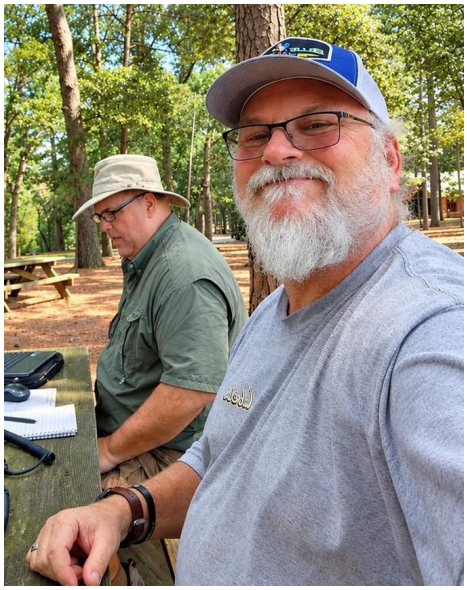
Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their time and skills to help others in a time of need

Heart attack in Delaware

On Thursday 28 July 2026 around 4:15 pm, Martin Kirby W3MLK walked into his living room, where his Icom IC-5100A was scanning, and suddenly stopped on a frequency where he heard somebody calling a broken ***Mayday! Mayday!*** Martin at first listened and heard bits and pieces of the seeming distress call, and attempted several times to answer, but couldn't get a response from the caller. Eventually, he put together enough of the audio to capture ***KEELO CHARLIE THREE INDIA OSCAR TANGO***, which he looked up on QRZ as belonging to a Harry Coxen of Lincoln, Delaware, about 24 miles to the north.



Martin Kirby W3MLK

Right away, Martin got onto a popular local repeater and asked whether anybody knows Harry KC3IOT, and explained the call for help. Barbara Dean KC3LGE of Lincoln was listening and heard the call by Martin, reported that she knows Harry, dropped everything, and rushed to his house to check up on him. When Barbara arrived at Harry's house, she heard Harry in the house, but she couldn't get in, and Harry wouldn't respond to her knocks, so she called 911.



Responders arrived and found Harry responsive but in severe distress, and immediately transported him to a nearby hospital. A diagnosis revealed that Harry had suffered a heart attack, and that quick actions by himself, Martin, and Barbara had saved his life. Bishop Harry Coxen, it turns out, is both the pastor of the Siloam AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church in Lincoln, Delaware, and an amateur radio enthusiast. From his hospital bed, Harry recorded a selfie video tearfully expressing tremendous thanks and gratitude to those who rescued him.



Bishop Harry KC3IOT

Harry's residence is located where there is spotty cell service and where it's difficult to get a good amateur radio signal out, so when he needed to make a phone call or get on the radio, he normally jumped into his truck to get a better location. Thanks to great patience on Martin's part, and immediate action by Barbara, it's reported that Harry is expected to make a full recovery.

You can read more about Harry's rescue on Groups.io and Facebook.