

Newcomers and Elmers Net 6/23/13

Getting Involved On the Air

- Non-Emergency Nets
- Emergency Nets
- Monitoring Frequencies such as the National Calling Frequency

146.52 FM Simplex

- Get into the habit of putting out your call if you don't hear anyone on your favorite repeater – get the conversation going!
 - likewise, if you hear someone on the repeater putting out a call, come back to them- we're hams; we like to talk!

Informal nets: meet with other hams that are convenient to you

3 or 4 hams make for a nice informal net where you can share experiences, interests, or most anything else

Public Service and Emergency Training

- public service events are things like Paddlefest, Flying Pig Marathon, Bad to the Bone; Tour de Cure bike race; local festivals; special events

Emergency Training Groups regularly hold training nets as well as special training events

Link up with experienced hams who have the equipment and know-how to help you learn

- Hams are generally really nice people who want to help others in the hobby
- The Elmers on the air tonight are just such people
- you have to ask for help; no one will know what you need otherwise
- schedule times to meet on the air to get practice, especially with experienced hams
- nets are great "limited exposure" opportunities; checking in and then speaking in the comment round is good for "testing the waters";
 - for a comment round all you have to say is something like "this is AK3Q, and it was good to hear everyone on the net this evening; I hope everyone has a good evening; this is AK3Q, back to net control"
 - of course if you can, maybe comment on something about the net which you liked, or add something from your experiences, or something which might be of interest to other hams

- We'll have a comment round tonight just by way of practice

- Learn how to use echolink or IRLP from your handheld and keep those repeater frequencies and codes in memory; if there isn't local activity, you may find folks on from other parts of the country or world – a good way to work DX as a Technician

- remember that if you are a technician class license holder you have 10 meter voice privileges from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz, and code privileges on 10, 15, 40 and 80 meter HF bands

- experiment with antennas; 2 meter/440 antennas are easy to build and there are a lot of designs out there for building your own on the internet or in books
 - in the process you will learn about gain and directivity, matching antennas to the radio; feedlines; soldering; support systems;
 - Satellite Radio is a great way to get involved – listening to the ISS; talking to other hams over amateur repeaters
 - involves tracking and prediction software; knowing which "bird" is going to fly over your location, and programming in the right frequencies to hear and transmit
 - plan on listening and getting comfortable tracking the satellites first, and then give it a try

- join a club or two; while not technically "on the air", this will open up a world of contacts and opportunities to get on the air, as well as motivate you to get the next level of license or explore new areas of the hobby
 - there are at least 15 – 20 clubs in the tri-state area, some small some large and some in between