



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

Dan Mason — AB6DM
Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio for the New Ham

Introduction

- Thinking of the new Technician Licensee
- Attempt to Address Common Questions:
 - Where do I get gear?
 - How do you find someone to talk to?
 - What else is there beside talking through a repeater?
- Many more questions but we limited to these due time constraints



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

Where do I get gear?

- Brick and Mortar
 - Ham Radio Outlet — Anaheim
- On-line
 - Ham Radio Outlet — <https://www.hamradio.com/>
 - Gig parts — <https://www.gigaparts.com/>
 - DX Engineering — <https://www.dxengineering.com/>
 - Maine Trading Company — <https://www.mtcradio.com/>
 - MFJ Enterprises — <https://mfjenterprises.com/>
 - Amazon and Alibaba
 - Often good sources ... caution counterfeit items do show up
 - eBay — often good used gear ... Buyer Beware
- Vendor lists in QST and CQ magazines
- Vendor sites



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

How do you find someone to talk to?

- Local Repeaters
 - Check AC6EE.org or the Newsletter for list of repeaters
 - Call and ask for a radio check — “W6QPA calling for a radio check”
 - Call and say “Monitoring” or “Listening” — “W6QPA, Monitoring”
- Linked Repeaters
 - Try either KERN, WIN, ARRG linked repeaters
 - Cover wide areas and has many more hams potentially available
- DMR, D-Star, Fusion Repeaters
 - For example D-Star Reflector REF001C is a worldwide “Chat room”



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

What else is there beside talking through an FM repeater?

- Ten Meter SSB Phone
 - Current Solar Cycle supports long range QSO – Will (WA6LDQ) worked 8,500+ miles from his car
- APRS digital
 - Not just a tracking system. Has messaging capabilities
- Winlink email
- SSB Phone
- Explore Propagation modes
 - Tropo Scatter and Refraction
 - Sporadic-E layer propagation
 - Aurora
 - Meteor Scatter
 - Earth-Moon-Earth (aka Moon Bounce)



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

More Resources

- groups.io — Collection of Many interest areas — like a mailing list
 - Tehachapi_Hams — Area hams exchange info, schedule QSO, share parts... <https://groups.io/g/tehachapi-hams/topics>
 - JS8 Call — exchange of ideas and info on using JS8 protocol
<https://groups.io/g/js8call/topics>
 - APRS — discussion and idea on using APRS
<https://groups.io/g/APRS>
- FaceBook (Search for these)
 - Ham Radio Help from Elmers
 - Ham Radio for Beginners, Mentors, & Newbies. Ask Questions (Flame Free)
 - eHam.net — Reviews of products and companies
 - QRZ.com — Call sign lookups,



Amateur Radio for the New Ham

Summary

- Attempt to Address Common Questions:
 - ✓ • Where do I get gear?
 - ✓ • How do you find someone to talk to?
 - ✓ • What else is there beside talking through a repeater?
- Many more questions but we limited to these due time constraints

