Having Fun with Amateur Radio

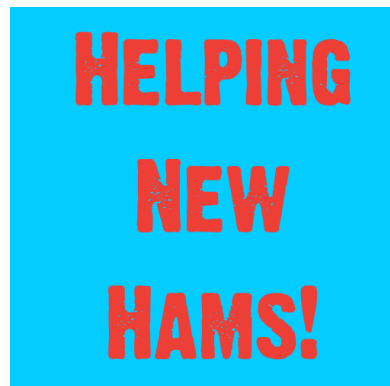**HELPING NEW HAMS!**

Session Goals

- Discuss with participants their reasons for getting their amateur radio licenses
- Explore the many different ways to have fun with amateur radio
- Discuss with participants how they might get involved in these activities

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Session Topics

1. Why did you get your amateur radio license?

   What got you interested in amateur radio?

   Are there any particular things you're interested in doing?

2. Explore the different ways to have fun with amateur radio.

   a) Emergency communications/public service

      - Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES): http://www.arrl.org/ares

      - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES): http://www.usraces.org/

      - ARES/RACES FAQ: http://www.arrl.org/ares-races-faq

      - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): https://www.ready.gov/cert

      - Salvation Army (SATERN): https://www.satern.org/

   b) Contesting

      - ARRL Contest Basics: http://www.arrl.org/contest-basics

      - WA7BNM Contest Calendar: https://www.contestcalendar.com/

      - Fox Hunting/ARDF: https://ardfusa.org/

c) DXing

- HF DXing – how to do it: https://rsgb.org/main/get-started-in-amateur-radio/operating-your-new-station/hf-dxing-how-to-do-it/

d) Parks on the Air (POTA)/Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- Parks on the Air: https://parksontheair.com/

- Summits on the Air: https://www.sota.org.uk/

- Amateur Radio Lighthouses on the Air: https://arlhs.com/

e) Satellite operation

- AMSAT: https://www.amsat.org/, https://www.amsat.org/introduction-to-working-amateur-satellites/

f) Building/experimenting

- Kits: https://www.kitsandparts.com/, https://qrp-labs.com/, http://www.qrpme.com/, https://kc9on.com/, https://qrpguys.com/, http://www.qrpkits.com/

- QRP Clubs: http://www.4sqrp.com/,

- Software-defined radio (SDR)

  - RTL-SDR.Com: https://www.rtl-sdr.com/

- Antennas

g) Digital modes

- VOIP modes: EchoLink, IRLP, AllStar

- "Real" digital modes: PSK31, FT8

  - WSJT-X software suite: https://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html

  - fldigi: http://www.w1hkj.com/

h) Many more

3. Discuss ways to obtain the knowledge and equipment needed to participate in various amateur radio activities.

   a) ARRL

   b) YouTube

   c) Clubs

Summary

Amateur radio is much more than talking on the repeater. By exploring the many different facets of amateur radio you'll learn a lot and have a lot more fun, too.

Resources

1. Buying your first radio - http://www.arrl.org/buying-your-first-radio

2.