

From: ARRL Members Only Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>

Subject: Ham Radio Clubs

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 2:44 PM

All of us at one time or another has thought about joining a ham radio club. Here in the Eastern Massachusetts Section there are 37 ARRL Affiliated and Special Service Clubs to choose from. ARRL has always felt that the strength and future of ham radio rests in a strong and vibrant set of ham radio clubs that are affiliated with the ARRL and uphold the standards and ideals of the ARRL. You may ask why you should join one of these clubs. Well that is an excellent question and one that I have often heard before. Hams are an independent bunch and are skillful and creative in the way they deal with our hobby. Indeed you could totally enjoy the hobby of ham radio completely in your basement or radio shack.

The value one gets from joining a ham radio club comes in many ways. For instance, have you ever had a problem with your equipment.....antennas, rig, grounding, mike etc? Well it's often almost impossible to figure some of these problems out by yourself. Ham radio clubs are great resources for help in solving our operational problems. Chances are there will be someone in the club who has already experienced the same problem you have or has the equipment necessary to help resolve it. Ham radio clubs are an excellent support group for ham-related problems.

It's quite difficult to keep up with all the latest advances in our hobby. I know myself that I am quite well versed in antennas, transceivers, transmission lines and all the other traditional components of our hobby but when it comes to connecting the computer to my rigs I find that I often have to rely heavily on advice from others in my local club. You will find that local clubs are a good source of information on the latest in ham radio. Most all clubs have a speaker at their monthly meeting and the topic is often on one of the newer aspects of our hobby.

Ham radio clubs are mainly places to have fun. Most clubs have social events as well as their standard monthly meetings. Hams are basically social people and ham radio clubs are a great way to make social connections. In addition, clubs often have special operating events where you can use and improve your communication skills.

So.....seriously consider visiting a local ham radio club soon. You can find a list of all Affiliated and Special Service clubs on the ARRL web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. Just enter "Eastern Massachusetts" in the ARRL Section and then hit "search". Most clubs have a link to their web page where information about club meeting dates, times and places are listed.

73,

Bo Budinger (WA1QYM)
Affiliated Club Coordinator
Eastern Massachusetts Section
ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio (tm)