

ARRL Delaware Section Manager

Newsletter – September 2025

Greetings from Sussex County

With what appears to be an early arrival of fall weather comes one of most popular times of the year for outdoor amateur radio operations—crisp air, low humidity, and fewer insects make for comfortable, extended sessions in the field. The stable atmospheric conditions often improve signal propagation, especially on HF bands during early mornings and late afternoons. With the foliage turning and the sun casting longer shadows, it's not just functional—it's downright inspiring. Whether you're setting up a portable station in a park to run POTA or running an emergency drill from a trailhead, autumn invites both preparedness and reflection. It's the season where resilience meets serenity, and every transmission feels like part of something bigger. These outdoor activities provide superb experience for EmComm.

September marks **Emergency Preparedness Month**—a timely reminder that readiness is a shared responsibility, and amateur radio plays a vital role in that mission. While cell towers and internet connections can falter during disasters, ham operators remain a resilient lifeline, bridging gaps in communication when it matters most. This month is a chance to spotlight the power of radio: from coordinating local response efforts to supporting national relief networks. It's also an ideal time to train new volunteers, test go-kits, and refine deployment protocols. Amateur radio isn't just a hobby—it's a cornerstone of community resilience. With the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test scheduled for Saturday, October 4, September is the time to get your Go Box out and fire it up. Test voice and data connections to ensure your gear is up to the EmComm challenge.

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA) Update

AREPA continues to move forward but not at the pace we all would like. With this in mind, the ARRL Delaware Section has decided the time has come for a Delaware State version of AREPA to be introduced into the state legislature. With the assistance of Tim, KC3OO and Pat, KW3Z, our Section State Government Liaison, we will rework the bill so it will have the best impact for us within Delaware. To support the federal bill, we gathered over 500 letters from licensed amateur radio operators and forwarded them to our federal legislators early this year. Next year we will need even more support to get this bill through the state. We will need a high percentage of the over 1750 amateur radio licensees in Delaware to directly support the bill. Many of those 1750 licensees do not attend club meetings, events or other functions. We will need everyone to reach out to other hams to get support.

Delaware Section Youth Initiative Update

The Delaware Section Youth Initiative is moving forward with the training and licensing of youth in the section. Fall marks the start of a new semester which includes a new class of students. Currently section staff is working on getting books into our public schools to encourage kids to get involved in amateur radio and to get licensed. This 'book pack' will include licensing manuals for all three license classes and books on Operating, Antenna's and contesting. The ARRL Delaware Section has received a nice donation from the Estate of Randal (Randy) Carlson, WB0JJX, who was a Delaware Section Manager from 1992-2005. Randy's family heard about our Section Youth Initiative and immediately made contact to assist with our program. Come to find out, Randy got his license in a similar program here in Delaware. Thanks to the Carlson Family for their support.

New ARRL Delaware Section groups.io forums

The official forum for our ARRL Delaware Section is on groups.io under the ARRLDelawareSection@groups.io. Two new sub-forums have been created. First is for the Mid Atlantic ARESMAT group. This new sub group provides data for the MA ARESMAT group which consists of members from MDC, DE, EPA, WPA, SNJ, NNY, WNY and Northern VA from the Roanoke Division. Wendy, W3NRN, is not only our Delaware Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) but is also the moderator for Mid Atlantic ARESMAT. This group has limited membership. The email for this group is MidAtlanticARESMA@ARRLDelawareSection.groups.io. For information on the group send an email to Wendy via w3nrn.wendy@gmail.com.

The second group has been set up for our Delaware Traffic Net. This group was set up to assist our Delaware Traffic Net with a place to have forums for easy movement of messages, a calendar of events where NCS schedules could be shared, and to store and have available NCS scripts, training documents, etc. If you are interested in join this forum or to learn more about the DE Traffic Net contact the groups moderator, Marty, AD3J, at ad3j@arrl.net.

Delaware has a new Club

Delaware has a new club; The Mid State Amateur Radio Club. This club is based in Kent County and has already had a couple of meetings. They have a Board of Directors, Constitution and By Laws and with over a dozen radio operators at their last meeting they have hit the ground running. Their next meeting is on September 3, 2025 at the Pizza King, 1000 Midway Drive, in Harrington. Dinner is at 6pm with the meeting starting at 7pm. For questions about the club send an email to midstateradio@gmail.com.

