

Exciting aspects of Ham Radio

J. Dowdle KG6TQT August 2016

- **Amateur Radio Direction Finding**, also known as "Fox hunting".
- **Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)** Vehicle tracking.
- **Bounce** signals off the moon.
- **Build** equipment.
- **CERT** Community Emergency Response Team, separate training emergencies. Use ham radio.
- **Communicating** via amateur satellites.
- **Conferences, Conventions** attend and learn about new equipment, procedures, networking.
- **Contesting**, Field Day, earning awards, collect QSL cards.
- **Designing and building** antennas.
- **Digipeaters**, over the air digital messaging - similar to texting.
- **DX communication** to far away countries. Australia, England and many more....
- **DX-peditions** Hams travel to "exotic far away" places to transmit via ham radio.
- **Emergency Communications**, power out, phones don't work. Church unit, SCIRA, Inc.
- **Emergency Preparedness Fairs**, display to educate attendees about ham radio.
- **Elmer's**, are seasoned radio operators who help and guide new hams.
- **Field Day** operate off grid; make new contacts via ham radio.
- **Hamfests**, seminars, new equipment, club meetings and swap meets
- **Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP)** connect operators & repeaters via the Internet.
- ***Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** be a control operator, help scouts earn Radio Merit badge.
- **Low-power operation (QRP)** Very low power can communicate thousands of miles.
- **Models** - airplanes, cars and rockets. Using video and radio to track.
- **Morse code**, analog or digital "dots & dashes" very low power send 1,000's of miles.
- **Personalized vehicle plates** with your call sign on them.
- **Portable**, fixed, mobile and handheld operation.
- **Public Service Nets** for parades, communications for hospitals, Red Cross, cities, etc.
- ***Radio Merit Badge**. Teach Boy Scouts about ham radio, they get on the air at JOTA
- **Repeaters** talk over repeaters, help install and maintain repeaters. SCIRA, Inc.
- **Scanning** - listening to aircraft, police, fire department or emergency services traffic.
- **Severe weather spotting**. Skywarn® reports to National Weather Service.
- **Shortwave Radio listening**, BBC, Voice of America, far away small stations.
- **Teaching** - amateur radio licensing class, civic groups, children, Radio Merit Badge.
- **Television**, amateur TV transmit color pictures and audio – perhaps 50 miles.
- **Talk to Astronauts** on Space Station, perhaps to new space vehicles in the future.
- **UHF, microwave** operation on amateur radio high bands. Line of sight.
- **Volunteer Examiner (VE)** Administer amateur radio license test to new applicants.
- **Vintage amateur radios**, building or using radios with vacuum tube technology.

