SHORT CIRCUITS

Newsletter of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club

April 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 April Fool's Day

Happenings

April 1	April Fool's Day, have fun!
April 8	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
April 13	CODEL Marathon, Rehoboth, more below
April 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
April 26	Delmarva Hamfest, Georgetown, more info below
April 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
May 12	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
May 13	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
May 16 – 18	Hamvention, Greene county Fairground, Xenia, OH
May 26	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
June 9	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
June 10	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
June 14	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
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 14	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
July 28	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
August 11	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
August 12	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
August 25	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
September 8	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
September 9	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
September 13	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00
September 29	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
October 13	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
October 14	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
October 27	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
November 10	AUXCOMM Meeting, 19:00
November 11	Membership Meeting, Kent County EOC, 19:00
November 24	Emcomm Meeting, EOC, 19:00
December 13	VE Testing, Wyoming Methodist Church, 09:00

Hamfests

April 26

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

April 27

Maryland Mobileers Spring Hamfest

Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club
Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, 1425 Annapolis Rd., Odenton, MD 21113
Contact: Bruce McPherson , AB3AC, 815 Quartz Flake Ct. Odenton, MD 21113
Phone: 410-456-2500 **Email:** BMCPHERSON73@VERIZON.NET
Talk-In:146.805 (-) PL 107.2

May 3

Hamfest At The Shore

Old Barney Amateur Radio Club
Surf City Firehouse, 713 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City, NJ
Contact: Ira Hosid , N2WAA, PO Box 117 Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Phone: 201-741-5330 **Email:** ihosid@aol.com **Talk-In:** 146.835 (-) PL 127.3

May 3

The Great Hagerstown Hamfest

Antietam Radio Association
Maugansville Bible Brethren Church, 17904 Binkley Avenue, Maugansville , MD 21767
Contact: Joseph Maguire , WA1ZZQ, 18711 Fountain Ter Hagerstown, MD 21742-2673
Phone: 972-965-9486 **Email:** maguirejb@gmail.com **Talk-In:** 147.09 (+) PL 100.0 Hz

May 4

Warminster ARC - Annual Hamfest, ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention

Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Bucks County Community College-Lower Bucks Campus, 1304 Veterans Highway (Route 413), Bristol, PA 19007 **Contact:** George Brechmann , N3HBT, PO Box 113, Warminster, PA 18974 **Phone:** 215-443-5656 **Email**: WARMrcinfo@gmail.com
Talk-In: 147.090 (+) PL131.8

May 16 – 18

Dayton Hamvention

Dayton Amateur Radio Association
Greene County Expo Center, 210 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia, OH 45385
Contact: Brian Markland , N8UDQ, 6619 Bellefontaine Rd. Dayton, OH 45424
Phone: 937-830-8711 **Email**: chair@hamvention.org **Talk-In**: 146.940 (-600 PL-123.0)

May 25

Maryland F.M. Association Hamfest

Maryland F. M. Association, Inc
Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794
Contact: John Elgin , WA3MNN, 518 Copley Lane Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-641-5313 **Email**: marylandfm@verizon.net
Talk-In: 146.76, 224.76, 444.0 tone 107.2

June 15

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Father's Day Hamfest

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club BARC

Arcadia Carnival FairGrounds, 16020 Carnival Ave., Upperco, MD 21155
Contact: William Fowler , KC3YFZ, 201 Inchcape Cir 2B Owings Mills, MD 21117
Phone: 410-205-5442 **Email**: KC3YFZ@gmail.com **Talk-In**: 146.67 tone 107.2

Oct 5 **CARA Fest 2025**
Columbia Amateur Radio Association (CARA)
Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD 21794
Contact: Andy Protigal, N3AWP, 6431 Skipton Drive Hanover, MD 21076
Phone: 410-218-3815 **Email**: n3awp@arrl.net **Talk-In**: 147.390 /R+ CTCSS 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

One of the biggest "faults" I have in reference to ham radio, if you can call it a "fault", is Field Day. The first event I attended after I joined the Kent County Amateur Radio Club in 1991 was Field Day. I learned a lot from the members back then including antennas, feed lines, and just operating in general. I got to operate on frequencies I normally would not be allowed and it spurred my interest and drive to upgrade so I could operate on those frequencies. I used equipment that I had only dreamed about and had an absolute ball!

Field Day has changed quite a bit since that first one in 1933 and the original purpose that F.E. Handy, W1BDI (SK), had in mind has changed quite a bit over the years. As interest in the hobby and the improvements in technology has changed amateur radio in general, so has the purpose of Field Day. What was originally looked at as a purely an emergency communications exercise has now become a multi-function activity. Even though it still holds most of its "emcomm" purpose, it has now become a contest, a social event (usually with a tasty picnic), a public service demonstration, and of course, a chance to learn and try something new.

