

Now that you have a ham license-what can you do with it?? Listed below are some of the more popular activities hams get involved with.

Rag-chew:

Hams are noted for pontification to the highest degree!!!!!! This is called Rag-chew.

Basic modes are voice communications and Morse code, however, there are many other modes including: automatic packet reporting system (ARPS) moon-bounce, meteor scatter, satellite communications, radio teletype and narrow band digital

Contesting is:

An organized effort to contact as many of a particular type of station as possible. It could be states, countries, bands, grids or zones. The rules for the contests are found on the ARRL website. Contesting is a test of your skill and endurance levels and your equipment capability.

Emergency Communications:

If you would like to help out in emergencies, you may be interested in becoming a member of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). For more information, inquire at a NOARC club

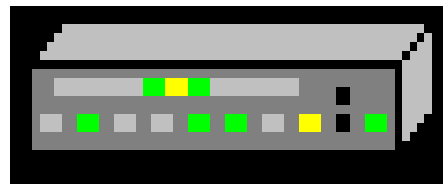
VOIP

VoIP stands for Voice over Internet Protocol which ham use in several different way to use radios through internet gateways to other hams anywhere in the world. There are several methods with various names, IRLP, Internet Radio Linking Project being one of the oldest. You can use a 2 meter handheld in a US town with an EchoLink node or D-Star repeater to talk to another 2 meter handheld in Australia.

Digital Modes

Hams use several digital modes with Radio Teletype being one of the oldest. Station locations including mobiles in motion send positions through the internet using Automatic Packet Reporting System, APRS. Other digital systems are PSK31, Pactor I, II and III, AMTOR, GTOR, Clover, D-Star and may others. Each has advantages and disadvantages.

WINLINK2000 is a system using Packet and other protocols to provide a complete messaging service. Some radios are controlled by computer forming a large group of radios with no front panel knobs or buttons. There are software defined radios where the actual radio is a computer program allowing very impressive radio performance.



Hams use several Satellites for communication. The Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation is an organization linking several countries to launch amateur radio satellites. With a simple antenna and handitalkie you can talk with the part of the world that is in the footprint of the satellite. There are free programs that will allow you to track these satellites. One is at: <http://www.heavensabove.com/>



Things Hams Do

Welcome to the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club.

NOARC is dedicated to teaching new hams and sharing information with experienced operators. Monthly meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Dorcas Fire Station # 42, located behind the store on Highway 90 8 miles east of Crestview.

Our Website is www.w4aaz.org

Ham radio is a life-long learning process. Being involved in a club gives you the opportunity to connect with a more experienced ham known as an Elmer. An Elmer can help you find answers to questions and keep you pointed in the right direction.

AMATEUR RADIO

Come to a monthly NOARC meeting and meet your ELMER or volunteer to help a new ham.

Either way you will have a great time of fellowship and learn a lot too!

Field Day

Field Day is the Amateur radio Relay League's (ARRL) national communications event which provides training for emergency communications. It tests readiness for operating under field conditions off the power grid (on emergency power). It occurs on the third weekend of June. Field day locally is held at the NOARC meeting area at the Dorcas

(GOTA) Get On The Air Stations —At most field day exercises a special station is set up for new hams to get experience on the air. This station is over-seen by an

Jamboree on the air (JOTA) JOTA is a global scouting event always held on the third weekend in October. Scouts are encouraged to talk with other scouts all over the world, using ham radios, supervised by licensed operators.

NOARC supports local scouting groups with a weekend of amateur radio activities. The Boy Scouts at our JOTA especially enjoy talking to the Girls Scouts in other states.

Many of the NOARC "Elmers" were once Scouts and got their start in ham radio that way. Therefore we set up operating stations at the Okaloosa County Scout-O-Rama.

Public Service Communications —ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is the umbrella to provide emergency communications during times of disaster. Hams also provide communications support for public service events as a method of providing training and enhanced public relations. Local amateurs provide communications support to the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Crestview Association events.

DX'ing?

DX stands for a Distant Station.

The DX bug often bites the new ham quickly. Lots of unique contacts can be made on the HF bands. Many contacts can be made with modest power and humble antennas.

Several factors can affect communications such as: sunspot activity, weather, signal strength, antenna types and heights, transmitter power and bandwidth.

When listening for a DX station, start at one end of your frequency privileges for that band and listen as you tune through that band looking for a DX station.

Listen for weaker signals hiding behind stronger signals. Some stations may be using very low power and small wire antennas.

Many DX'ers may work in split mode. This means the person will transmit on one frequency and listen on several different frequencies. The listening frequencies are those of his choosing and are usually 5-10 KHz above his transmit frequency. If you call on his frequency and he is working split, you will cause interference on his transmit frequency.

Most DX'ers collect special cards called QSL Cards, which they trade with the stations they work. These cards will confirm that you have worked the station. Awards are given for working over 100 different countries. There are about 330 DX entities and after you have collected QSL cards from your first 100, you qualify for the coveted DX Century Club Award.

DX Terms

Dupe—duplicate contact on the same band.

DX — long distance

EME-Earth-Moon-earth or Moon bounce

DX Terms continued:

Meteor Scatter—communicating by bouncing signals off ionized trails of meteors.

Pileup—chaotic situation that occurs when many stations are calling one station simultaneously.

Shack—room where amateurs keep their radio equipment.

Vertical antenna—omni-directional antenna.

YAGI—a beam or directional antenna, usually rotatable and has multiple elements.

DX websites include:

www.qrz.com; www.dxsummit.fi/Default.aspx;
www.dxc.ve7cc.net/; www.tenten.org;
www.dxinfocentre.com

Important Ham websites

www.arrl.org Our national amateur radio organization

www.w4aaz.org North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club

(NOARC)

www.w4zzb.org Playground amateur radio club

(PARC)

www.k4ocd.com Great source of new ham tutorials

www.eham.net Ham radio on the net

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

Website to look up FCC license info