

Newcomers and Elmers Net: Volunteering as a Way to Learn

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Discussion centered on ways in which different folks have volunteered which emphasized learning, feeling good about giving back to the hobby, and encouraging others.

Some of the ways in which hams find ways to volunteer:

- Field day
- Paddlefest ... Ask to tag along but be willing to help any way you can
- Public service events
- Volunteer for club duties...newsletter, snacks, calling a net, writing something for newsletter or website, helping with membership, helping setup or take down equipment, displays, etc; librarian
- Volunteer to build some basic antennas for new hams such as a foldable j-pole, simple dipole, or a tape measure antenna
- participate on local and regional traffic nets, take messages, call the net
- participate in an emergency services group such as QCEN, KY7ARET...KY DISTRICT 7 EMERGENCY TEAM NET, ESS Emergency Support Services;
- offer to help other hams get practice on the air, invite others to go to a meeting with you;
- if you are experienced in an area of the hobby offer to give a presentation or demonstration; if you don't feel comfortable doing it on your own, see if you can get an elmer to help...chances are if you are interested then others will also be interested
- if you have an area of the hobby to at you would like to learn more about, ask around for others who already do what you are interested in and volunteer to come along and help -- you may find someone else is interested in learning more about it too, and you could work together
- One of the biggest advantages to joining a club is that there are a lot of folks doing different things and with varied interests
- Boy/Girl Scouts, Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol, FEMA, Salvation Army (SATERN), SKYWARN,
- get involved with a weather station or digipeter using APRS

The simple fact is we learn by doing, and volunteering gets us involved.