

The content which follows is a transcript of the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast hosted by Jerry Taylor, KDOBIK. This monthly version of PARP is typically released the last week of each month.

The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast – Episode number 54.

From the ham shack of KDOBIK, located in Colorful Colorado, this is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast.

This is show number 54, volume number 5 with a release date of April 11 , 2012.

Hello everyone. My name is Jerry Taylor; my amateur radio call sign is KDOBIK and welcome to the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast...Creating Elmers One Podcast at a time. Amateur radio or ham radio is what this podcast is all about. If you are currently studying for your exam or have been in ham radio for years...I'm hopeful this podcast will help you. If it has helped you, I hope you will continue to listen and I also hope you'll tell others. Also, in keeping with our Creating Elmers one podcast at a time philosophy, if you learn something from our podcasts....please share that knowledge with others.

No, you didn't accidentally snooze through most of April and yes, this episode is about two weeks early. Please understand that what I'm going to say next is NOT an ego thing. I know I say this a lot, but those who know me...fully know that I'm not an ego kind of guy. I'm actually very low key and enjoy staying under the radar.

However, I know the power of podcasting and I know just how many of you listen to this podcast. The website and the podcast downloads each on a monthly basis average over 10,000 visits and downloads. Again, I'm not bragging....I just simply know that there are many hams listening to the sound of my voice each month. It is each of you I'm wanting to speak to for just a few minutes about something very important which requires all of our attention.

You've probably seen the emails, heard others talk about it and hopefully your club is also taking time to discuss this either during regularly scheduled meetings or via email newsletters.

The headlines on the ARRL website reads, The FCC is seeking public comments on emergency communications by amateur radio and impediments to amateur radio communications.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-public-comments-on-emergency-communications-by-amateur-radio-and-impediments-to-amateur-ra>

What is this and what do you need to do about it?

First, you should read the article on the ARRL website and fully educate yourself as to exactly what this is and what it is trying to accomplish.

I will tell you, this has nothing to do with zoning ordinances or any regulations adopted at the local city, county or state level. We already have protection in the PRB-1 which addresses these issues. This of this as being the next level to the PRB-1. It is also the next level to the work

What this is targeting and why you need to get involved has to do with C, C & R's....otherwise known as Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions which many of us in this day and age are forced to live under. We also call them HOA restrictions.

The US Congress has tasked the FCC with preparing a study to assess amateur radio's role in emergency communications AND.....The impact of private land use regulations (those pesky CC&R's, HOA restrictions etc.) on our ability as licensed amateurs ability to provide such communications.

The FCC has a 45 day period in which to gather comments on the issue. These facts will be presented to congress prior to the end of August.

But our call to action is NOW. The ARRL is collecting data from both members and non-members alike. Again, you do not need to be an ARRL member to submit your information. The deadline to submit is quickly approaching and again why this episode release is early.

In addition to this being open to ARRL members and non-ARRL members, this is open to ALL Amateurs and not just those participating in emcomm activities. I wanted to seek clarification on this as the article on the ARRL website (in my opinion) didn't clarify it well enough.

I sent an email to the league and received confirmation from Dan Henderson, N1ND. He stated "Any amateur that has had their operating impacted by CC&R's should participate". He went on to say, "The EmCom aspect is what the congressional study directed, but even the casual emCom operator who is impacted by CC&R's helps state the case."

Again, even if you don't regularly participate with an emcom organization like ARES, RACES etc., but your operating abilities are impacted by restrictions, YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE.

Again, visit and read the information posted on the ARRL website. It is detailed and clear as to what you will need to submit. Understand, you can't just simply state, I can't get on the air because my HOA says No. You need to provide factual, specific details. You also need to provide the ARRL the exact wording of the CC&R along with a scanned copy of the CC&R or any other evidence you have in writing. You can upload it via the website or it can also be sent via email or via postal mail. Full details are available in the article.

To access the article, please visit myamateurradio.com. Again that is myamateurradio.com and look in the show notes for this episode, episode 54.

I really think this is a step in the right direction. Of course, we have no way of knowing how quickly congress will act. But OUR time to act is NOW. Please....Please visit the ARRL website article which I've linked to in the show notes and submit your detailed information.

If you are fortunate to not live under any restrictions, please still do your part to get this important information out to the amateur radio community.

Thank you for your time and attention. Now let's proceed with the rest of the episode.

