

## **ARRL Delaware Section Manager Newsletter – August 2025**

### **Greetings from Sussex County**

**13 Colonies Special Event** was a great success. The Delaware stations that work this week-long event as K2E were heard all over North America and Europe. This event ran from July 1 to July 7 with special attention given to July 4. After all the ADIF files were tabulated, Delaware stations made over 12,300 QSO's! A great showing for Delaware. Many of us also participated in the event with our own callsigns to get a 'clean sweep' of not only the original 13 Colonies but also the three bonus stations in Philadelphia, UK and France. For many years Gene, NY3C, ran this event but sadly Gene has decided to pass the reins onto a new organizer. The 2026 running of K2E will be handled by Wendy, W3NRN. These special events are a great opportunity to hone your HF skills especially when running as K2E when two dozen folks are trying to call you.

### **ARRL Delaware State Convention/Hamfest gets new venue for 2026**

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Delaware State Convention & Hamfest will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 but at a new venue. The event will now take place at Sussex Academy, 21150 Airport Road in Georgetown. Across the street from the old Cheer Center. This new venue provide a huge fully paved parking lot, large presentation/testing room, and fantastic vendor area. Setup times have changed so keep an eye out for the announcements from the Sussex Amateur Radio Association in the coming months.

### **August is National Night Out Month**

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

National Night Out fosters the relationship between public safety and the public. Should ARES be at NNO events? ARES should absolutely have a presence at National Night Out—it's a golden opportunity to connect with the community, promote public safety partnerships, and showcase the vital role amateur radio plays in emergency preparedness. By participating, ARES volunteers can engage directly with families, first responders, and civic leaders, demonstrating how radio operators support disaster response and fill

communication gaps when other systems fail. It's not just outreach—it's building trust, inspiring future operators, and reinforcing the value of resilient, community-based communication networks. I highly encourage all ARES groups to reserve a spot at a local NNO event. Sussex County ARES will be at the NNO event on August 8<sup>th</sup> in Georgetown to showcase our capabilities, demo HF, VHF/UHF communications and provide data on both ARES and obtaining an amateur radio license. Our group will be monitoring the 147.090 Millsboro repeater. Stop by or say hi on the radio.

### **Changes in ARRL Atlantic Division**

Martin "Marty" Newingham, AG3I, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division by our ARRL Division Director, Bob Famiglio, K3RF, effective July 15, 2025. Newingham will serve the remainder of a term that expires December 31, 2026. He replaces Martin J. "Marty" Pittinger, KB3MXM, who resigned from the position in April. Newingham is an ARRL Life Member and a Gold level contributor to the ARRL Diamond Club.

The ARRL Atlantic Division comprises the ARRL Sections of Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland-DC, Northern New York, Southern New Jersey, Western New York and Western Pennsylvania.

### **ARRL July Board of Directors Meeting**

The ARRL BoD met for its second meeting from July 18-30 in Connecticut. The complete minutes will be available soon on the ARRL website but to provide a brief synopsis:

Programs & Svcs Committee are moving ahead with the creation of another DXCC award – 10-BAND DXCC – which will recognize those who achieve DXCC on all bands from 6 meter to 160 meters (excluding 60m).

The Admin & Finance Committee discussed the current status of ARRL's Washington Advocacy. This includes continuing work to build congressional support for bills H.R. 1094 and S.459 – The Amateur Radio Emergency

Preparedness Act, for passage. The committee recommended to the board that the ARRL CEO take the lead on the efforts, including executing a campaign to involve members in reaching out to their congressional representatives. Hundreds of Delaware hams have already provided letters to our representatives but we may need to do more.

The Emergency Communications & Field Services Committee provided year to date updates. This includes a complete rewrite of the ARES training modules and the recently executed Memorandum of Understanding between the ARRL and Radio Relay International.

BoD has approved By-Law 46 – the board's Conflict of Interest policy and By-Law 42, the charter for the Ethics & Elections Committee. This introduces an unbiased competent third party to provide the Board with results of its own determination in an E&E matter before submitting to the board.

The BoD also approved a year-long celebration of the semiquincentennial of the United States. This will include a commemorative ARRL US250 Worked All States awards made during 2026. BoD also approved making 2026 The Year of the Club nothing high performance clubs, recognizing outstanding club websites, recognizing ARRL Affiliated clubs that maintain higher than required ARRL membership level for affiliation; clubs that achieve 70% or 90% ARRL membership level.

The next ARRL Board of Directors meeting will be January 16-17, 2026.

