

1. Thank you. Thank you. One of the privileges of working with the Evergreen group is the emails and other personal interchange. Some are questions, some are affirmation, some are challenges.
 - a. From your exchanges, I learn new stuff or at least am challenged to research a topic.
 - b. These exchanges are the basis for the articles.
 - c. One thing I learned as a professor, ‘If one person has a question, others do too, but will not ask whether fear, not wanting to look uninformed, or just did not think about it.’
2. This morning an email queried, “20m?”
 - a. Clearly it was a follow-up to the previous articles discussing using 6m, 10m, 40m & 80m for ‘local’ HF comms.
 - b. Along that same vein, this week, I had questions from another about using 20m, from others about doing DX, from one promoting digital, and from two challenging the virtues of FT8.
 - c. All of these are important technologies and can be fun to those interested.
 - d. I have even helped some build 20m antennas, but have not promoted the band and DX. Why?
 - e. From these queries, it is apparent that amateur radio, as a hobby, is different things to different people. From the first days in the late 1800’s, the charge to amateurs was to experiment and build things, as well as communicate.
 - f. Realizing the diverse interests, we had to determine the focus of the Group.
3. When we were first approached by Dr. Michael and staff, the charge was simple, wide-open, and no constraints.
 - a. In essence it was, “Can we build a ham group that can communicate routinely and exchange information in emergencies?”
 - b. For an old-time communicator, engineering professor, and historian, that is like saying “Sic ‘em” to a dog.
 - c. Uhh, yes.
 - d. Each of you have validated Dr. Michael’s vision.
 - e. You did the work. You got the license. We have over 100 in two-years. That is awesome.
 - f. Now, we just need to get everyone on the air. Without a radio, the vision is fruitless.
4. Let us break down the seminal question. We find three factors.
 - a. The **Group** is you, friends, and neighbors. We have many new and old friends who now associate with Evergreen.
 - b. **Communicate** is being able to talk, which implies you have a radio and it is on.
 - c. **Emergency** is more difficult. What is an emergency? Where is it? When is it? See the line above.
5. Not a hobby? Is your car a hobby? It is a tool, which can be used for a variety of purposes, some of which are hobby.
6. Since Evergreen comms clearly cannot be all things to all people, we focus on the three points.
 - a. Evergreen, friends, and neighbors.
 - b. Communication, which to most people, in most circumstances is verbal.
 - c. Emergency, being able to trade information and requests, in near real time, with *specific* people.
7. Does that help answer the questions that folks asked? Let’s see why.
 - a. Distance (DX) communications is not between our folks, friends, and neighbors.
 - b. 20-m is a fabulous band for talking to West Virginia, Canada, or California. I heard Great Britain last night on 40.
 - c. FT8 and much of digital is very limited in the *amount, type* of information, and with *whom* it can be exchanged.
 - d. All are great projects, but do not fit into the scope. Enjoy them. Share them. I will help where I can.
 - e. In general, they are not part of the Evergreen education process.
 - f. Does that make sense?
8. We do not expect every person to do everything. (My co-author said, ‘except for you’.)
 - a. Our goal is to provide more than one tool that you can use. A hammer is not a screwdriver. This is a brief recap.
 - b. We have a VHF repeater, which is the workhorse of local communications. VHF is LOS, line-of-sight.
 - c. A VHF/UHF handi-talkie is useful about as far as you can throw it. But it is still a great tool. I have five on the bookcase in front of me, right now. A handi can talk to the repeater, a base, or other handi-talkies, SOMETIMES.
 - d. A *50-watt VHF/UHF* radio with *back-up power* and a *great antenna* is the minimum stable system for emergency.
 - i. The unit can improve when used with the repeater.
 - ii. In an emergency, the radios can operate direct station-to-station, but usually with less range.
 - e. UHF extends the network and data transfer rate. We have two on order and 2 more pending.
 - f. HF is BLOS, beyond-line-of-sight. That means into the niche of hills, forests, and no infrastructure.
 - g. HF moves up in cost and skill, requiring a General or Extra license. We can help you get one in 4-weeks. Promise.
 - h. HF extends your capability to where everything else fears to tread. It works, not like a phone, but is there for you.
9. In the immortal words of the late Paul Kallinger on XERF the 1950 era 1,000,000 W blowtorch AM station in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico (across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, TX). “*Keep those cards and letters coming.*”
10. Life is good. Enjoy!