Our educational topic today may sound somewhat rudimentary to some of you. It may even be so for all of you. Also, yes this is a topic I've previously covered before and no...don't worry....I've not ran out of things to talk about on PARP. Before I tell you what the main topic is all about, I would just like to ask you NOT to switch off. I will tie all this back into information which will interest everyone.

OK...so here goes. Today's topic is how to get started in amateur radio and how to get your amateur radio license. Again...please don't switch off. I'm sure a large number of listeners already have your license, some of you have already upgraded all the way to extra class. But the information I'm going to cover may still be useful to you. I promise to tie it all into a call for action before I'm done.

Now let me explain why I'm repeating myself. First. YES....I did cover this topic once before. However, that was four years ago. Episode number 2, which I released back on May 9th 2008 did start a multipart episode which covered a lot of what I'm going to cover today. The reason why I want to cover this again is ONE, some of the info has changed slightly and TWO, is this podcast is discovered by non-licensed, but interested individuals who I feel will benefit from me covering this subject. Third, I just really felt like doing it.

Let's get started....

Amateur Radio or also known as ham radio is both a hobby and a service. As a hobby, I've gotta say it's one of the most rewarding I know of and I have participated in dozens of hobbies and actually still have several which I'm active and passionate about. However, amateur radio....in the almost 5 years that I have been licensed, has given me more purpose, has introduced me to many of you whom I consider very, very dear friends and while I've only met a few in person....trust me when I say I cherish these friendships which only were made possible due to amateur radio.

The other element to the amateur radio hobby is the knowledge YOU will gain from it. I think at one time, amateur radio was reserved only for those who truly had a desire for the technical aspects. These individuals built all their own equipment, the exam process (at that time) was much more technical. Amateur radio helped to jump start these young minds and also open doors to them which led to successful careers in the broadcast, communications and electrical engineering fields (just to name a few).

Now understand, I'm not suggesting the only individuals you'll find in the hobby of amateur radio are these technical types. No...quite the opposite actually. The hobby of amateur radio is enjoyed by individuals from all walks of life. Some of our fellow hams have certainly been those in the broadcast, communications, space exploration, electrical engineering fields. But others who share a love of the hobby may be musicians, actors, doctors, lawyers, teachers and students. Royalty, including a King has enjoyed our hobby. Amateur radio also has our very own Saint, Saint Maximilian Kolbe is the patron saint of amateur radio and held the call sign of SP3RN.

As I just said, YOU will learn as a result of being involved in the hobby of amateur radio. Yes, amateur radio is still very much a technical hobby. There will be elements of a technical nature which you must learn both for the license exam...but also learn to participate in the hobby. Unless you are 100% anti interested in technology, what you will need to learn isn't difficult. But again, the technical skill is just one aspect.

Certainly because of the nature of what we do as amateur radio operators, the art of communication is of course one area I believe you can gain knowledge, experience and self-confidence. Case in point, before I became a licensed ham, I felt some what uncomfortable talking to strangers. My very first QSO was not easy for me. I suffered both from what we refer to as mic fright, but also from overall shyness. Yes I was a 40 something guy and I was shy.

I honestly believe, the positive elements I learned about communication and my own self-confidence in amateur radio has also carried over into my personal and professional life. Now I won't say I'm 100% cured. I still from time to time retreat back into my shell. But when it comes to amateur radio, I can go down to my basement ham shack, switch on my transceiver and start calling CQ without any fear or anxiety.

Allow me to give you one more example from my own personal experience in the hobby. Geography. Yes...I said geography. Of course, I learned waaaaay back in early childhood that Christopher Columbus gave proof the world was not flat. Also, even as a child I always either had a globe or had a large printed map hanging on the wall. Finally, in my professional life I've worked for international companies and have traveled internationally or worked on projects with international counterparts where I did of course know my way around a map.

But having said all that, I've grown to appreciate the fact that our world is round and there are people just like me living all around it with the same passion for life and the same desires in life and I believe amateur radio is what has given me that "fine tune" approach to it all. Of course I also know that maturity can also make one take notice of things like this as well. But I believe amateur radio has played a very important role in this as well.

OK....let me shift gears. Waaaaay back in 2008 and in those early episodes where I talked about getting started in amateur radio I asked a question. This question I asked over and over in those early episodes and I asked the listener who was interested in getting started in amateur radio to really think about the question and their answer. I also said that it was perfectly OK to not necessarily know the answer right off the bat. But to give the question some thought.

The question I asked back then is still very much important today. The question I asked back then I believe still must be answered today by any individual who is interested in learning more about amateur radio and interested in getting started in amateur radio. The question.....