## **Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics**

### **The Amateur Radio Go Bag**

Having an Amateur Radio Go Bag is absolutely essential for any emergency communicator. It ensures you're always ready to deploy at a moment's notice—whether it's a local disaster, a public service event, deployment to a hospital or shelter. A “Go Kit” is a pre-staged collection of equipment and personal gear that you will need to perform your duties as an EmComm

operator in the event of a call out. Stocked with radios, extra batteries, antennas, documentation, and personal essentials, this kit transforms you from hobbyist to EmComm operator when seconds count. More than just gear, it's a symbol of your preparedness and commitment to serving your community when communication matters most.

The contents of your ARGB can grossly vary depending upon many factors. Season, duties & responsibilities, indoors/outdoors, access to food/water, as among the top influencers.

The ARRL provided a nice Emergency Prep Checklist which provides a very basic list of must haves:

- HT - spare battery, charger, battery eliminator, roll up J-pole
- Food and Water – snacks
- Utensils
- First Aid Kit (with personal meds, mask, gloves)
- Clothing – ARES vest with facility/ARES ID
- Electronic Devices – cell phone and charger, flashlight, your EmComm USB key that holds digital copies of all your EmComm Data and important documents if you don't have hardcopies, laptop
- Day to Day Items – garbage bags, TP, notebook, pencil/pens, multitool, mylar blankets, whistle, maps (digital and printed – state and county)
- Shelter
- Personal Items – cash, extra glasses

This is a very short list providing basic supplies for a three-day event. Many lists available on the internet can be 5 to 6 pages and go in great detail.

Your Go Kit should be tailored to your needs, your equipment, expected assignments, and expected length of assignment. In making your list you must consider many variables. Prior to deployment, think about where you will deploy? If a hospital, you most likely won't need a shelter or even a sleeping bag. If a shelter or other field location, you may need the tent and sleeping bag. Additional items can be used to create a secondary bag simply to keep in your vehicle which you can access

if needed. Remember, as ARES members we do not self-deploy. Follow your county Emergency Coordinators direction. Maintain a current copy of your county and state ARES Emergency Reference Sheets in both printed and electronic format.

## **Upcoming Events & Contests**

- **222 MHz & Up Distance Contest – August 2-3** – Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode.
- **SVARC Berryville Hamfest/ARRL Roanoke Div Conv. – August 3.** Shenandoah Valley ARC hosts the Berryville Hamfest & ARRL Roanoke Div Convention. Visit the SVARC website for details.
- **National Night Out – August 5 (other venue specific dates)** A community based event that promotes public safety & public partnerships. Setup an ARES booth or stop by for some great demos and most have free snacks.
- **HamSCI's Meteor Scatter QSO Party – August 11-12** - The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is preparing for a series of upcoming meteor scatter (MS) experiments. Operating will take place during two well-known meteor showers: Perseids, August 11 - 12, 0000 to 2400 UTC, and Geminids, on December 12 – 13. These are combo Special Event and Contests. Visit HamSCI's website for details.
- **EME Contest 50 MHz to 1296 MHz & Up – August 16-17** – To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz.
- **Rookie Round Up – RTTY – August 17** - Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!
- **10 GHz & Up – Round 1- August 16-18** – For North American amateurs to contact as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions.

- **Huntsville Hamfest – August 16-17.** Huntsville Hamfest and ARRL Alabama State Convention. Visit <http://hamfest.org> for details.
- **Shelby Hamfest – August 30** – Shelby ARC is hosting the Hamfest and ARRL NC Sec Convention. Visit <http://shelbyhamfest.com> for more information.

Visit [contests.arrl.org](http://contests.arrl.org) or [www.contestcalendar.com](http://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.

KC3BAC, David Beck  
KC3BLZ, Daniel O'Donnell  
KC3EPO, Richard Behler  
KC3FHF, Matthew Guerke  
KD3BNE, Kristy Green  
KD3BWP, Kenneth Boggs

## **Volunteers!**

As we reflect on the tireless spirit of our amateur radio volunteers, one truth echoes louder than any signal: preparedness begins with people. In every storm, drill, and moment of uncertainty, these dedicated operators step forward—not for recognition, but for resilience. Our passion bridges communities, connects first responders, and turns static into support. Let's continue to honor their commitment and strengthen the networks that rely on their expertise. Together, we are louder than any emergency.

73,  
Steven Keller  
Delaware Section Manager

- Email: [kc3dso@gmail.com](mailto:kc3dso@gmail.com)
- Cell: 240.515.0620
- Office: 302.604.7470

## Useful Links:

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