

Ham 16 – Activities Post License
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1. Amateur radio has three aspects: technology, mental exercise, and lifestyle or what you do with it.
2. After you obtain your ham license, now what?
 - a. Buy your first radio, generally an inexpensive version, until you decide what features you want.
 - b. Program the radio with at least one channel to try it out.
 - c. Get an Elmer to help you find a cable, use Chirp, and program all channels.
 - d. Find a repeater and join a regular net, so you have a place to go in emergencies.
3. Your next radio will depend on the activities you want to do.
 - a. Often that is a base/mobile for more reliable network communications.
 - b. The options are myriad from top-grade Icom and Yaesu to less expensive, less performing versions.
 - c. Icom 2730 is 50-watt analog unit that is as simple to use as a hand-held. Digital units have a steep learning curve.
 - d. The base unit will require a power supply and a separate antenna. Mobile will require an antenna.
4. To give a greater opportunity for sharing info, learning new stuff, and getting help, we plan regular Show & Tell.
 - a. Usually, the session will be the Second-Saturday at 9:00 AM, for a couple of hours.
 - b. You can request a topic, present a topic, or just come to see what is happening. These will be interactive.
 - c. We will be hands-on. We may build antennas, create computer tools, play Raspberry Pi, demonstrate equipment.
 - d. Ham road trips let us see our gorgeous, historic state, with a different perspective and practicing varied radio skills.
5. New beginner Technician classes are planned for every other month, as there is interest. Testing will follow completion.
 - a. Let your friends know how they can get started, too. It is that easy to be an Elmer.
 - b. Please let us know, so we can schedule and send them the study material ahead of time.
6. We rotate Net Control for on-the-air communications, so many can function in an emergency.
 - a. Not surprisingly, Ham network has a protocol.
 - b. Since the very first days, networks have been used to share and relay information, before telephone was common.
 - c. Do not be shy, the network is the people who will be your contact in an emergency.
 - d. After a few sessions, others will coordinate the network, if interested.
7. Initially the Network operated on other groups' repeaters.
 - a. Two organizations offered their systems, but none of the locations are adequate to hit all our hams.
 - b. With many new, active hams, we will have a significant local impact immediately.
8. We evaluated building our own repeater.
 - a. That let us locate it where other people are in range.
 - b. It gave us control of the equipment, when we want and need it.
 - c. Obviously, there is construction help needed and cost associated with equipment.
 - d. In amateur radio, everything is accomplished by hams.
 - e. There is no free lunch or government program.
 - f. We can instruct on the technical issues, but some of us Elmer guys are past the time of climbing extension ladders.
9. To keep the network going requires significant support from many hams.
 - a. We are not organized as a club, but are just a functional group to help others communicate in an emergency.
 - b. If you see something that you think should be done, welcome.
 - c. Amateur radio is about doing the part that makes sense to you and asking an Elmer for help.
 - d. People come and go and come again, depending on their activities. That's life.
10. These are additional coordinators, teams, and activities that you may want to do, if it is your interest.
 - a. Corresponding administrator to keep everyone informed.
 - b. Social media.
 - c. Facilities, arrange where to meet and set-up.
 - d. Field trip and training arrangements.
 - e. Food and drink.
 - f. Check-up on people who have not checked-in lately.
 - g. Emergency preparation, whatever that entails.
 - h. Storm spotter group. National Weather Service classes for hams are generally in February and March.
 - i. The Guy and The Gal
11. The one, big thing: To have a network when you need it, you must participate to keep it active, on the air, with people.
12. You thought the Ham thing was getting a radio and talking? Well, there is that too!
Life is good. Enjoy.