The question simply is why? Why do you want to be an amateur radio operator? Why do you want to get involved in ham radio?

As I said then, as I also said just a minute ago.....It truly is OK if you don't know the answer. In the almost 5 years I've been licensed and certainly in the 4 years I've been podcasting and serving as Elmer, I've received emails and have had face to face conversations with individuals wanting to know more and I always try to ask that very basic question of why.

I ask the question of why, because I believe once the answer is known....it is much easier to provide assistance.

As those who are already licensed and already participating in amateur radio, you know just how diverse amateur radio is. But to the brand new ham or to someone who is just starting to research and better understand amateur radio, they may not know just how diverse it truly is.

An example. Lets use photography. Say you come to me and you say that you want to get started in the hobby of photography and you want to know what all you need to buy. Because photography is just as diverse as amateur radio, I could give you a list of different cameras, lenses, flash equipment, etc. But if you were really only interested in photographing landscapes and outdoor scenic's...you might buy a lot of equipment that you just don't need and wouldn't use. It's not to say you wouldn't gradually develop an interest in portrait photography, but if that wasn't in your immediate interest...then it might be unnecessary to buy the equipment needed for such an Endeavour.

So the question of why do you want to become a ham is actually a very valid question. Now there are other ways to ask that question such as, what do you expect or want to do once you get your amateur radio license? Or what do you want to gain from amateur radio? Regardless of how you ask the question, the answer (once you have one) will probably be the same.

Now when I'm talking to a younger group of people, and if I start to see the blank stare in their eyes as they try to think about why they want to become a ham, I will take a few minutes to explain some of the things they can do once they have their technician class license. I covered these not too long ago in episode 45, which I released just last August. I'll place a link in the show notes for episode 45 and you can listen to that information. I think it is all still very much valid.

Really once you determine you want to get your amateur radio license and you have a basic idea of what you want to do with that license...it really then is time to get your license.

While CW or Morse code is no longer a requirement for any of the classes of amateur radio licensing, studying for and passing an exam is. But don't panic. It has never been easier to prepare for and to successfully pass the entry level amateur radio license called Technician class. By the way, there are three levels of licensing for US ham radio operators. As I just mentioned, the technician class license is the base license. The general class is the intermediate license followed by extra class as the top license in the US system.

I am asked frequently if a beginner ham should go from nothing....no license at all....all the way to extra class. Or even from no license to general class. While I fully understand some of you have photographic memories and could (with enough time) read through all three study guides (which I'll talk about in just a minute) and walk into an exam and go from nothing to general or from nothing to extra class. There is nothing wrong with this process. But should you do this? My answer might surprise you.

I say No. I say do it one step at a time and enjoy each and every level for a period of time. Why do I suggest this? I'm glad you asked. The license and exam process....or should I say the study guide and the exam process really only teaches you the basic information you need to successfully pass the exam. Fortunately or unfortunately (it depends on how you look at it) these study guides, along with the published FCC exam question pools (if read and studied) will provide you with the knowledge you need to pass the exam. But that is where it stops.

Don't get me wrong. Much of what the three classes of license preparation will teach you is valuable knowledge. There is a lot of safety and practical knowledge to be gained from truly reading and understanding what these books are trying to teach you. But again....this is where it all stops.

Think of it this way. An amateur radio license....any license, whether it be a technician class, general class or even the extra class...is more than a license to operate your radio and transmit. An amateur radio license is a license to learn.....

It is truly at the point you obtain your license, when you really start to grow and develop and also learn. Here's another bold statement I firmly believe.

Let's say we have two non radio hams. We give one a technician study guide and we give the second the tech, the general and the extra. Both have time to study and both take the exam. The first successfully passes his technician exam and the second passes all three and becomes an extra class ham. With exception to the additional content the second person learned from reading the general and extra class books, that really is the only difference in skill the second one has.

The practical knowledge can really only be learned from doing and experiencing (and experimenting) once you get your ticket. Neither the tech, the general or the extra material will teach you how to program your hand-held transceiver so you can access a local repeater. Likewise, the study guides and the exams will not teach you all that you need to know to operate down in those extra class HF frequencies. All of this extremely important knowledge will come to you by operating within the respective license classes.

OK...let me step down from my soapbox and get us back on track.

Regardless if you want to just take the technician exam and wait or go for all three....it all starts with the technician study guide. During the exam process, you must sit for and successfully pass each level before being allowed to go to the next. So to keep things some what basic and certainly geared towards beginners, I'm going to just talk about what is required to earn the technician class license.