Field Day keeps its "emcomm" aspect through the "bonus points" that are attainable. Emergency power, public location, natural power, message handling, are all parts of the "emcomm" focus of Field Day. This is what Mr. Handy had in mind, a showing of the importance of amateur radio in time of infrastructure failure. The "points", or contest, aspect of Field Day helps show the efficiency and effectiveness of the set up, the thinking being that a station that makes 1000 contacts will be much more effective than one that only makes 50. The twenty-four hour period gives a chance to show constant operation and shift changes needed to staff an emergency operation. Field Day gives emergency coordinators and State and County emergency Managers a view of volunteer resources they might need to call upon in some rare instance. That is also the reason there are bonus points for visitation by a "served agency official" and an "elected government official". And copying the ARRL Field Day bulletin shows the station can receive important information that might need to be sent out during the situation.

But Field Day also gives people a chance to work with each other in the group towards a common goal. This is an important part of amateur radio, learning different things about the hobby and seeing what works and what doesn't hold one's interest. Field Day is invaluable to new hams because of the loads of knowledge available and a chance to try something new. KCARC Field Day will be held on June 28 – 29, with set up starting on the evening of Thursday June 26. Come to the club meetings in May and June for plans as the dates get closer and come to the April meeting to hear where we are now, and ask any questions you may have. Hope to see you there.

President's Column

As we get closer to summer as amateur operators, we should be thinking about lighting protection for our home stations.

Mr. Ron Block has published several informational articles about this subject in QST. In case you didn't know Ron and his brother were the founders of the original Polyphaser Company. Their research and testing were the bases of the Motorola R56 and National Electric Code lightning protection code for two-way communication equipment.

Please do your own research about how to provide lightning and static electrical protection for your equipment.

In the past one of our past members lost a station and had fire damage to a room where their station was located due to lightning damage. (Name withheld with respect to the dearly departed.)
This isn't a scare tactic, but information for you to consider.
73,
Paul / N3BUH

The Emcomm Corner

It has been said that we learn more from our failures than our successes. That can be true with radio operations. When things go well we pay no attention to why it went "well" but when we fail, we are forced to examine why something didn't work and what changes are needed to make it work. The important thing is to not make the same mistakes over and over again.

After any exercise, drill or event, the after action report helps to document what went well, but more importantly, what didn't go well, along with whatever action was (or will be) needed to correct the issue. Sometimes that corrective action is as simple as having a necessary connector available, or ensuring some radio setting buried five layers deep in a menu is correct. Frequently the corrective action is simply minimizing human error by the use of repetition and checklists. Sometimes the corrective action is simply an idea as to how to make something easier, simpler or more user friendly (like marking cables). The important thing is that the lessons learned and documented by the after action reports are actually implemented in our operations.

An important part of the drill cycle is having good input on the after action reports. Thanks to those who take the time to make meaningful after action reports.

Jim KC3BTV
Kent County EC

From The Section Managers Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

The average age of a ham radio operator? About 75. Yes, 75 years old. This clearly tells us we must usher in a new generation of radio operators if the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) is to continue as we know it. One of my primary goals as Section Manager is to promote the ARS to youth. This year I introduced the Delaware Section Youth Initiative. This initiative provides free programmed HT radio kits to newly licensed technicians still in school. Recent testing at the Nanticoke ARC and Poly Tech School by the Sussex Amateur Radio Testing Team just added 31 high school students to our list of youth licensed in Delaware. I was privileged to issue 31 shiny new radio kits to each new licensee. Getting

these kids licensed is only the beginning of our fight. We must keep them engaged through mentors, assist them continue their journey of education to allow them to upgrade their license and participate in local clubs and activities. I ask
every ARRL Affiliated Club President to reach out to your local schools and see if you can make a presentation. STEM students through technical schools are ripe for the pickings. As Section Manager I can put the full ARRL resources to our disposal to this cause. I would like to thank all of the local clubs, individual ham radio operators, Gigaparts and QRZ who have graciously donated funds & radios to this cause.

That time again. The DE QSO Party – May 3-5, 2025
The Delaware QSO Party, which has been running annually since at least 2007, sponsored by the First State Amateur Radio Club (FSARC), is an exciting annual event that invites amateur radio operators from across the country—and beyond—to make contacts with stations in Delaware. Held over a weekend, this contest provides a unique opportunity for hams to work all three counties in the First State while testing
their operating skills and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow radio enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned contester or a casual operator, the Delaware QSO Party offers a fun and rewarding experience with a variety of operating categories and certificates available for participants.

This year's event promises to be another great opportunity for operators to log rare Delaware contacts, as the state is often sought after in other radio contests. Stations operating from Delaware play a key role in providing multipliers for participants aiming for top scores. Whether you're calling CQ from home, a club station, or a mobile setup traversing Delaware's counties, your participation helps make the event a success. Join us for a weekend of radio excitement and help showcase Delaware's vibrant amateur radio community. This is also a great event to do while you are in a park doing POTA. In fact, a large group of operators in Sussex County are operating a "3fer" event. May 3 is the Sussex ARES Ocean to Bay Bike Tour. So, several groups of operators will be in state parks at stops supporting the race and will be operating both POTA and the Delaware QSO party at the same time. Get in on the fun!

