

“ELMERING”

One of the GREAT THINGS about Amateur Radio is the willingness for the Hams to help each other. No one and I do mean NO ONE person can know every detail about every aspect of Amateur Radio. This is where Elmering comes in. Hams from varying backgrounds and interests are able and willing to share their knowledge and experience with other “Hams”.

“Elmering” is a time-honored tradition in Ham Radio and it is this investment in other Hams that will keep the hobby alive and thriving.

The definition of an Elmer is the person who teaches and nurtures the neophyte ham radio operator. Almost all hams have had at least one Elmer in their Amateur Radio life and many have had the privilege of being an Elmer to a new ham. The term “Elmer” simply means someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would be and new hams. Folks, Elmer Still Lives! That’s right; the reported death of Elmer has been greatly exaggerated. In fact, Elmer is alive and well and talking on the

radio. Actually, Elmer talks on sometimes two or three radios, at the same time. Now what is this all about? The main purpose of the

“Arkansas Section Traffic Emergency Net” is:

1. To share information with all interested Amateurs about daily and emergency operating activities.
2. To assist or “Elmer” anyone who is interested in improving themselves, their skills and Amateur radio.

A FAMOUS QUOTE from an Elmer in the early 80’s is: *“Ya’ know that’s what Amateur Radio is all about! Teach what you know, learn what you don’t”*.

One of the many goals of this net is to help organize Amateur Radio Operators around the State into qualified ARES/RACES local groups. I believe as experienced radio communications operators and net controllers, we have the responsibility and opportunity to provide an excellent example on how Amateur Radio and ARES/RACES can be operated to very high standards. At the same time I believe that in

doing this we can provide a contribution to our communities and set good examples for the new ham's to learn the techniques of emergency communications, for daily pleasure and education. Setting a good example in your operating practices of procedures is what "Elmering" is all about.

Folks I found the following questions on the internet the other day and "Elmering" was the first thing that came to mind. Where would Amateur radio be today if it had not been for "Elmers"? Everything we say and do on our bands during daily, net or emergency operations is being heard by someone. Are we setting a good example for Amateur radio and the many new hams that have joined our ranks recently?

QUESTIONS:

So tell me ... How long will it be before our Ham bands become just like 11 meters ... a total Free-for-all ...with No Rules and No Exams ?

People.... what ever happened to INTEGRITY in our hobby ?

Why are many people not proud to be Ham's anymore?

Why do we not hold ourselves accountable to follow the rules ... and set good examples for future generations of Hams?

Why do we not hold other Hams accountable..... and speak out against it on the air ?

Most important How can you and I make a difference.... and clean up our wonderful hobby?

In conclusion this evening I would like to tell you about a popular day time Section NTS Affiliate net that I monitored three times in the past few weeks. The first time, the Net Manager was the acting NCS and they opened the net with NO preamble, there was no mention of traffic, there was no asking if there was any emergency traffic, there were 44 times during the net that folks injected comments and or made relays without ever an ID and at one point two of the net participants just started carrying on a

conversation that lasted 1 minute and 40 seconds and the NCS lost control of the net. This all took place in 30 minutes.

The second time I monitored the net the NCS gave the most mixed up preamble I believe I have ever heard and they never ask for or said anything about regular or emergency traffic. There were 81 times within the 40 minutes that the net ran that people made comments or relayed with no ID and again there were two different folks that just started a conversation, this one was about an off colored joke that was told on the net.

The third time I monitored the net was a repeat of the first two times with 54 unauthorized transmissions made with NO ID's in 34 minutes.

The net I am referring to is in NO way a good example of "Elmering" or Amateur radio nets of any kind.