

ARRL Delaware Section Manager

Newsletter – November 2025

- Greetings from Sussex County

It appears the Atlantic Storm season is far from over. As I write this month's newsletter, Hurricane Melissa, a CAT5 storm, just finished ravaging Jamaica and Cuba leaving widespread damage. Fortunately for us it's continued moving North East continuing out to sea. With hurricane season officially ending on November 30th so there is still time for us to have an issue.

Speaking of storms, DELMARVA bore a Nor'easter on October 12-13. The Delaware Section saw both Emergency Operations Centers, at least one Welcoming Center (precursor to sheltering), individual stations and DEMA which I was a part of virtually. About a dozen operators throughout the state used the new Skywarn 759 DMR Talkgroup very successfully coordinating Skywarn NCS's and section leadership throughout the state. There was a voluntary evacuation order for Bowers Beach, flooding and winds but overall Delaware fared well.

Prior to any storm, we, as EmComm operators, need to ensure our stations stand the test of readiness. This may include lowering towers & masts, ensuring your radios are charged and that you have some power to run your station. 12V power to run your station has never been cheaper or more reliable than today. The cost of very efficient Lithium Iron Phosphate (LIFEPO4) batteries drops almost every day. These power packed batteries come in a variety of sizes, pack a lot of power as you can discharge them to zero, and are a fraction of the weight of a flooded lead acid or sealed lead acid (SLA) battery. They charge quickly, mount in any position, and do not expel any gases when charging. I have two 100A batteries that can run my station very nicely. Adding a "PowerGate" type of device and you can run these batteries like a huge UPS running your gear with no interruption if the power goes out. There is a lot of data out there on these batteries and how to run them but I would suggest you search "Will Prowse Solar" on Youtube and watch his incredible solar/battery videos.

2026 ARRL "Year of the Club"

The ARRL has declared 2026 the "Year of the Club" which will be a year long event. This event will include many radiosport activities such as clubs using the W1AW/X callsign for events in celebration of the US 250th Anniversary. It also happens to be the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL's Field Organization if you are an NFL fan, 60th of the Superbowl. The league wants to get all states to participate in week long events with club callsigns as well. Participating stations will get special certificates similar to the Centennial certificate. Special Worked All States (WAS) 250th certificates will be done with endorsements for bands, modes, working WAS with the W1AW call, working ARRL affiliated clubs and others. As Section Manager I will be scheduling the use of the W1AW/3 call in Delaware so no two stations use the call at the same time. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting yearlong event.

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

Many licensees in Delaware have jumped online and within 15 seconds have completed and submitted the AREPA letter. If you have not, go to www.arrl.org/HOA and enter your US based FCC Amateur Radio based callsign, verify your info is correct, then hit submit. Many of the 1770 licensees in Delaware do not attend meetings or events. So, pass the word to as many operators as you can to help get this passed.

Grid Down, Mic Up – EmComm Topics

Are you antenna ready?

In emergency communications, antenna versatility is a key aspect to amateur radio preparedness. Operators should maintain a go-kit with compact, deployable options like roll-up J-poles, mag-mount mobile antennas, or end-fed wires with tuners to adapt to varied terrain and operating conditions. Practicing rapid setup and testing SWR in the field ensures readiness when infrastructure fails. Whether supporting local ARES nets or handling traffic during severe weather, a reliable antenna system can make the difference between being heard and being helpless. Having a back up to your main station antenna system allows for a quick swap should your antenna come down. End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) are a good back up as they are easy to deploy and can work several bands. You should practice deploying your back up antennas to ensure you know how and double check they function as designed. Many rigs have SWR meters in them which work ok but a true external handheld antenna analyzer is without a doubt the best.

Statewide Calendar of Events

The Delaware ARRL Section runs a groups.io forum, ARRLDelawareSection.groups.io, which hosts a calendar for everyone to use. I highly encourage all clubs to post to this calendar your annual events to ensure we get the word out. Post events such as meetings, nets, POTA, Fox Hunts, and training. This promotes better attendance and camaraderie throughout the Amateur Radio Service. In the past we have had groups running similar events on the same day which could be avoided. Send an email to main+subscribe@ARRLDelawareSection.groups.io and I will approve you generally within minutes.

Delaware Section Youth Initiative Update

A new school semester will bring new amateur radio operators. A fresh group of tentative radio operators are currently studying to get their technician license and the group from last semester we tested are studying for General with a couple studying for Extra. The Delaware Section Youth Initiative has supplied almost 20 of the Gordon West FCC Study Guides to the school. The Delaware Section has been given a donation toward licensing kids in Delaware by the estate of

Randal Carlson who was Delaware Section Manager from 1992 to 2005. Come to find out, Randal got his initial license through a youth program in Delaware and his family loved the idea of supporting the Section's licensing efforts.

Delaware Section Staff to hold Open Staff Meeting

In November, the Delaware Section will again hold an open staff meeting. The date will be published well in advance and will be run on Zoom. These open meetings provide a time for anyone to jump into our Zoom and ask questions of anyone on staff. So you will be able to direct your questions to the right staff member, I suggest you visit the ARRL Delaware Section webpage run by the ARRL to see job titles. Visit [ARRL Sections - Delaware](#) to get details on the staff and the section itself.

Upcoming Events & Contests

- DELMARVA ARC Swap Meet – November 1, 2025. At Al Wallers, Al Waller K3TKJ, 34087 Old Hickory Road, Laurel, DE 19956. 9am-2pm. Food Truck Lots of gear for sale. This is the last swap meet of the year. 2026's first will be June 6, 2026.
- ARRL November Sweepstakes CW – November 1-3. Stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) exchange information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.
- ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone – November 16-17. Stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) exchange information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 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.

Holiday Season ahead

As the crisp air settles in and autumn leaves paint the landscape, it's the perfect time to welcome the warmth and joy of the holiday season. Whether you're gearing up for festive gatherings, cozy nights, a POTA activation or moments of gratitude, may this month bring peace, connection, and plenty of reasons to celebrate. Here's to a season filled with kindness, laughter, and the magic of togetherness! I want to wish everyone safe travels.

As always, feel free to contact me regarding any questions.