

Ham 142 - Hf no infrastructure

Dr. Marc & Rosemary Durham, Theway Labs, Bixby, OK © 241218

Mission: *Establish reliable, lowest technical common denominator communications, locally & regionally, in a HOA.*

What? Since the first days, amateur radio has been associated with disaster communications. In conducting ham classes for over 20 years, the reason most people want their license is for emergency. Unfortunately, once the license is earned, lack of directed *directed support has stymied them.*

Who? We are simply a group of individuals with a common interest. We are not a club or organization. We do not have officers or dues. We give that *community support.* In amateur radio fashion, each pays their own way and contributes to occasional joint projects. Evergreen generously allows use of their facilities.

With limited resources, we primarily focus on the *tools* to assist local communications through nets, training, and equipment. Myriad other venues support hobby aspects in forms of contesting, chasing long distance (DX), and building another variation of a long wire antenna.

What is an emergency? Hopefully it is something you plan and work to resolve, that never comes. In our neck of the woods, weather and power outages are common, but the skills are the same for other uses.

How? Training consists of license classes and a monthly Show-n-Tell to learn and share equipment experiences. Multiple on-the-air nets permit practice, testing of equipment, and research into what works here. Nets arise based on needs and interests. Now, there are two General Interest, a Ladies, and Intrepid Scouts for pushing the edge of science.

Clarify. The mission statement gives a clear perspective of the group focus. DX is outside our scope.

Establish – a mechanism does not exist at this time, so we continue to develop the tools.

Reliable – experiences will show the good and bad, so changes are inevitable.

Lowest technical common denominator – make it duplicatable, simple, and effective.

Communications – use predominantly voice with perhaps limited data.

Locally / Regionally – requires tools for a very precise configuration. Distance (DX) is very different.

HOA – makes antennas and equipment small and unobtrusive.

Common denominator. Each one can use the tools available and help others with theirs is reasonably expected. In Disaster Recovery, much like a phone company or military, when you look in an equipment trailer, it is the same every time. We recommend a common denominator set of quality equipment selected for the purpose. If you use different equipment, by necessity, you are experimenting on your own.

Numerous. Other articles address routine communications using VHF/UHF. You have your license. Then, you must have the correct radio, have it on, and know how to use it. Else...

A working model. Be able to communicate when there is nothing else, no satellites, no Ethernet, no TV, no radio, no electricity, no infrastructure support. High Frequency (HF) is the only communications tool which works in a hammer-down situation.

This requires a little more moxie, a General or Extra class license, and an Icom 7300 family HF radio. A good second tier radio is the TYT-9800 which gives Vhf, Uhf, and 6+10-meter FM only.

Reliable. communications should work in the niches of hills, forest, or areas without infrastructure.

Background. It took a while to give the rationale for the very limited tools available. No commercial equipment is on the market to meet the needs, so you get to build it. The *environmental* design must be suitable for every ham, regardless of where they live. The design is adjustable based on available space, available equipment, and available bands.

Usable. Bands for closer direct comm are 6-m and 10-m, while 40-m and 80/75-m depend on atmospheric reflection.

See. The antennas articles explain how to build the smallest, lowest, very effective Triad Antenna system.

Life is good. Enjoy!

