

How to get youth involved in Amateur Radio

Tim Myers, KK7TM

kk7tm@kk7tm.com

What do you want to learn?

- Why are you here?
- Did you come last year?
- What have you tried in the last year?
- Are you already working with youth?
- Sign up for email updates

We are going to cover

- Assembling a team
- Finding youth
- Woodinville ARES Group's core program
- New things we tried last year
- Lessons learned
- Future Ideas
- How to get **your** event going!

Assembling a Team

- Get a team OR do it yourself
- You can do this with just one person!
- It is easier with a team
 - Our core team meets once a week for lunch
 - We have a large team through work and ham radio clubs we can leverage
 - Big thanks to our volunteers!

Finding Youth

- What motivates them?
 - Badges?
 - License?
 - Fun?
- Key contacts?
- How to get the word out?



Possible youth groups

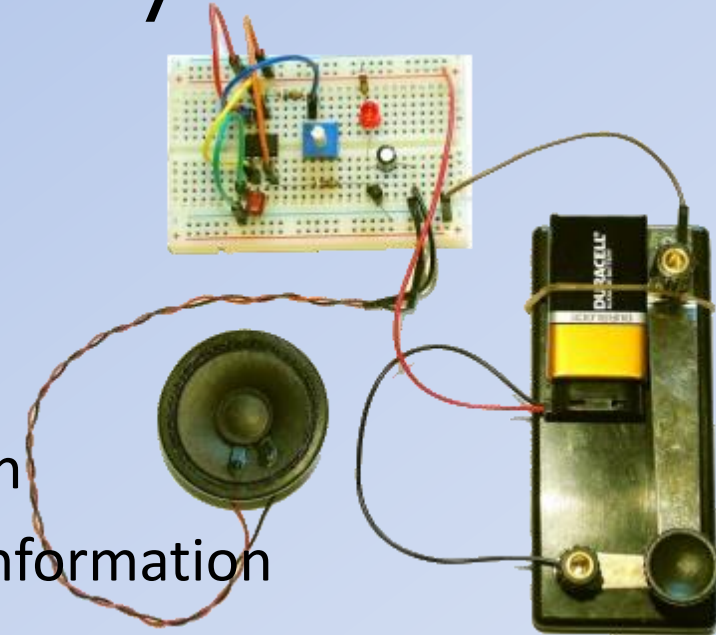
- Cub Scouts
- Boy Scouts
 - merit badges, NOVA awards, Eagle projects, scout camp
- Girl Scouts
- 4H
- Schools
 - science fairs, science teachers, clubs, STEM

Our core program

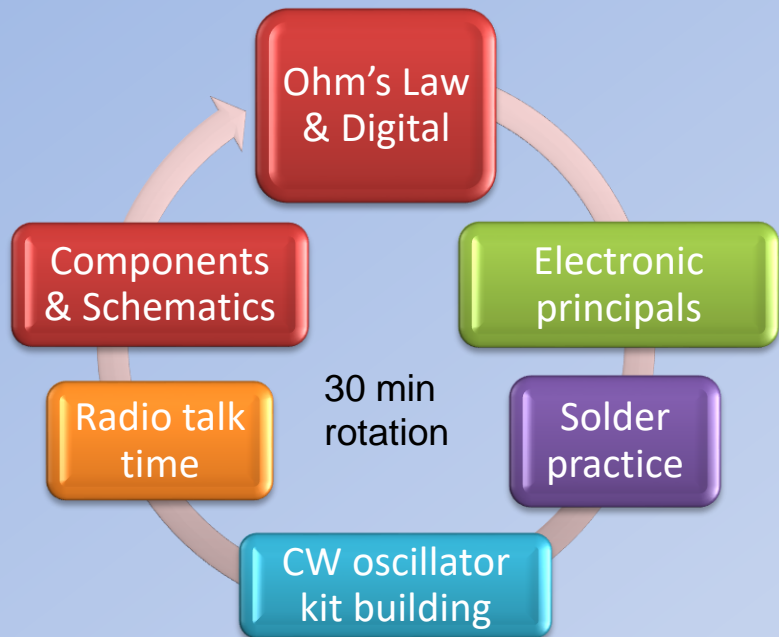
- Radio & Electronics day
- Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
- Other periodic events
- An email newsletter
- HamTestOnline.com

Radio & Electronics day details

- 2 times a year
- 8 hour program
 - 12 learning sessions of a ½ hr.
 - Materials available for each session
 - Not much time to add additional information
 - FCC exam at end of the day
- Covers all of Radio & Electronics merit badges
- They build a keyer circuit with a 555 timer
- Price includes a key, the keyer kit, and the FCC exam