The book you want to purchase or borrow is the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 2nd edition. This book is valid for the FCC question pool dated 2010 through 2014. Every 4 years the FCC updates the question pool. Some questions are dropped, some questions are added...and this occurs every four years. In just a few months, July 1st to be exact is when the new extra class question pool becomes active. It will remain valid from July 1st 2012 through June 30 2016.

Anyway, get the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 2nd edition valid from 2010 through 2014. Then read this book. When you are finished reading it, I recommend reading it again. It's not a difficult book to read and it really does provide a lot of great information. You really need to know and understand this content.

Next, I suggest you visit www.hamtests.co.uk and sign up for a free account. Don't let the .co.uk URL fool you. The HamTests site offers sample testing for both the US and the UK amateur radio study guides. Take these sample tests.

Finally, once you have read the book and registered for a hamtests.co.uk account. Visit MyAmateurRadio.com. Yep, the very home of this podcast, the practical amateur radio podcast. Visit

MyAmateurRadio.com and click on the tab at the top of the page titled BecomeAHam, then select the 2010 - 2014 US Technician Class Amateur Radio exam audio review.

Here you'll find twenty audio sessions where I've recorded the question pool questions and answers in a flash card style audio presentation. During these audio sessions I ask the questions in the order they appear in the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 2nd addition. Use this to help polish your knowledge.

Once you feel comfortable, then you are ready to go and take the exam.

The exam process may seem a bit daunting, but it really isn't bad at all. You'll find amateur radio exam sessions taking place all over. The best place to look for an exam near you is the ARRL website. The ARRL is the American Radio Relay League and it is our national association for US Hams. The ARRL website is arrrl.org. Once you land on the ARRL.org website. Click on Licensing, Education and Training. Next click on Find an Exam Session.

You can search by zip code, city, state etc. I would start by plugging in your zip code and clicking search. You should be presented with a list of available exam sessions. Depending on where you live, you may see several or you may only see one or two. This information should provide you with the date, time and any other specifics about that particular exam session you'll need to know about. Most exam sessions I've heard of will allow walk-ins. However, read the info carefully as you might be required to reserve a spot.

Keep in mind, you'll need to bring a few things with you to the exam session. These are all listed on the ARRL website, but I'll quickly run down the list for you.

A legal photo ID. This can be a drivers license, state issued photo ID or passport. If no photo ID is available, you'll need to bring any two of the following types: non-photo ID/drivers license, social security card, birth certificate, library card or even a utility bill which shows your address will also work. Please use the link in the show notes for specific info when using non-photo ID.

<http://www.arrrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

Continuing through the list of items to bring to the exam....

You'll need to bring along your social security number or FCC issues Federal Registration Number (FRN).

If applicable, bring your original and a photocopy of your current amateur radio license and any certificates of successful completion of examination or CSCE for short. This only applies if you are upgrading.

Two Number 2 pencils with erasers

A calculator. This needs to be a physical calculator and not the calculator built into your smart phone. Smart phone calculators are not allowed. Depending on the calculator type, you may be required to demonstrate all memories have been erased.

Finally, bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam fee session fees. The ARRL VEC exam fee for 2012 is \$15.00.

Pending you successfully pass the exam (which I'm confident you will), you will be issued a CSCE or Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. If you are a brand new ham, meaning you walked into the VE session as a non-ham and successfully passed at least the technician exam...you'll need to wait until your call sign is displayed in the FCC license database. This can take anywhere from a few business days up to a week or two.

Once you see your call sign listed in the FCC database, then (and only then) you can legally transmit within the allocated band segment your class of license allows. A very good resource all hams should print and hang on their wall is the ARRL band plan. This version of the band plan is my favorite of all that I've certainly found on line and in print. I will post a link in the show notes and encourage you to print and hang this band plan within easy view of your operating position.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hambands_color.pdf

Even as an extra class ham, I keep a current copy hanging on my shack wall just in front of me. By the way, the current version is dated March 5th 2012.

So there you go. That's my updated version for 2012 on how you get your amateur radio license. What to know more about all the fantastic things you can do with amateur radio as a new technician class ham? Please visit myamateurradio.com. Again, that's MyAmateurRadio.com and search for episode 45 which I recorded in August 2011.

Of course, if you are just finding this podcast, please do go back and listen to as many of the past episodes you have time for. Most all my episodes are around 30-45 minutes in length. Go to MyAmateurradio.com and click on the tab labeled Podcast Episode Index. In this index listing, you can easily view the main topic for each episode. I have all of the 2011 and 2012 episodes indexed and working on 2010 and beyond.

