

## **Lets be a Forward Looking Group!**

This program is adapted from an article published in this month QST. By Joshua Long, KA8BVB

### **We Must Lead If We are to Advance**

Have you noticed of late that the large majority of hams continue to define Amateur Radio by what it was rather than what it is or can be? The Amateur Radio Service has, for decades, prided itself on being the advancing force of communications. With many technological breakthroughs derived from the efforts of hams, we are now in a time when we are having so much fun with the older technology, that we are slow to adapt to new emerging technology.

### **We shouldn't be a Rearview Mirror Community**

Although the HF bands and modes like Morse code still hold an important place in the fabric of Amateur Radio, many tend to put a stake in the ground and justify our existence from them. No matter how concrete the older technologies are, our systems are slow today because many are ignoring the human spirit to change, adapt and progress with technology, that is faster and can be reliable and redundant if we put the same effort into them as we have done with technology of the past. Without advancement ham radio will suffer a slow death. It will die from lack of interest by our young people. We can teach them the history and spirit of Ham radio, but we must also excite them with the latest technologies of today and of the future.

### **Elmering should include Future Technologies**

We need to insure we are continuing to grow by developing younger hams and building new technologies. We need to insure that we are bridging the gap between new and old. The term "Elmer" needs to mean to foster, train and promote growth of new hams. Elmer's do not have to understand the future, but they shouldn't hold new hams in the past. For ham radio to progress, Elmer's need to "pass on" knowledge and experience and encourage our young folk to explore the latest technology ham radio has to offer.

Elmer's need to help new hams have their own new experiences, and not hold them in a path that only repeats the same experiences the elders have had.

We should not ridicule new or upgrading hams for their passion and enthusiasm to adapt to new advancements. We should not condemn them if they choose not to spend all their time learning the older technologies; just as we should not condemn the older hams for their passion for HF and code. Through them we keep the history alive, and we should always respect their accomplishments, because it is they who fought to keep the service here for us to enjoy. We should continue to build a bridge so that the old remains the foundation while providing new technologies to break through and lead in the future of communications.