This QSO Party takes place during the first full weekend in May, this year that will be 1700Z, May 3 to 23:59Z, May 5. Information regarding this year's QSO Party will be available here shortly: https://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/qsohome.htm. Questions can be sent to qsoparty@gmail.com.

Intro to the ARRL – Part 3 – Section Manager Duties, Membership, Publications, Stats, etc.
As the ARRL Section Manager I am responsible for recruiting, appointing and supervising section-level staff to administer the Field Organization's principal areas of responsibility in the section. Additional duties include filling additional volunteer positions, keeping ARRL members (I consider all licensee's my responsibility) well informed concerning matters of the ARRL which includes ARRL policy, legislative matters, maintains liaison with Division level staff, correspondence with state agencies & ARRL Affiliated Clubs, create and distribute "Section News" (this newsletter), promotes the recruitment of not just ARRL members but all within the amateur radio community, visit both Winter Field Day and Field Day sites, and many other unlisted items.

If you want a national perspective look at the ARRL review the ARRL Annual Report which highlights previous activities, membership counts and the annual audit. There are approx. 136,000 ARRL Members within the approx. 742,000 nationwide. In Delaware we have 1,767 licensees. There are several clubs in each county in the state. Most are ARRL Affiliated Clubs with several not yet. The ARRL Delaware Section website lists mentors for each county. These 'mentors' have voluntarily agreed to provide time and knowledge to assist new amateur radio operators. Membership costs vary from free to many students to a life membership for someone under 30 at $3,333.00.
Last year the ARRL raised the dues of ARRL members from $49 to $59 which became effective January, 2024. This also removed the mailing of the printed copy of QST and added an additional charge of $24 for the printed magazine. ARRL members are able to get online copies of their favorite

magazines included in their membership. These magazines include QST; the monthly membership journal, On The Air; a bimonthly publication that explains the basics for new hams, QEX, a magazine that covers various topics related to amateur radio and experimentation and the NCJ, The National Contest Journal which is a publication that focuses on amateur radio contests.

If you are an ARRL member, ensure your preferences under your account at arrl.org are marked to enable you to get not only section emails from me but also division emails from our division staff. Feel free to contact me with any questions about the ARRL and our section.

Upcoming Events & Contests
• ARRL Rookie Roundup – Sunday, April 13, 2025 using SSB. This contest is aimed at amateurs licensed three years or less to encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.
• Delaware Radio Electronics EXPO, Delaware State Convention & HAMFEST - Saturday, April 26, 2025, Cheer Community Center, Georgetown, DE. Lots of new and used radio gear, HRO, tailgating, food, VE testing, and presentations which include “Deployment to NC” during hurricane Helene and “Starlink for EmComm” presentation and demo. Visit www.radioelectronicsexpo.com for more information.

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:
• KD3ASA, Jerome Zacks, Sr.
• KD3ASF, Christopher Martin
• KD3ASH, Nolan Sturgill
• KD3ASI, Ari Neal-Dickerson
• KD3ASK, Mohammed S. Diallo
• KD3ATJ, John Francis
• KD3AVP, Andrew Cronk
• KD3AWS, Joseph Reres
Engage our new radio operators!

As we close out this edition, let's celebrate the growing enthusiasm among young newcomers to amateur radio. Their fresh perspectives, boundless curiosity, and eagerness to learn bring renewed energy to our community. Together, we have the unique opportunity to mentor and inspire the next generation, fostering skills, camaraderie, and lasting friendships. Let’s continue to share the joys of this incredible hobby, building connections that span generations and keeping the spirit of amateur radio alive for years to come. The future is bright, and the airwaves are waiting!

73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager
• Email: kc3dso@gmail.com
• Cell: 240.515.0620
• Office: 302.604.7470

AUXCOMM News

In honor of the first day of April, I'll quote the infamous, "There is no fool like an old fool". Now given that we are experiencing the "graying" of amateur radio, we can extrapolate that there is a growing collection of those of us that have been around a while, and at times a little forgetful. I will gladly use that as an excuse as the need may arise.

The Sussex AUXCOMM Group is now formulating plans for ARRL Field Day in June. Following on the successful "teaching – learning" event we had for Winter Field Day, the plan will be much the same, but this time in a more public venue. Yes, we enjoyed the experience at Redden State Forest in January, but public exposure was very slim, although we did have a couple of visitors. For the June event we will be at the Ellendale Fire Hall in Ellendale. Again we will be using the AUXCOMM / CERT trailer as base of operation and active on HF through UHF. The public location will give us the opportunity to promote amateur radio as a hobby and a public service; as well as presenting the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program which continues to grow in the county. For new hams and those of the hobby that may have been inactive for a while, the perceived chaos of the HF bands in a contest can be a daunting challenge. Our approach in January was a gentler introduction to getting behind the microphone as well as a few demonstrations of "how it's done, runnin' them". Setup was done somewhat systematically with explanations of 'why' things were done the way they were, and 'how' it was important in the operation of the radios. Yes, being able to survive, copy, and record information, in the 'noise blizzard' of an HF contest is an invaluable experience for Emcomm when the things get hectic; but a rough way to start a newbie.

