

**Ham 84 – Ham Radio Intro Notes**  
Dr. Marc & Rosemary © 230320

1. Ham Radio is a term about which everyone has an idea.
  - a. What do you think of when we say ham?
  - b. Who do you think of? Interesting.
  - c. Evergreen now has 80 associated hams.
  - d. Some are more active than others. I can count on Scooter being on the radio, if he is not doing an install.
  - e. Some have come to Evergreen because of ham.
  - f. Let's let a few of these tell you about why they became a ham, what they enjoy, what is their favorite radio type?
2. I started on the venture in high school building radios, then did SWL, then CB.
  - a. After college, life got in way for a lot of years.
  - b. 20 plus years ago, I got into the venture, again.
  - c. I was doing Morse one evening. It is no longer required. Rosemary came in.
3. A little over a year ago, Dr. Michael decided to have a ham outreach. Jerry talked to Dan and me.
  - a. That is how we and you got here today.
  - b. We have a repeater upstairs. We have a digital radio node connected upstairs.
  - c. We know that means nothing, but the fact shows how far we have come. The equipment gets used daily.
  - d. We will get back to how that fits in.
4. What did your telephone look like when you were young? What does it look like today?
  - a. The same thing has happened in amateur radio. Much of communications technology develops with ham radio.
  - b. Pro vs Am in golf, what is the difference. Ham is the same thing: professionals, but do not get paid.
  - c. Amateur is all volunteer, which folks have hard time believing. Someone will help you.
5. First thing people think is emergency. We have that covered. We will talk about a few different set-ups.
  - a. Clear your thoughts, ham is simply communications. FCC and international allocate spectrum to experiment.
  - b. We have radios at home. No one can see most of our antennas. Things are different.
  - c. We have radios in our vehicles. Most cannot tell. No one can recognize most antennas. Things are different.
  - d. We have digital radios, small and powerful to talk to anyone anywhere anytime. Things are different.
  - e. We have back-up. What happens when the lights go out. It gets dark, but the ham shack has light and can talk.
  - f. Rosemary & I went to Storm Spotters class 2-weeks ago and saw Jim Brandt and his wife there.
  - g. Others went to different sessions.
6. Yes, some still build things. Some do not. If you want, someone will help. Is that right?
7. Dan will talk about Simplex Allstar and its emergency capability.
8. Scooter will talk about RF-less Allstar, its simplicity, and how it replaces antennas.
9. I have a complete base station set-up that I carry in this case. Dan has a similar set-up he uses with ARES.
  - a. Power supply with back-up batteries; Radio; Antenna & coax
10. There are no you-gottas. You do what you want. We have pages of suggestions on the evergreen website.
11. How do you become a ham?
  - a. We do not ask your background. We only ask if you want to be a ham.
  - b. Regardless of background we can make you one, if you want it.
  - c. Social workers, building salesman, great-grandpas, stay-at-home-moms, high-school, even engineers with help.
  - d. Evergreen has a unique process. If you follow directions, you will be a ham in 4-weeks. Period.
  - e. We wrote the manual. It is just like a driver's license exam. We give you the exact questions. We send you a pdf.
  - f. Read the questions. Read only the correct answer. Note the short hint. Repeat a few times and you are a ham.
  - g. For most, they can pass with 5 or more readings. Over achievers that want 99 read seven or so times.
  - h. No tricks. No hidden questions. Not even a comma is changed.
12. We have two, 2-hour classes, two-weeks apart then in two-weeks, you take the review exam. Next class starts May 6.
  - a. No age limit applies. Interestingly, when Gene was taking his exam, a 15-year-old boy was taking his behind him.
  - b. Had build session at our place. Our 13-year-old grandson thought these guys were cool, because they helped him.
  - c. Each month we do Sho 'n Tell. Folks bring and demo their gear that fits the topic.
  - d. Each Monday evening, we have a party-line chat, with someone keeping track.
13. Come join us. We know how to play with big-girl toys. About a third of the group are ladies.
14. Life is good. Enjoy!