DELMARVA Skywarn get it's own DMR Talk Group

The folks at DelMarVa DMR have set up a new Talk Group (TG) on their network to assist with Skywarn operations within Delaware and the surrounding areas. The new talkgroup is called Skywarn, TG 759 (SKY), CC1, TS2 (most repeaters). DelMarVa DMR has a huge list of networked repeaters throughout the DelMarVa Peninsula which will provide a great backbone communication hub for our Skywarn Net Control Stations (NCS). This backbone will allow our NCS to take reports from all over the state but to also coordinate coverage, warnings and watches and possible response. We will have the ability to communicate with our counterparts in adjoining sections to provide better overall situational awareness. This DMR talkgroup will not eliminate our current nets on analog repeaters. A Skywarn NCS will still monitor and run a net on the following analog repeaters during watches and warnings; New Castle – Delaware City on 448.825- PL 131.8, Kent – 146.910- PL 77.0 and Sussex on 147.090+ PL 156.7. Visit delmarvadmr.com for info on this network.

Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics

DOPE!

No, not what you may be thinking of..but DOPE – Data on Personal Equipment—is a concept borrowed from tactical and precision disciplines, but it's just as powerful when applied to amateur radio. By tracking performance, environmental conditions, and gear configurations over time, operators can build a personalized log of what works best in the field. Whether it's antenna orientation, battery longevity, or signal reports across bands, maintaining DOPE helps refine setups for reliability and rapid deployment. Knowing your gear is paramount. Know how to program your HT with a simplex and for a repeater. Know how to turn a PL tone off. Know how to change the antenna on your HT to using an external antenna. Or change power levels on your rigs? Have manuals for your rigs, tuners, analyzer, batteries, etc. Know how long your battery lasts when running 100w phone or when running 50w CW. Do you know what filters are available on your rig? How and when to use them? Antenna performance for your vertical vs your quad band off center fed (OCF)?

It turns casual observations into actionable insights, empowering hams to optimize their gear like seasoned pros. In emergency comms, that kind of readiness isn't just smart—it's mission-critical.

Upcoming Events & Contests

· **Swap Meet at Al's, K3TKJ – Saturday, September 6, 2025.** The Delmarva Amateur Radio Club is hosting a swap meet at Al Waller's QTH located at 34087 Old Hickory Road in Laurel, DE. The event runs from 0900-1400hr. Free Admission, food

truck, license testing and sometimes classes. Contact Art, N3EAK at amparks6@gmail.com with questions.

· **SNJ Conference Hamfest Convention – September 7, 2025.** Cloucester County ARC sponsoring this event. Mullica Hill, NJ. For info visit <https://hamfest.w2mmd.org>.

· **September VHF Contest – September 12-15, 2025.** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

· **Sussex Amateur Radio Assn (SARA)/Nanticoke ARC joint Fox Hunt/POTA/Picnic – Sunday, September 14, 2025 at Trap Pond State Park.** Event starts at 9am and runs to about 3 or so. Picnic has standard foods and drinks. Generally, two or three Fox Hunts are done so bring your HT and RDF gear. NO license is required to participate in any Fox Hunt event. Generally, have two or three POTA stations in operation running phone & CW. Bring snacks/drinks to share. Contact Eric, WG3J via aa3j@yahoo.com with questions.

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.

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|--------|---------------------|
| KC3BAC | BECK, DAVID S |
| KC3BLZ | O'DONNELL, DANIEL J |
| KC3EPO | BEHLER, RICHARD A |
| KD3BPW | Boggs, Kenneth E |
| KC3FMV | BROOMALL, JAMES R |
| KC3FNT | Watters III, John R |
| KD3BSG | Schaus, Suzanne |
| KD3BSR | Skillman, Isaac T |
| KD3BTS | Matevosyan, Narek |
| KD3BUO | Harris, Michael |

Our Voice is Heard!

To every amateur radio operator across the First State: your signals carry more than just sound—they carry the spirit of service, heritage, and resilience. From the quiet marshes of Sussex to the historic harbors of Lewes, your commitment to preparedness and connection strengthens Delaware's backbone in times of calm and crisis alike. Whether you're mentoring the next generation, refining your gear in the golden light of fall, or honoring our maritime legacy with each QSL card sent, know this—your voice matters, your craft endures, and your dedication echoes far beyond the airwaves. Keep transmitting with pride.

73,
Steven Keller
Delaware Section Manager