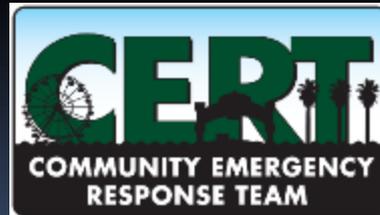


# NEW HAM CLASS

OR EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK



# Your First Radio

- First a note on safety
  - Handheld radios have a max. output of 5 Watts
  - At that level it is way below the FCC exposure threshold
  - Although the CA CHP doesn't consider handheld ham radios the same as cell phones, please don't let your radio distract your attention while driving.

# Choosing Your First Radio

- New vs. Used
  - New means everything will work, used might not
  - New has a warranty, used doesn't
  - Only buy used from a known source or one that has a return policy (like Amazon, eBay, eHam.com, QRZ.com, etc.)

# Choosing Your First Radio

- Critical Features:
  - Display – make sure that you can read the display
  - Mandatory: Dual Band – 2M and 70 cm
  - 220 MHz is OK, but not needed
  - Dual VFO's – to monitor 2 frequencies simultaneously
  - Memory Channels – 200 is nice, more is OK
  - Choose a model that has effective and available support: either a “name brand,” a store, or a supportive ham with the same or similar model.

# Choosing Your First Radio

- More Critical Features:
  - Be sure that the radio complies with FCC requirements
  - Understandable User Manual
  - Digital mode is not needed; you need FM mode
  - A spare rechargeable battery, or an AA battery pack, or both

# Choosing Your First Radio

- Nice Features
  - Headset/speaker mic
  - High-gain antenna
  - Belt Clip
  - 110 VAC charger
  - 12 VDC charger
  - Programming cable

# Wrap-up

- Questions
- Dennis – [KJ6UVQ@arrl.net](mailto:KJ6UVQ@arrl.net)
- This presentation is available as a pdf at:  
Laemcomm.org