

Helpful Talking Points from Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

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- What is Amateur Radio?

Non-Commercial, two-way radio hobby and service

Hobby: we do it for fun Service: Licensed by the FCC

Emergency and community service

- The Fun Part; World-wide High Frequency Comm. and Local VHF/UHF FM and Repeaters,
- Where: At Home or Take it with you: Mobile or Handheld

- World-Wide Radio - How it works: High Frequency (Shortwave) Radio

Skip: the Ionosphere (Mother Nature's Internet Server) Look Ma - no wires!

(this was as technical as it got, and was my graphics extravaganza. I explained how we talk worldwide without phone lines or the internet by bouncing signals off the ionosphere, and drew some simple graphics to show it)

Language Barrier? English is very common, but not everyone speaks it, even in ham radio

- What do hams talk about? Radio and Everything else

- Local Hamming - VHF-UHF; Local Communication, Just around town, FM Radio, like the police and fire dept., "Repeaters" extend range 30 to 60 miles

- Hams in Space:

Our own satellites - lot's of 'em

On the Shuttles since 1983

First "ham in space" - astronaut Owen Garriot, aboard Columbia.

Today, a full-time ham station on the ISS (picture of an ISS contact QSL card - the station with Russian and US call signs). Most astronauts are licensed hams, including any currently on the ISS, and three of the astronauts who died on Columbia.

SAREX: Hams in Space talk to Kids on Earth.

-Emergency/Public Service

Our unique capabilities:

Trained volunteers

Communications "Off The Grid" generator and battery power no phone lines, no Internet From anywhere, to anywhere (almost)

(Talk about the search for shuttle debris in east Texas, hurricanes, and the ice storm that knocked power out for days)

-Emergency/Public Service

When the power goes out and the phones go dead . . .

Hurricane, Flood, Tornado

(Ham Radio keeps working... for you)

State and County EOC's

Command Posts

Shelters

In the field (picture of operation at state EOC)

Skywarn: (picture of SKYWARN station at NWS office, next to Doppler RADAR console.

Event Support: Bike Tours, Walks, Shadow Officials, Rest Stops, SAG Wagons, Medical Teams

(picture of ham talking on HT at rest stop, with lots of bikes around him. Cell phone coverage isn't good enough, and on our system, everyone hears the questions and answers, and can jump in if they have something to add. The event organizers say they wouldn't do it without us.)

-Something Athletic? ARDF, or Radio Orienteering Combines Orienteering with Radio Direction Finding No license needed

-Where did "Ham" come from?

We don't know for sure

In the late 1800's Railroad telegraphers called the new guys "hams" or "ham-fisted"

Early radio was all telegraphy and Commercial operators came from the Railroads telegraphers

They probably called the amateurs "hams" We took it as a compliment!

-Becoming a Ham

3 Classes of License:

Technician - no Morse code entry level exam, electronics, operation, safety

General - 5 wpm Morse tougher exam

Amateur Extra toughest exam

Local Classes or self study