The AUXCOMM and CERT programs continue to grow and improve. The latest, we now have a dedicated supply room for the two programs. Gaining dedicated space in a government facility is an obvious indication we must be considered an asset. Before we were granted the space, our extras and supplies were in six different shared locations. The consolidation is most appreciated. The change was part of the continuing changes as the Department of Public Safety adjusts to the new organizational structure, and fitting into the existing real-estate. The AUXCOMM Room is now much less cluttered with the Go-Kits, batteries, and handcarts out of there. Some new shelves for the supply room are next on the agenda for the Go Kits, batteries and chargers. We have also converted to Lithium/ion batteries for the Go Kits, replacing the lead-acid ones that we've had for the last ten years or so. The reduction in weight is most appreciated!

There are two coming events of interest:
1)We are offering a Basic CERT Class, April 4, 5, and 6. The twenty-two hour class will provide the student with the instruction and hands-on experience to receive a Basic CERT Certificate, the first step in participating in the county wide CERT Program. There are only a couple of spots left in the class. If you are interested drop an email to sussexcountyde.cert@gmail.com asking for a registration form. If you don't make this class there's one coming in August, and your registration will be on the top of the pile!

2. Once again AUXCOMM and CERT are supporting the Coastal Delaware Running Fest (CODEL) Sunday, April 13th in Rehoboth and Lewes. This will put close to 3,000 athletes on the streets of Rehoboth and Lewes, and the trails of Cape Henlopen State Park. The 26.2 mile Boston Marathon Qualifier course is a challenge to the runners and to those of us covering it for the safety of the participants. Its great experience, and a good way to demonstrate our programs and their capabilities.

* For AUXCOMM we need hams out on the course with HT's at fixed locations, or even better on bicycles. Most of the fixed locations are accessible by vehicle or at least you can park close by. This is a V/UHF operation, so dual band capability is almost a necessity. Interested, send an email to WS3EOC@gmail.com to the attention of Bill Saunders who is managing our participation in the event.

*For CERT we can use individuals out on the course teamed with an AUXCOMM operator, and can also use several CERT members at the AUXCOMM / CERT Trailer in Lewes, presenting the CERT program to the public, since we are going to be more in the public eye this time than previously. Interested, drop an email to WS3EOC@gmail.com to the attention of Bill Saunders who is managing our participation in the event.

Both the CERT and AUXCOMM programs are a dynamic way to offer your time and talents to serve your community, particularly in times of emergencies and disasters. We hope nothing untoward will happen, but Murphy's Law says it will. Those of us that have been around the proverbial barn for a while, know that Murphy was an optimist! Just listen/watch the news. Daily there are stories of communities beset by all kinds of challenges disrupting the daily order. Are you ready? Is your community ready? The combination of the CERT motto, "The greatest good for the greatest number", and the amateur radio ability to communicate under adverse conditions; the two disciplines coming together is a powerful solution to community disasters. We are seeing quite a bit of crossover with CERT and AUXCOMM members. That is a really good thing, I believe.

Club Happenings

Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention

Don't forget the hamfest at Georgetown on April 26. KCARC will have a table inside there, and club members can bring a few items for sale to put on the table. Make sure they are marked as to the price you want for them.

FOR SALE:

3 sections of Rohn 25. Clean, dull galvanizing.Two straight 10-foot sections and one flat-top section including Rohn TB-3 thrust bearing. $200, pick up at my QTH in central Delaware. It's spring cleaning time. Other items available. Inquire with your needs. Contact AA1K at jz73@verizon.net.

73/Jon

CODEL on April 13

If you have always wanted to participate in a public service event, here's your chance. The Coastal Running Event (CODEL) will be held on the weekend on April 13. Contact Bill, N3ID, at **WS3EOC@gmail.com** to sign up. Do it soon as the final roster is being made.

Delmarva Emergency Net

The Delmarva Emergency Net is a single side-band phone net affiliated with the National Traffic System. It meets every Sunday at 2230Z (1730 EST/1830EDST) on 3904/5 kilohertz and covers the entire DelMarVA peninsula. Any amateur with a general license or above is welcome to participate in the net.

The net has liaisons with the Third Region Net (3RN), the Maryland Emergency Phone Net (MEPN), The RRI Digital Traffic System (DTS), and the Maryland-Delaware-DC cw net (MDD) to pass and receive radiogram traffic. The net typically has six to eight participants and lasts somewhere between ten and twenty minutes.

The current net control operators are Spence (NS3F), Tim (KC3OO), Marty (AD3J), and Jim (KC3BTV) but more are welcome. The net is a low pressure way to get experience handling message traffic in a HF

net environment with the thrills of changing propagation.

