

## **We would like your input, please.**

Dr. Marc & Rosemary © 231017

### **Background:**

When Dr. Michael asked the first Elmers if they would consider developing a community ham group, he had a goal in mind: the ability to communicate in an emergency, as a connection for those who cannot get about, and as a tool to bring people together including those in the community.

You have responded beyond imagination.

We are coming up on two years. There are now well over one hundred who are licensed amateur radio operators. Most are people who are going about life and are non-technical. There are nurses, social workers, carpenters, and people who make up society.

If someone is interested in pursuing amateur radio, we avoid asking about your technical background. The Elmers have developed a system where anyone can be licensed, if you follow the process.

Since emergencies come in all forms, it is difficult to forecast what will happen and what will be your needs or wants. Since people are scattered from Sapulpa and Glenpool to Coweta and Muscogee, the needs are very different.

Since new folks come every month, they are not aware of the group's capabilities.

First, we will spell out our present tools, then we will tell where the Technical Team is working, next we would like your input on the future including communications systems and what information you would like.

### **Present System:**

1. VHF Repeater is the core communications at this time.
  - a. It has come a long way from sharing a site with another group to a top-notch radio.
  - b. The present antenna is a normal backyard antenna on a piece of pipe. It works pretty well but is limited.
  - c. A new commercial tower and antenna is already on campus and will be installed adjacent to the new building.
2. Simplex communication is practiced periodically to keep that avenue open. Simplex works when nothing else does.
3. AllStar digital node is attached to the repeater. This is a huge capability expansion.
  - a. A node is a very small 2.5 x 3.5 x 2" box with a Raspberry Pi computer that you can build. Seriously. About twenty of the group have made at least one. The Elmers will help you.
  - b. You can call the node from your cellphone.
  - c. You can use a handi-talkie around the neighborhood to talk to a node, which links to the repeater.
  - d. You can use a radio to call.

You can talk from your phone, a handi-talkie, a mobile radio, a base, or a node. The technology is linked and transparent. Regardless of which technology, you are still talking on the repeater, so a ham license is required.

Costs are obviously a concern for everyone. The Evergreen system allows you to get started at no significant cost. Pick up your phone, open the app, dial in, and talk. Numerous other options are posted on the [Evergreencg.org](http://Evergreencg.org) webpages. A top-of-the-line VHF/UHF system is about \$550, with every price point in between. So cost is not a reason.

### **In Process**

The Technical Team is working on new systems to provide communications in different circumstances.

1. Four UHF repeaters are planned around the area to enhance coverage for our far-flung neighbors.
  - a. The applications have been submitted. We are awaiting frequency approval.
  - b. The first radio has been ordered and is awaiting frequency assignment for delivery.
  - c. The first radio is already paid for by a donor in the group.
2. A 10-meter HF system is in design. They are researching equipment recommendations which will be apartment usable, neighborhood HOA friendly, and anyone can install. This is one step toward longer-distance communications.

### **Here's to you, ---**

1. What would you like to know more about, what would you like to see demonstrated? Mark Harris, K5LGS, is looking for ideas to share at the monthly Sho-n-Tell. He has a program on 'How anyone can Chirp' for November.
2. What technology would you like for the group to consider? What nets days would you like? What do you want to do?
3. What help do you need with installing or selecting equipment? That is a part of being a ham.

Your input on interests, wants, and needs will help continuing move to the goals of Evergreen Communications, any time, any place. Come join in! Web: [evergreencg.org](http://evergreencg.org) Social: [gab.com/groups/62710](https://gab.com/groups/62710) Life is good, Enjoy!