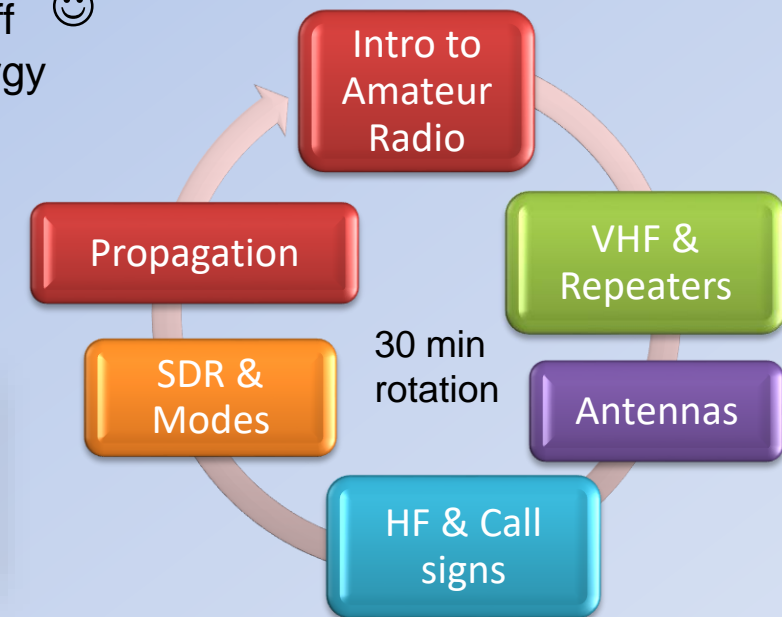
9 AM Station group "Electronics"



12 Noon "Lunch"
and burn off ☺
some energy



1 PM Station group "Radio"



Radio and Electronics Merit Badge Workshop Day



FCC Exam!

At the end of the day, we have an optional FCC exam session for adults, kids, and walk-ins



- The exam cost is bundled into each kid's registration so it is no additional cost to them to try for their license
- We run through ~40–60 adults and kids
- We use two or three VE teams

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

(Use your license)

- All the fun things you can do with ham radio
- Hands-on
- Get them talking on the radio
- Do things you are excited about!
- If you offer merit badge sessions, you will get more kids!

New things we tried last year

- Summer Camp + FCC exams
- Giving radios to newly licensed youth
- Monthly FCC exams
- Hour of Code (computer science)
- Microsoft //oneweek Hackathon
 - website for studying for FCC license exam
- STEM High School
- Yacht Club
- Girl Scouts

Lessons Learned

- Radio and Electronics Merit Badge classes continue to be popular at one day events, camps, and JOTA/JOTI
- Amateur radio classes are more effective using Hamtestonline.com with at least 6 sessions in advance
- Morse code has had consistently high interest

More Lessons Learned

- STEM camps becoming more popular
- Scout and Venture units can stir interest in high school clubs
- It's OK to experiment with rearranging and optimizing the course content and schedule

Our Future Ideas

- Teaching videos
- More hands-on training
- Leveraging hamtestonline.com more


Other fun activities

Outdoors, scouts, and radio go great together!

- APRS
- High Altitude Balloons
- Fox Hunts
- BSA On Target 7/16/16 (<http://www.bsaontarget.org/> & Yahoo group)
- Icom ID-51A D-Star
- Summits on the Air
- Lighthouses on the Air
- Solar Energy for Radio
- Play 20 questions over radio
- Scout Activities
 - Eagle Projects (example: teaching other scouts)
 - Philmont
 - Outings
- WashJam 2016 8/25-8/28
- Annual ARRL Field Day

What are your ideas?

Our materials are online!



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Woodinville ARES Group website. The browser address bar displays "woodinvillearesgroup.org". The page features a blue header with the group's logo and navigation links for Home, JOTA, Youth Classes, and Firearms Training. A central photograph shows a group of scouts and an adult working on an electronics project. Below the photo, a text box highlights that teaching materials are available online. A sidebar on the right contains a "Radio Events" section with a "Sign up for Updates" form.

woodinvillearesgroup.org

Woodinville ARES Group
Home JOTA Youth Classes Firearms Training

Stay up to date on our latest news

Radio Events

Sign up for Updates

Email Address:

