

ARRL Delaware Section Manager

Newsletter – October 2025

Greetings from Sussex County

October brings many fun things for amateur radio. For EmComm operators in Delaware it brings the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test. This nationwide readiness test, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025, is the chance for you to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like environment. This annual event is run by the Delaware Section Emergency Coordinator, Wendy, W3NRN. All three counties in DE are participating which includes Emergency Operations Centers including DEMA, hospitals, mock shelters and even independent operators. We will be testing not only voice communications statewide but also using WinLink for data.

Speaking of readiness, although the Atlantic Hurricane Season has been a low impact for us, we must remain ready. As of late September, the ATL Hurricane Season has seen seven named storms and two hurricanes with minimal impacts on land so far but the Atlantic is churning with Hurricane Humberto and TS Imelda with both being forecasted to remain at sea. Hurricane season not only brings threats of damaging winds and flooding but also a ‘silent killer,’ carbon monoxide poisoning.

The latest issue of the HWN Report, September 2025, lists several interesting facts. With power out, thousands turned to generators to power their homes. Tragically some were indoors, in garages or just too close to a home. At least 15 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning exposure, more than the flooding itself. Another worthy note from the report mentions “Amateur radio operators who had go-kits, spare antennas and backup power were able to stay on the air for days. Those without backups fell silent just when communications were most needed. Antennas also proved critical; permanent towers often failed, while portable or wire antennas could be redeployed quickly.” The HWN included a “Hurricane Preparedness Checklist for Amateur Radio Operators” in the report. It’s a nice list for each of us to consider. The report can be found at hwn.org.

Help Pass The Bill! ARRL Grassroots Campaign - Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (AREPA) Update

A couple of weeks there was a special Section Manager meeting with the CEO, Dave Minster, NA2AA and Director John Stratton, N5AUS. They shared the ARRL’s push to get this legislation through. The ARRL needs every radio amateur in the United States to send letters to Washington as we continue our nationwide grassroots campaign to pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (H.R. 1094 / S. 459) to secure antenna rights. The process is simple: click the button at www.arrl.org/HOA, put in your call sign, and press the red SEND MY LETTERS button. It takes mere seconds!

The letters will automatically be sent to your elected officials encouraging them to support the bipartisan bills. This legislation is intended to prevent restrictive homeowners’ association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas. Passage would give amateur radio operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

ARRL is also encouraging radio clubs to provide letters of support, and is urging each club officer to sign the letters. There are instructions for clubs on how to complete the letter [PDF] and a sample letter that each club can customize with their information [DOCX]. Send your letters now; it takes about 20 seconds to complete your online form.

Another term as ARRL Delaware Section Manager

Early September I put my petition in to run again in the election for ARRL Delaware Section Manager. The submission end date was September 5. No other petitions were received so I will be continuing as Delaware Section Manager for a second two year term starting January 1, 2026. Serving as the ARRL Delaware Section Manager for a second term is both an honor and a responsibility I embrace with deep gratitude. This role offers a unique opportunity to strengthen our amateur radio community, advocate for our shared interests, and support the vital work of local clubs and emergency communications teams across the state. I'm committed to continuing the momentum we've built—fostering collaboration, promoting education, and ensuring Delaware hams have a strong voice within the ARRL. Thank you for your trust and support as we move forward together.

DELMARVA Skywarn get new Focal

The NWS DelMarVA Skywarn has a new focal point of contact. David Garland, WX3NCC, is now the new POC for us. Dave has years of experience within the NWS Skywarn community. Skywarn remains active in Delaware and is, in my opinion, one of the most basic ways we as amateur radio operators can help our community. Visit the PHI Skywarn Page, www.weather.gov/phi/skywarn for Dave's contact information and information on getting trained as a Skywarn Spotter. Also, Skywarn now has its own DMR Talk Group. Skywarn 759 is the group and it's CC1 and TS1. All Skywarn NCS will continue to bring up Nets on each county's assigned analog repeater. This talkgroup allows reports from all over DelMarVa and allows us to share weather data on approaching storms with adjoining sections.

Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics

Contesting & POTA!

Many radio operators don't think of contesting to provide EmComm skills but it provides a valuable skillset. Having the ability of rapid callsign retrieval, working a computer to log those callsigns and other data, maintaining order on the radio during a 15 station pileup, radio operation, etc. all leads to a great Net Control Station (NCS). I read a good number of After Action Report/Improvement Plans (AAR/IP) and many of them note the lack of experienced Net Control Stations and true digital operators. We learned from Hurricane Helene, the NCS noting making errors due to their operational period was so long. Review the Upcoming Events listed below for contests you may be interested in operating in. There are a good number of Delaware Hams that welcome radio operators into their contest stations to see what it's like and how fun HF can be. Visit the ARRL Delaware Section webpage at www.arrl.org/view/delaware for contact info under Mentors.

POTA is another great way to get simulated NCS experience. I just got back from Colorado and activated 9 parks and got 874 Q's. That is a good bit of traffic, many done during pile ups. Learning new organizational skills is paramount. I often keep a pad of paper, tell folks I am writing down the callsigns, and list them (most of the time just the prefix or suffix) and call them back in order. Very fast and efficient allowing more Q's in a given time. This way weaker (QRP), Park to Parks, etc. all have a chance of being heard instead of your just responding to the strongest signal.

Delmarva Presidents Meeting

The idea has come up to have at least one meeting per year with club presidents within Delmarva. These meetings would occur in the beginning of the year to consolidate a single calendar of events. Many events are being held in and around the peninsula which other nearby clubs have expressed an interest in. This would allow clubs to schedule events and not overlap other clubs' events, and probably will increase attendance. This would hold true for fox hunts, POTA activations, meetings, training, etc. If you are a club president and are interested, send an email to Eric, WG3J, SARA President via aa3j@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events & Contests

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test – Saturday, October 4, 2025. The Delaware Section participation in the SET will run from 0800-1400 depending upon stations. Thousands of radio operators will participate. Contact W3NRN with questions via w3nrn.wendy@gmail.com.

Scouting JOTA/JOTI – October 17-19, 2025. JOTA/JOTI is the world's largest digital and radio scout events, promoting friendship and global citizenship. This is a perfect opportunity to get involved with the youth in the Delaware Section. Contact your local scout group or contact the Delaware Section Youth Coordinator, Chris Cote, KE5NJ via ke5nj@k3ars.org for help. Currently radio operators in Delaware staff several JOTA sites in and around Delaware. I suggest you take the ARRL Delaware Section handout on the Delaware Section Youth Initiative. This document runs prospective operators on how to get licensed, where to get licensed and all needed info on how to get a free radio to those 18 and under who live in Delaware. Contact me for the handout.

Sussex Amateur Radio Assn (SARA)/Nanticoke ARC joint Fox Hunt/POTA/Picnic – Sunday, October 18, 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.

CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest – October 26-27, 2025. CQ WW is the largest amateur radio competition in the world with over 35,000 participants on the airwaves the last weekend of October. This October weekend is the SSB contest. Several radio operators in Delaware participate in this contest every year. If you are interested in either watching this contest from a contest station shoot me an email and I can put you in touch with someone in the section. Visit cqww.com for information on this contest.

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.

KD3BTS Narek Matevosyan
KD3BUO Michael Harris
KB3MQU Jacob A. Lester
KC3DAM Kirby S. Wilson

KC3FNU Richard D. Conover
KD3BVT Haiyang He,
KD3BWG Laurent V. Walker
KD3BWI Ruilin Guo
KD3BWK Colton J. Mika
KD3BWM Kenneth Hudson

AREPA...Help get it passed!

In times of crisis, amateur radio operators stand ready to bridge the communication gap when all else fails. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act is more than just legislation—it's a recognition of the vital role hams play in safeguarding communities. By ensuring access to reliable antennas, this act empowers us to respond swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes. Let's rally together, advocate for its passage, and remind lawmakers that when the lights go out, amateur radio keeps the signal alive.