances of being heard by the DX. We can also listen to several consecutive contacts and find a pattern of how the DX is listening—for example, slowly working stations on higher and higher offsets, returning to UP 5, and repeating. Figuring out patterns in a pileup will improve your chances of breaking through. Modern radios that have RIT and XIT typically also have a button you can use to listen on your transmit

frequency. This means that if you use RIT, you can listen on your transmit frequency (rather than on your receive frequency). On the Icom, it's the XFC located beside the VFO knob.

There are limitations using RIT/XIT. Modern radios like the Icom IC-7300, Yaesu FTDX10, and Kenwood TS-590SG can adjust RIT/XIT up to +/-10 kHz. Older radios may have a smaller adjustment range. For example, the Kenwood TS-830s, a tube/transistor hybrid radio, maxes out at +/- 2 kHz. If the DX station announces "listening 15 UP," you'll need to use a different solution.

Other Split Options
Another alternative can be used with radios that have two VFOs, A and B. It's similar to RIT/XIT but lets you select the transmit VFO (press A/B to choose) to set your transmit frequency. Then, press A/B to select the receive VFO to set the operating frequency and push the SPLIT button. When you transmit, the transceiver will automatically switch VFOs for you and switch back for receive. You should see the frequency change when you transmit, then return to the receive frequency when you finish.

Consult your radio manual for specifics on VFO A/B functions.

Thanks to OnAllBands on line

Joke of the Month

Back at the Ranch.....

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have $500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram."

She goes to the market and finds one for $499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer.

Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable."

Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?"

The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

Quote of the Month

"The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget."
Martin Scorsese