Finally, Now to tie all this in. Yes I stated at the top of the program that I would have a call to action for all listeners regarding their license status. First, if you are listening and you are not licensed, but want to be. Nothing is stopping you. There is no better time than the present to get your ticket. The information I've just provided will help you. The rest is up to you and good luck.

If you are already licensed and enjoying the hobby. Please consider introducing the hobby to others. Now I know I state at the top of each episode, "in keeping with our Creating Elmers one podcast at a time philosophy, if you learn something from our podcasts....please share that knowledge with others." This statement is really two fold. From the surface yes, I'm talking about making yourself available to brand new hams and help them along the process and of course to introduce others to this podcast. By the way, I know many of you have shared info about the podcast with your local clubs and have links on your amateur radio related websites. Thank you.

But have you considered conducting a presentation to non-licensed amateurs, meaning....conducting a presentation away from your local amateur radio club about amateur radio?

As I mentioned in episode 53, my plans to speak to a local boy scout group was extremely successful. While the group new a little bit about what amateur radio was all about. Most had not had the

opportunity to see any of the equipment and learn at a deeper level all the history behind our hobby as well as how easy it is to get started. I truly enjoyed sharing the hobby with this group of scouts.

By the way, there were approx. 35 scouts in the room along with 15 parents. Over half of the scouts expressed a genuine interest in pursuing the radio merit badge AND, learning more about what they need to do in order to earn their technician license. The even better news is, the parents attending the meeting....along with the scout leaders are also interested.

I truly encourage you to go out in your community and speak to a group like this. It can be any type of group. For those of you who are parents with children in school, scouting, 4H etc. I'm sure the teacher or the club organizer would appreciate you coming in and spending 45 minutes or so talking about the hobby.

The approach I used, I believe worked well for the scout group. First, we were somewhat limited on time and the meeting location wasn't favorable for an HF setup. I used the time to explain what amateur radio was, explained how to go about getting the license and spent the rest of the time talking about all the wonderful things you can do once you get your license.

The scout leader told me after the meeting that he had never seen his group of boy scouts so tuned into a presentation before. They truly were interested.

Again, it really doesn't take a lot of time. I plan to stay in touch with the scout leader and will coordinate time with the group to perhaps attend one of their weekend camping events to setup a portable HF station and allow them to see amateur radio in action.

In closing, getting an amateur radio license is simply easy. Again, if you are listening and are not licensed. Just do it.

If you are already licensed, please consider going out into your community and share what you know.

Featured Website Segment

None

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Featured Gadget Segment

Amateur Radio is all about gadgets. Some gadgets may directly relate to amateur radio and some may not. However, in most cases the featured gadget will at the very least be something that may help you in some capacity around the shack.

A few episodes ago, I spoke about the importance of time. This was in episode 49 when I covered logbook requirements. I've also spoken about the importance of time both in episodes 38 (the WSPR episode) as well as in episode 46 when I covered JT65. The importance of time, especially knowing precisely the exact time is important in the amateur radio hobby. In all of those previous episodes I mentioned software tools available to help keep your PC time, precisely on time.

Our featured gadget is not computer software. However, it will help you stay precisely on time. The wristwatch was invented (according to Wikipedia) in 1868. Thankfully, wrist watches have come a long way in the last 144 years.

I own a Casio model GW-9100. It's about 3 years old and was a Christmas or birthday gift from my wife. I had requested it specifically for amateur radio field use due to a few of its features.

One, it's rugged. I can take it places that I would never take my TAG. Second, it's got a fairly large display that I can easily see without my reading glasses. This is becoming more and more important to me as I approach my older years.

Of course it is water resistant to a depth much, much deeper than I ever care to go and it is also rust resistant.

Next it charges itself via the sun. In the three years that I've owned it, it has never needed a battery replacement so I guess the solar function really does work.

Finally, it stays in perfect sync with the atomic clock. Which means when I'm operating portable, mobile or sitting on top of the world (at least on top of the world to me) and on a SOTA summit, the time I write in my log book is accurate. It will also take the guesswork out of converting local time to UTC time. At the press of one button I can go from local time to UTC time.

I don't think brand or model really makes a difference. But if you do a lot of portable operations and especially SOTA, then I do recommend a model which has at least a few of the features I listed.