For more information contact me at jbmoorethree@yahoo.com or at any meeting of the Kent County Amateur Radio Club.

Jim KC3BTV
DEN Net Manager

Technician Class

A Technician class will be held at the Kent County EOC on April 12 – 13 hosted by the Lake Forest High School Club. VE testing will be given on Sunday after the class and is open to anyone interested in taking an amateur exam. No fee for the class, however testing is under ARRL and a $15 processing fee is required. Contact Hunter, W3CZ, at huntergrier0917@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

The Maryland Slow Net

The Maryland Slow Net (MSN) is a CW traffic net for the beginner CW traffic handling wanting to learn more about traffic handling using CW (obviously, hi hi). Net control operators will slow to YOUR speed and will send you practice radiograms. These radiograms will highlight a point of traffic handling in the practice message, again at your speed. The net meets most nights on 3.563 KHz at 7:30 local time year round. Listen to it for a few nights and get a feel for the operation and then check in, they will be glad to help. If you need more information, contact Jerry, N3KRX, at n3krx@aol.com.

A Case of Ducting

On the evening of 18 – 19 March, especially after the club net on Wednesday, if you didn't have “tone squelch" set on your radio, you may have heard some usual call signs. We were having a case of “tropospheric ducting”. Ducting is caused by temperature inversions that are usually caused by approaching cold fronts in the Spring and they trap signals and “guide” them many miles. One Field Day we worked a Cuban station with a satellite antenna four feet off the ground.

The Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS) has a repeater on 146.910, their PL being 127.3, near Toms River, NJ. On the 19th that repeater was a S7 at my location and was easy to copy. So if you saw signals on your radio and didn't hear anything (if you had your tone squelch set), or if you heard strange call signs, that was what you were hearing. It won't happen often, but it sure can be fun when it does.

Did You Know?

The ARRL VEC has a License Class Certificate Program. These frame-worthy certificates measure 8-1/2 x 11 inches and are available only to holders of FCC-issued US Amateur Radio licenses granted in accordance with Part 97 of the FCC rules. Available for Technician, General, Advanced, or Extra class licensees, these certificates acknowledge the success of newly licensed operators as well as those who succeeded long ago.

For more information visit www.arrl.org/license-certificates

Thanks to the ARRL Letter

Useless Facts of the Month

ZUT = CW FOREVER! In reaction to the ever-increasing use of radioteletype over that of CW, the Fraternal Order of Coast Guard CW Operators adopted an unused U.S. Military Z-signal, ZUT, and assigned it the meaning "CW FOREVER!" in 1962. (_ .._ es ZUT)
Marie Curie's papers, furniture, and even cookbooks are still radioactive. (Save the microwave, huh??)

The mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska, is a cat named Stubbs. (Cat food around for everyone!!)

Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Mussolini and Hitler, all suffered from ailurophobia, the fear of cats (They obviously wouldn't like it in Talkeetna, Alaska!!)

Cenosillicaphobia is the fear of an empty beer glass. (A true fear!!!)

The Hollywood sign, originally built in 1923, was not intended to symbolize the entertainment industry as it does today. Instead, it was created as an advertisement for a real estate development called "Hollywoodland." The sign was part of a promotional campaign to attract buyers to a new housing development in the hills above Los Angeles. Originally, it read "Hollywoodland" and featured flashing lights. Over time, as the film industry grew and the sign became synonymous with Hollywood itself, the "land" portion was removed in 1949, transforming it into the iconic landmark that we recognize today.

Los Del Río, a Spanish duo consisting of Antonio Romero Monge and Rafael Ruiz Perdigones, is internationally renowned for their 1993 dance hit Macarena. The song, an infectious blend of flamenco pop and dance music, became a global phenomenon in the mid-1990s, thanks to its catchy rhythm and iconic dance moves. Macarena topped charts in multiple countries, including a record-breaking 14 weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States. Its universal appeal made it a staple at parties and weddings worldwide.

Go Set a Watchman was the 2015 follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel To Kill a Mockingbird. Written by Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird is widely regarded as one of the greatest American novels, exploring themes of racial injustice, morality, and the loss of innocence in the Deep South during the 1930s. Go Set a Watchman was controversially released more than 50 years later and is considered a sequel, though it was actually written before To Kill a Mockingbird. It features an adult Scout Finch returning to her hometown of Maycomb, Alabama

Tidbit of Information of the Month Department

What Does Amateur Radio Do for Youth?

By Katie Campbell, KE8LQR Feb 10, 2025
Surprisingly, most high school students would prefer not to spend their weekends in the basements (granted, basements furnished nicely with radios and, hopefully, amplifiers) of hams who will spend a full 48 hours staring at a radio and intensely exchanging their signal reports and locations. At least that's kind of the impression I got when I came back to school the Monday morning after the CQ World Wide CW contest. One of my friends met me with something to this effect: "I saw your Instagram post this morning and was kind of concerned…until I remembered that you're just weird and have nerd hobbies."

