

From the Section Manager's Shack

Greetings from Sussex County

ARRL Field Day Weekend was a resounding success, bringing together amateur radio enthusiasts from across the region for a dynamic and engaging event. Participants set up portable stations in parks, fire houses, and schools, showcasing their technical skills and emergency preparedness in real-world conditions. Despite a mix of weather, spirits remained high as operators made impressive contacts across the country and even internationally. Newcomers were welcomed with hands-on demonstrations, while seasoned hams demonstrated the power and versatility of amateur radio. The event fostered camaraderie, technical learning, and public outreach, making this Field Day not only productive in terms of QSOs logged but also impactful in strengthening the amateur radio community. Section Staff visited all of the sites in the state providing an ARRL representative to operators and visitors alike. Bonus points were had by using the WinLink Global Email over Radio System. As Section Manager, I received a good number of ICS-213 messages. Field Day provides valuable EmComm experience in not only setting up a portable station but operating “out of our comfort zone” to vary our operations.

CQ Kilo Two Echo....CQ Kilo Two Echo - The 13 Colonies Special Event; July 1-7

By the time you see this email, the 13 Colonies Special Event will be in full swing. Brush off your HF radio and get on the air. Contact some or all of the 13 Colony Special Event Stations and get a beautiful certificate. Now in its 17th year the event has grown from Special Event Stations making approximately 12,000 contacts to last year making 292, 496 contacts around the world. The Event runs from July 1 9:00 AM - July 7 Midnight Eastern (July 1 – 1300 UTC – July 8 – 0400 UTC). This year Event organizers are recognizing the 13 Colonies Special Event founder Ken Villone, KU2US, who is passing the torch on to Tony Jones, N4ATJ. For the past 16 years Villone has led the event by working with state and bonus station coordinators. Then after the event he would print out individual certificates for thousands of people who made contact with the special event stations. The Special Event consist of one station operating in each of the 13 Colonies (K2A – K2M) and three bonus stations (WM3PEN – Philadelphia, GB13COL – England, TM13COL – France) each representing their city, state, or country’s role in America’s Colonial period.

Ham Radio operators and SWLs can participate in the event. Complete information about the call for each colony station and the bonus stations can be found on the event website 13colonies.us and they can follow on Facebook – 13 Colonies Special Event Community. Stations need only make one contact with one of the participating stations or they can go for a Clean Sweep and work all 13 Colony stations and the 3 bonus stations. Each station offers a special QSL card for the event as well as a different certificate each year. Operators can keep an eye out for the special event stations by watching many of the dx spotting networks such as DXSummit.fi. I look forward to operating as K2E every year. I hope to hear you on the air.

Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics

The PACE Communications Protocol – A communication method for the future

The PACE communications protocol—Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency—is a planning tool used to ensure reliable communication in any situation. It establishes a hierarchy of communication methods: the Primary method is the main form of communication; the Alternate serves as a backup; the Contingency is used if both primary and alternate fail; and the Emergency method is the last resort, typically the most robust and resilient. In amateur radio, PACE is especially relevant during events like Field Day, emergency response scenarios, or public service communications. The days of using VHF simplex out of the box for incidents are gone. For example, an ARES group might use VHF/UHF linked voice repeaters as the primary method, then as Alternate a standalone non-linked repeater, Contingent could be simplex, such as a repeater output or a standalone established simplex frequency. Emergency may be HF phone, satellite or mobile phone as the emergency option. Using PACE helps ensure continuous communication under changing conditions, reinforcing amateur radio’s role in emergency preparedness and resilient networks. PACE can be applied to many scenarios. Such as evacuations, supply chains, etc. showing the methods’ flexibility. Many progressive ARES groups have been doing this hierarchy for years but “PACE” puts an easy to use and remember name to an easy to implement protocol. Having PACE in

your Emergency Operations Plan allows for easy planning by leadership and is easy to follow by its members.

Delaware Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan Update

As Section Manager, I have been working on the update of the Delaware Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan for about three months. This new plan will supersede any previous plan when distributed. I anticipate having the draft ready for section staff review in a week or two. Until then, the previous plan from 2018 is still in place and is to be followed. I am also updating the Sussex County ARES Emergency Operations Plan as well. It will be completed after the July 12 Sussex County ARES Drill later in the month.

Upcoming Events & Contests

- 13 Colonies Special Event Stations – July 1-7 – Contact as many of the 13 Colonies Special Events stations and up to three Bonus stations for a beautiful certificate. Many hams based in Delaware run the “Kilo Two Echo” station here in Delaware. Jump in on the fun. Visit 13colonies.us for details.
- July 4 Celebrations – ACS Monitoring events – Visiting fireworks in either Lewes or Rehoboth? Sussex County AUXCOMM will be monitoring the VHF simplex frequency of 144.915 during both events. The County MCU will be site monitoring for any reports of issues or if you want to say hello. The callsign for the MCU will be WS3EOC. If you see something – say something.
- Sussex ARES Third Qtr Hospital Drill – July 12, Sussex ARES will be running a countywide hospital drill on July 12, 2025 from 0830 to about 1300 hrs. All hospitals and the Sussex EOC will be participating. We will be drilling on net procedures, voice messaging, WinLink templates for data messages and Peer to Peer operations. Anyone interested in EmComm is welcome to participate from home or portable or visit a site. Contact Steven Keller, KC3DSO, at kc3dso@gmail.com if interested.
- IARU HF World Championship, July 12-13, to support amateur self-training in radiocommunications including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member society headquarters stations, using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

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 the Amateur Radio Service in our vibrant community.
KC3FHD, Gregory Marley
KD3BJR, Hongli Yang
KD3BKG, Dale Mull

Training is readiness!

Inspired by Field Day, it's clear that continued training is vital for emergency preparedness. Whether it's practicing message handling, operating in adverse conditions, or learning new technologies like WinLink or HF digital modes—staying active keeps us ready. Attend drills, mentor newcomers, and challenge yourself to operate beyond your comfort zone. Our strength is in our preparedness.

73,

Steven Keller

Delaware Section Manager

- Email: kc3dso@gmail.com
- Cell: 240.515.0620
- Office: 302.604.7470