



## Emergency Communications at Dillon Beach

In the event of a natural disaster, communication from Dillon Beach to neighboring cities will be crucial. The Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team is currently forming a communication plan that utilizes Ham Radio. We encourage Dillon Beach residents to learn more about Ham Radio and to obtain a Ham Radio license.

**Why Ham Radio?** Ham radio has proven to be the best method to communicate during an emergency. In an emergency, conventional telephone and cell phones frequently become overloaded or damaged and quit working. Unlike telephones and cell phones, which pass your communication through a system of switches and devices that can fail or create choke points, Ham Radio works radio to radio without additional equipment. Ham Radios are like very powerful walkie-talkies that can reach around the world. Ham radio was the only method of communication during Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. Ham radio is also a great way to strengthen our community during times of non-emergency use.

### How can I get a Ham Radio License?

**6 Hour Class & Exam Session:** The Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society\* offers a class and exam session which makes it possible to get your license in one day. There is a \$25.00 fee which includes materials and the FCC exam/license fee. About 90% of the people taking this class pass the test. We need at least 10 people signed up before SMRS\* will hold a class for us in Tomales. You can also visit the SMRS\* web page at <http://smrs.us> for more details or to find classes offered locally as soon as August 8<sup>th</sup> in Petaluma. This is an inexpensive, quick and easy way to get your license NOW!

**Self-Study** If you don't want to take a class, you can:

1. Study the book by Gordon West titled: Technician Class Study Manual 2006-2010 which covers the 392 possible test questions, answers and explanations or use the free study guide at <http://smrs.us/classes/he-tech-study.pdf>,
2. Take some on-line practice exams at the QRZ web site located at: <http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>
3. Find an exam session in your area using <http://www2.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> and go take the exam.

**2 Hour Class & Self-Study:** This free class is tentatively scheduled for Sat., August 15, from 12 to 2pm at the Tomales Fire Station. The class will cover Ham Radio equipment and basics and it will help participants develop a solid foundation for self-study. The study materials, practice tests and FCC testing procedures are the same as self study outlined above.

**Cost: FCC Exam:** A \$15.00 fee covers your exam and license which is valid for 10 years (no exam to renew).  
**Book:** About \$20.00 at <http://www.w5yi.org/catalog.php?sort=4> or <http://www.amazon.com>  
**Equipment:** A new two meter Ham Radio can be purchased for as little as \$125.00.

### Practice tests for Ham Radio exams

- Go to: <http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>, Click Start Test then Click Technician Exam
- Before starting the test, Select "Wait for correct" under the Options heading. (advances only with correct answer)
- Once you can consistently pass the practice tests, you are ready for the actual FCC exam.

### Exam Details for the Technical Class Ham Radio License:

- Take a 35 multiple choice question exam. You can miss up to 9 questions and still pass the test.
- The questions are taken from a pool of 392 questions & answers found at: <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=349>
- The question pool is organized in 35 topic groups. One question is taken from each group.
- You will need: \$15 cash, one photo ID, possibly a second ID (no photo), a pencil, a calculator and your Social Security number or your FCC Federal Registration Number. See: <http://www.smrs.us/classes/frn.htm> for details.
- Morse Code is no longer required to get a license! ----- There is no minimum age requirement to get a license!

**Contact:** Steve Smilanick at 916-782-4242 or [steve@sandsmachine.com](mailto:steve@sandsmachine.com) for more information regarding licensing, equipment or to sign up for a class. If you signed up for the 2 hour class at the OMA meeting, please let Steve know if you still plan to take the class or switch to a different option.

\*SMRA is installing a repeater at Dillon Beach soon. We will then be tied into 8 other repeaters located in Petaluma, Pt. Reyes, Cloverdale, Ukiah, Laytonville, Scotia Garberville and Sea Ranch. Once we have the repeater, we will be able to communicate with Hams in those areas. Don't forget, once you buy a radio, Communication over Ham Radio is FREE

**Stay in touch along the coast and beyond plus prepare for an emergency, get your Ham Radio license ASAP!**

Go to: <http://www.getreadydb.com> for an on-line version of this flyer with active Internet links.