Comments like this are definitely not new for me. They have really just become more and more entertaining since I started hearing them from classmates. These judgments and misunderstandings aside, amateur radio has had the most profound impact on my life of anything that I've been involved with, and I wouldn't trade those contest weekends for anything. (Even a chance to be popular—or at least a little less weird—amongst my peers.)

Amateur radio has given me, and countless other young people, the opportunity to be a part of a community where we've been able to meet friends and mentors, have a platform to advocate for ourselves and the things that we care about, and to seek educational opportunities and guidance. Amateur radio gives young people a platform to talk about things they feel strongly about (particularly within radio-related subjects), which is an incredibly valuable aspect of the hobby. The opportunities to present to an audience—large or small—are seemingly endless, such as youth forums at various hamfests around the country, podcasts, roundtable groups on YouTube or other streaming platforms, and writing about our experiences. Various groups are always looking for a young person to share their amateur radio perspectives. By taking part in these groups and the opportunities they provide, young people are not only given a chance to refine their public speaking skills, they are learning to effectively communicate with a diverse audience. Regardless of the differences that those in the audience may have from each other, we realize that people can be brought together by something as small as a hobby.

On the note of amateur radio bringing people together, the hobby is a great place for young people to form connections with operators their own age as well as older hams. At this point (six years into my amateur radio career), the vast majority of my closest friends are hams. These friendships have taught me an abundance of lessons on nearly every topic imaginable, ranging from things about cultures and languages to how to improve my soldering and Morse code skills. They tend to be the most worthwhile friendships that I build regardless of how challenging they can be to start and maintain.

In addition to making friends through ham radio, the hobby has also introduced me to many of my mentors and people I look up to both professionally and as humans. While a significant portion of the advice I receive from these individuals is in regard to school and academics, they also offer an almost overwhelming wealth of knowledge on radio-related subjects. Nearly everyone that I've met has not only been willing to share their knowledge and expertise with me but is excited to do so. Amateur radio fosters an environment where learning never stops, and the opportunity to be a part of a community like this is invaluable, particularly for young people who are more familiar with a culture of learning to do well on paper through test grades and activity involvement rather than learning for the fun of it.

Looking back at some of the interactions that I've had with my non-ham peers, I've realized how much amateur radio has shifted the way I think, communicate, and live my life. It has inspired me to take chances, put myself out there for every opportunity possible, and to be more aware of those around me. At the end of the day, it's impossible think of everything that amateur radio does for the young people who enjoy the hobby, and I speak for all young hams when I say that amateur radio is an incredible place for a young person to be—the positive impacts it has on our lives are innumerable.

I am confident that as the amateur radio community continues to expand and flourish, it will continue to be a place where young people can meet amazing people and find guidance.

Thanks to OnTheBands on line

Delaware's Top Cyber Official Steps Down, Interim Named

March 11, 2025 News Staff

After more than six years of service, Chief Information Security Officer Solomon Adote has announced he'll be leaving his position with the Delaware Department of Technology and Information (DTI). Adote's career in technology spanned several roles before his 2018 appointment as CISO. He served as a team manager and service support administrator at DTI from 2003 to 2006. Prior to returning to DTI for the CISO position, he was the global information security operations manager at FMC Corp., a specialty chemical company based in Philadelphia.

In an interview soon after he was hired as Delaware's CISO, he told Government Technology his goals included "bringing a mesh of the corporate world to the state world." According to Adote's LinkedIn

profile, during his time at DTI he established the state's first risk management and government team to assess, prioritize and drive the mitigation of risks against the state.

"We sincerely appreciate Solomon's leadership, expertise and dedication to advancing Delaware's cybersecurity initiatives," said Delaware Chief Information Officer Greg Lane in a statement to Government Technology. "His invaluable contributions to visibility, threat detection and overall strategy have set us on the path to continued modernization and strengthened our cybersecurity posture."

DTI reports that Adote's final day with the department will be March 14. Aashish Patel will serve as interim chief security officer.

Thanks to Government Technology online

"The CW Way of Life" Reference Book

Want to learn Morse code and enjoy the thrill of CW operating? Here's more than a little help from an operator who knows his way around a straight key and paddle. "The CW Way of Life" by well-known Morse code enthusiast Chris Rutkowski, NW6V, is a revelation for anyone trying to learn the code. NW6V explains the techniques for familiarizing yourself with the dits and dahs of Morse code, along with presenting a look at CW (continuous wave) from a unique personal perspective.

"The CW Way of Life" provides a complete, self-contained Morse code learning system that requires no computers or special equipment. It combines techniques dating back to the early days of the code, with modern deliberate training principles to guide you toward success.

Broken into nine chapters, the 224-page paperback from the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) takes the reader on a journey that tackles theory, learning methods, and the instrument itself before moving on to code talking, reading and writing, and advanced keying. Every step is dealt with in detail, combining practical steps with practice drills that bring the code to life. NW6V also provides anecdotes about his life with Morse and shows just how all-consuming this skill can become. It's more than a Morse "how-to" book; it's a deep dive into how it works and how you work when studying it.

