

Ham 81 – Net Communicating, RF & Digital

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1. Many new hams have become licensed and associate with Evergreen communications group.
 - a. To them, history started the day they were licensed.
 - b. Conversely, those that are involved, go along, thinking everyone knows what they do and knows how to ---.
 - c. One of the prime directives: Do as much as you want and your credit card will allow.
2. First, we are simply a group of individuals, with some common interests, who associate to share amateur radio. That is it.
3. Second, regardless of our backgrounds, we all started at the same point.
 - a. First, studying to pass an exam.
 - b. Then trying to learn about which radio, antenna, and power source would work for us, within our budget.
 - c. Next suffering from ‘mic fright’ and overcoming that enough to press the PTT.
4. Third, one aspect of ham radio is about being prepared for emergencies.
 - a. How is the best way to communicate in an emergency? Which emergency? What kind?
 - b. What services are available? What services have been disrupted?
 - c. Now we are back to why ham radio works when nothing else does. We are individuals with individual equipment.
5. Nets are an ancient ham tradition from the very first days.
 - a. The purposes of a net are to test equipment, practice and develop skills, and meet other people of like interest.
 - b. If you do not know who to talk to, when you can get them, and what frequencies that are used, you have zero chance of making contact in an emergency.
 - c. You must have some affiliation and association. It takes at least two people to communicate.
 - d. Begin listening to nets, then join in.
6. Some of the talk tools the group uses include simplex, duplex repeater, and digital nodes.
 - a. We have a training website www.evergreencg.org and a social media presence <https://gab.com/groups/62710>.
 - b. Do you have other feasible methods?
7. What does all that mean? Excellent question. Several training articles on the website gets into each.
8. KEY TOOL: Our primary exchange occurs on Monday night net at 7:00 PM.
 - a. Radio: Connect to VHF 145.250 MHz, negative offset, PL 141.3.
 - b. Digital: AllStarLink node 584801.
 - c. Someone acts as net-controller to keep the information trade-offs in order.
9. AllStarLink is now connected to and controls the repeater.
 - a. This allows simultaneous radio and digital connection around the world.
 - b. A node is simply a connection (like a phone number) to the network.
 - c. Get a node number: AllStarLink.org > Login/Sign Up
 - d. It may take up to 24-hours for the system to recognize you. No other validation is required.
 - e. You will need Login to the site again, so you can see if your node number is posted. Emails are not sent.
10. Cellphones or tablets can be used as a node connection.
 - a. iPhone and iPad, go to AppStore to download ‘Repeater Phone.’ Cost is \$7.99.
 - b. The app will pop-up on all devices on the account, so per device cost is not bad.
 - c. We have different callsigns, but the app allowed each of us to log-in with our ID.
 - d. Setup is straightforward, just inputting callsign and related data.
 - e. Android devices download DVSwitch from your store.
 - f. Set-up tends to be a little more tricky.
11. If you want to be a Maker, you can build a node for digital radio.
 - a. Follow the instructions on the website for Ham 45, 46, 47. They are very detailed.
12. RF radio, digital radio node, or cellphone, everyone connects together to hear or talk. Awesome!
 - a. On a recent net, we had people on the air, people on digital nodes, people on phones, and one at sea in the Gulf.
 - b. Try it. We think you will like it.
13. If you have a problem or need help, talk to an Elmer. That is amateur radio tradition.
14. Life is good. Enjoy!