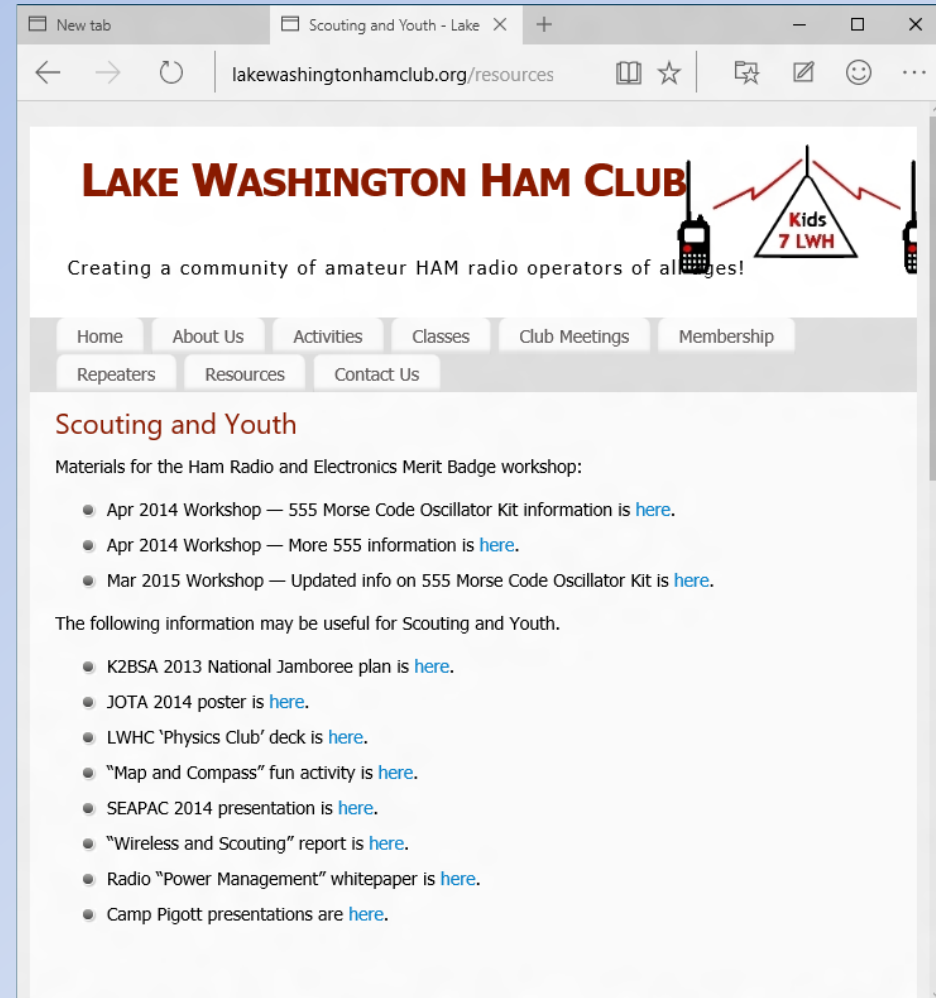
Callsign:

Join Now

Educating youth about radio and emergency preparedness in order to foster an interest in science, technology, engineering, and safety. We also

The material we use for teaching scouts and other youth groups is available [here](#).

We are a small, educational, tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.



The screenshot shows the resources page of the Lake Washington Ham Club website. The browser address bar displays "lakewashingtonhamclub.org/resources". The page features a white header with the club's logo and navigation links for Home, About Us, Activities, Classes, Club Meetings, Membership, Repeaters, Resources, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Scouting and Youth" and lists materials for the Ham Radio and Electronics Merit Badge workshop, along with other useful information for Scouting and Youth.

lakewashingtonhamclub.org/resources

LAKE WASHINGTON HAM CLUB
Kids 7 LWH

Creating a community of amateur HAM radio operators of all ages!

Home About Us Activities Classes Club Meetings Membership

Repeaters Resources Contact Us

Scouting and Youth

Materials for the Ham Radio and Electronics Merit Badge workshop:

- Apr 2014 Workshop — 555 Morse Code Oscillator Kit information is [here](#).
- Apr 2014 Workshop — More 555 information is [here](#).
- Mar 2015 Workshop — Updated info on 555 Morse Code Oscillator Kit is [here](#).

The following information may be useful for Scouting and Youth.

- K2BSA 2013 National Jamboree plan is [here](#).
- JOTA 2014 poster is [here](#).
- LWHC 'Physics Club' deck is [here](#).
- "Map and Compass" fun activity is [here](#).
- SEAPAC 2014 presentation is [here](#).
- "Wireless and Scouting" report is [here](#).
- Radio "Power Management" whitepaper is [here](#).
- Camp Pigott presentations are [here](#).

Get your event going!

- What are you going to do?
 - Radio Merit Badge is a great starting place
- Set a date months in advance
- Advertise!
- And get the word out early!
- Pre-registration is great
 - [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Summary

- It doesn't take much to teach the Radio MB
- Find your District Executive to help get the word out
- All our resources are available online
 - www.woodinvillearesgroup.org/radio
 - www.lakewashingtonhamclub.org/resources/scouting-and-youth-resources/

Major Kudos

Phil Sohn, K7APS

Horace Hamby, N7DRW

Dave Wickert, AE7TD

Jane Wickert, N7JCW

Eric Jarvi, AD7F

Patrick Lang, KG7NSC