Nothing beats practice when it comes to learning Morse code, but "The CW Way of Life" is there to provide the inspiration to do just that. This book is an easy read that is designed to encourage you to take up Morse code and perhaps adopt a "CW Way of Life."

Thanks to OnAllBands online

RandomGram – Secret Code, or Just CW Fun?

John VA3KOT December 13, 2023

Some time ago I wrote a post on Ham Radio Outside The Box with the title "Six Weeks to Live". It was a fictional story, based on historical fact, about the courageous members of the Allied Special Operations Executive working behind enemy lines on the European mainland during World War 2. Their task was to disrupt the enemy and relay intelligence by radio back to command centers in the United Kingdom. It was a dangerous mission, SOE operatives had a life expectancy of just 6 weeks before enemy RDF trucks located and terminated them.

I am fascinated with the radio technology of the era and have read several books on the subject. During my childhood I began my radio hobby using military surplus components with which I built crystal sets and a regenerative receiver (that turned into an accidental broadband transmitter, as regenerative sets are wont to do). Then, earlier this year, I learned about a new group of CW enthusiasts being formed by Drew Kowal AF2Z. It is called RandomGram. Each month RandomGram members exchange 5-letter code groups to practice accurate sending and copying. Of course, I was immediately interested. Here

was a chance to practice my Morse Code while fantasizing about how it must have felt for those brave SOE operatives during WW2 whose very lives depended on transmitting quickly and accurately using secret radio equipment and stealthy antennas.

I should stress that, to the best of my knowledge, there is absolutely no hidden code involved in RandomGram's 5-letter groups. I kind of wish there was actually. It would be added fun to be able to decode secret messages from the code groups received. Hams are forbidden from sending encrypted traffic, which is a shame, but perhaps if the encryption technique was very simple and published for all to understand …?

Here is an extract from the story "Six Weeks to Live" that describes the actual simple encryption code used during WW2.....

…a fairly simple code in which short messages were sent in groups of 5 characters. Messages had to be short to avoid detection; 50 characters was the limit. At a Morse Code speed of 25 words per minute the message could be sent in just twenty four seconds. Linger on the air too long and the next sound heard could be the rattle of machine gun fire.

Here is how the code worked. The message to be sent was written in a single line with no punctuation or spaces. It was then divided into 5 groups of 10 characters and rewritten as a matrix with 5 rows and 10 columns. The first 5 character group to be sent was taken from the 10th column starting at the bottom. The second 5 character group was taken from the 9th column starting at the top. Each subsequent 5 character group started one column to the left, alternating in direction up and down the column.

The receiving station would use a form with 5 rows and 10 columns of empty boxes. The boxes would be filled with the character groups received starting with the 10th group which would be entered into the first column on the form, from top to bottom. The 9th group would be entered into the second column from bottom to top, and so on until all the boxes were filled. Once the boxes were filled the original decoded message could be read. Note that word spaces were omitted and had to be determined from context.

Thanks to "Ham radio Outside The Box"

Tips and Pointers for Book Traffic.

Some of you are new to EAN Cycle 2 and have never handled book traffic. The time will come when you will have to copy book traffic. The time may come when you will have to send book traffic. Some of you have been around for a while and still have problems sending book traffic. Even though most of this information is contained in the ARRL NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines, all that reading can be difficult. These tips and highlights, may be easier for you to understand and you will be less intimidated and more at ease when you receive or send your first radiogram of book traffic. The following lesson is a little long. I have included a short chart as an outline or review to go back to as a reference.

First, book traffic can be confusing. Let's look at a few words to help us get a basis to build on. Most of the confusion in sending book traffic is with the pro-words (procedural words) "End" and "Break". This is a very, very important starting point. *Before we go any further we must understand that we are not on a telephone. Anything and everything that the sending operator says may not be heard clearly by the receiving operator. You may hear the sending operator very clearly, but other operators may have only a weak copy or less, because of propagation, distance and different noises at their location. There is a very long list of possible interfering noises that happen constantly on single sideband. With that in mind, the following procedures have been established to help us to get the traffic passed exactly as it was written and as efficiently as we can.

All radiograms begin with the pro-word "Number", except book traffic begins with the pro-words ,"Book of ____". The blank is usually filled with the number of addressees and address information including phone number and/or email addresses, but there can be a variety of other optional blank possibilities that are explained in the many pages of the ARRL Methods and Practices guidelines. Over the years I have heard some of these other possibilities and they almost always cause much confusion, multiple fills, and wasted time. So for this lesson, let's just stick with books with multiple addresses. Books can save duplication and save time. Books make us more efficient. However, we can make books too confusing and that defeats the purpose of books. If a book looks too confusing to you after you have written it, don't book it.

So (single) radiograms all start with the word "Number". Now what pro-word does a radiogram end with? This is an easy one. All single radiograms end with the pro-word "End". All books end with the pro-words "End Book".