Ham Adventures Segment

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And now for the ham adventures segment. It's only been a little over 2 weeks since I release episode 53 and I've been extremely busy with amateur radio. As previously mentioned, I did conduct a presentation about amateur radio to a local boy scout group. At the meeting were approx. 35 scouts and 15 parents. The interest was high both with the scouts and the parents. That really is important. Without the parents support, the young person just won't have much success getting started in the hobby.

I've also been busy in my new role in serving as the Central Colorado regional manager for Summits on the air. I work along side Steve, wGOAT who is the Whiskey Zero Association Manager. My number one job is to help Steve promote the SOTA program within the Central Colorado area and of course have fun doing my own SOTA chasing and SOTA activations.

As part of my Central Colorado SOTA region manager duties, I conducted a summits on the air presentation to about 25 hams in a local amateur radio club on Saturday, 7 April. After the meeting, six members went along with me on their very first SOTA activation. We activated Genesee Mountain which has the SOTA locator of W0/FR-194. We used my gear which consists currently of the Yaesu FT-817 5w HF QRP rig and a Buddipole Versatec Vertical antenna. During the activation we worked about 10 contacts on 20m HF. Of course, I had a blast as this was my first SOTA activation for 2012. But I'm pretty sure the six who joined me for this activation will not let their first activation be their last. I'm pretty sure they are hooked.

I'm also going to conduct a SOTA presentation to an amateur radio club up in Washington State. I was contacted by Dan, AF7O and agreed to provide his club a remote presentation via Skype and help introduce the wonderful experiences of both chasing and activating SOTA. Time willing and we can match up schedules, I'm open to conducting more of these presentations via Skype. Just contact me via email at kd0bik@arrl.net and lets see what we can do to make it happen.

Speaking of SOTA. I'm still anxiously awaiting the delivery of my Elecraft KX3. This rig will replace my Yaesu FT-817. I think I'm pretty close on the list. I ordered within 30 minutes and also ordered a factory assembled unit which they are shipping first. So this may mean..... or hopefully mean.....I'll have my new kx3 by the end of April. If you follow me on Twitter or Facebook, you'll certainly know the minute I get my shipping confirmation.

Now when I last spoke to you via this podcast, I mentioned the progress I've made on the new basement ham shack, podcast studio, home office and just general man-cave. I did successfully get the vent work done. I had to relocate one ac/heat duct and vent . Now that is accomplished, I'm ready to hang the drywall on the ceiling. I hope to start this work, this coming weekend. Our goal is to finish the ceiling in one day as to avoid additional rental charges for the drywall hoist. Stay tuned via my amateur radio blog for updates with photos. You can read my blog by visiting kd0bik.com/blog

Finally, last episode I offered up a small teaser regarding an invitation I received to go speak at a large ham fest this coming fall. Of course one of the largest ham fests taking place in the fall timeframe is Pacificon and it is my absolute desire to do this. In 2012, Pacificon has the honor of serving as ARRL National Convention.

Pacificon is of course held each year in Silicon Valley or Santa Clara, California to be exact. I'm really excited about this opportunity and of course at the same time I'm somewhat nervous about it all as well. However, as I stated last month....one of the reasons I'm actively doing these smaller presentations to various clubs is to get used to public speaking again.

I want to hold off (for now) on revealing exactly what I'm going to be presenting at Pacificon. All will be revealed in time. However, for now....just know that I'm planning to attend and am certainly looking forward to meeting many of you who I know regularly attend Pacificon.

For the rest of you, I will most certainly take my experiences from Pacificon and talk about it here on future podcasts. While we're still many months away from Pacificon, I may do something similar to what I did in 2009 at Estes Park and the ARRL Rocky Mountain Convention and release at least one episode while I'm there. Speaking of the ARRL Rocky Mountain Convention. It returns to Estes Park in 2013 and I'm looking forward to attending.

Mailbag

Mail goes here

Well this wraps another episode of The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast. We will return again with episode 55 sometime in May. In the mean time, want more amateur radio audio and video content? Of course, every practical amateur radio podcast from episode 1 through this episode, episode 53 are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on MyAmateurRadio.com. But don't forget about all the other wonderful amateur radio podcasts available. You'll find a list of all that I know about on

MyAmateurRadio.com. Just look on the right hand side, for My Favorite Amateur Radio Podcasts. Enjoy!

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Until next time, 73 to all from KDOBİK.

This has been The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast. The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast is written and produced by Jerry Taylor. You may contact Jerry by email at kd0bik@arrl.net or by visiting his website at www.myamateurradio.com. The practical amateur radio podcast and myamateurradio.com are protected under the Creative Commons license. Please see myamateurradio.com for details.

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