There is only one "End" or "End Book" in a radiogram. So what do we use to show separation between the addresses in a book? (In a single radiogram, what do we use to show separation in the parts of the radiogram?) The answer is the pro-word - "Break". There will be several breaks in a book. In a single radiogram, there is only a break at the beginning of the text and another one at the end of the text. In a book there is a break at the end of the preamble (because the addressee information will be given later), and the text is given next and there is always a break at the beginning of the text). Next, there is a break at the end of the text. Then the signature is given. (We are used to saying end at the end of a signature; we cannot say end here. Why? We are not at the end of the book and there can only be one end in a book and it is "End book".) So, we say, "Break" to show the separation of the signature from the addresses that comes next. Then we give the addressee information. At the end of the addressee information we say "Break" to show separation from the other addressee information. After the break pause for **5** seconds, This gives the receiving operator the opportunity to ask for fills. if there is no response for fills after the **5** seconds, go on to the next addressee. Unlike End, there is **no response** to "Break" unless a fill is needed. **IF** the receiving operator receives a fill and is ready to go on, he/she will say "Go ahead". Go is not enough because of the nature of sideband. With all the possible noises of sideband, a short "Go" may not be heard. "Go ahead" has a much better chance of being heard.

Give each addressee information with a "Break" at the end of each, except the last one, because after the last one you are at the end of the book, so you will say "End book". Then the receiving operator may ask for any fills. If there are no fills or the receiving operator has gotten all of the needed fills, he/she will say, "Roger Book".

I know that is a lot of information, so to help you understand, I have added a diagram below;
For a single radiogram -

"Number" then the rest of the Preamble
Addressee information -complete address, (may not have a phone number or email address) BREAK
Text BREAK
Signature END (If giving one radiogram, the sender may say, "END, no more", or “END, more if there are others to the same receiving operator.) The response to "END" is ask for fills or "Roger".
- -
For a book containing 3 different numbers and addresses -
"Book of Three" and the rest of preamble BREAK
Text BREAK
Signature BREAK (Now we are ready for the numbers and addresses.)
Example -
W8YS, How Copy? (Reply - Ready to Copy.)
Send NUMBER 20. Give complete name and address of first addressee. BREAK

KY2D, How Copy? (Reply - Ready to Copy.)
Send NUMBER 21. Give complete name and address of second addressee. BREAK

K1UAF, How Copy? (Reply - Ready to Copy.)
Send NUMBER 22. Give complete name and address of third addressee. END BOOK

It is important to always remember - unlike "End", **there is no response to "Break", unless one needs a fill**. **There will be 5 seconds of silence following "Break".**

Procedural notes -
First the NCS will call the operator holding the book and inform him/her of the operators who will be taking the book. The operator holding the book will call each individual receiving operator. Example: "W8YS, how copy?" The receiving operator will reply, "Ready to copy." *(If the receiving operator does not reply, do not send.) I have been on nets when the receiving operator did not respond and the sending operator sent that part of the book anyway. (Remember sideband and propagation, noises and fading.) When the book was finished, the receiving operator who did not say, "Ready to copy" called the NCS and said, "Where is the addressee that is going to me?" That was a big waste of net time, confusion and unneeded duplication. The sending operator did not verify if the receiving operator was copying the sender. Remember our task as NTS members is to pass a radiogram exactly as it was written, word for word, letter for letter and to do it with efficiency. This was not the fault of the receiving operator. (An example is - You have heard the NCS call an operator and get no response. The NCS calls the same operator 15 seconds later and gets a response.) It is sideband and propagation, noises, and fading. Follow the correct procedures all of the time and in poor conditions we can still be successful.

At the end of each number and addressee information, the sending operator will say, Break and pause for 5 seconds. This is the time for the receiving operator to ask for fills or give no response, because unlike End, there is no response to Break unless a fill is needed. After the last number and addressee information is given, the sending operator will say, "End Book". The receiving operator will ask for fills or say, "Roger Book". Roger Book and the book is finished. Then we are back to the NCS to take care of more radiograms.

Best Regards
Dennis W8YS EAN Cycle 2 Manager

Thanks to Dennis, W8YS in his monthly report

Joke of the Month

Fred came home from University in tears. "Mum, am I adopted?"

"No of course not", replied his mother. Why would you think such a thing?

Fred showed her his genealogy DNA test results. No match for any of his relatives, and strong matches for a family who lived on the other side of the city.

Shocked, his mother called her husband. "Honey, Fred has done a DNA test, and... and... I don't know how to say this... he may not be our son."

"Well, obviously!" he replied.

"What do you mean?" She asked

"It was your idea in the first place," her husband continued. "You remember, that first night in hospital when the baby did nothing but scream and cry and scream and cry. On and on. And you asked me to change him."

"I picked a good one I reckon. Ever so proud of Fred."

Quote of the Month

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.”
Alexander Graham Bell