

Editorial – Giving back

Thinking back, you can probably recall numerous kind souls who were willing to hold your hand and gently guide you through the maze of study, exams, equipment, operating, and proficiency. You're very grateful for the many who voluntarily and selflessly gave of their time and talents to help you, and so you'd like to **give back** to that same community.

Honestly, there's no way you can truly *pay back* the time, effort, and kindness that had been shown you. But that shouldn't stop you from trying. One of the best ways to give back to the amateur community is through your service, which can be performed doing any number of activities. In a previous article regarding [emergency communication](#) we pointed out an excellent way to give back, and that's service as a communicator in a variety of capacities.

When you give back to the amateur radio community, not only do you benefit others by your unselfish time, but you benefit yourself. As a result of your helpfulness, you tend to feel better about yourself and improve your self-esteem. Service tends to give people confidence, pride, and the satisfaction of time well-spent.



If you regard giving back to the amateur radio community as a duty or obligation, a debt that you need to repay, your service will be welcome, but you might also portray a check-the-box attitude. People are quite grateful to receive your help, yet when you truly feel that you're sharing of your time and energy out of love for the craft and the people that participate, your sincere enthusiasm will be obvious and heart-felt. It's often said that people don't really care how much you know until they know how much you care.



Social media needs you

An increasing number of people have decided to opt out of social media involvement, some due to the large waste of time spent viewing unimportant photos, memes, and videos. Many have decided to leave social media because of the mean-spirited or otherwise unkind approach many commenters have taken while hiding behind anonymity. If you're one of the majority who has decided to remain in the communication of social media, I encourage you to be the example of kindness and wisdom.



Many people who frequent Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, X, and Snapchat often seek for more than just answers to ham radio questions. Not only are they looking for good, patient mentors who can provide information, but they're also looking for fathers, mothers, true friends, and people they can look up to. Some are looking for the meaning of life and the will to keep living. This is not to say that you have an obligation to be their therapist, but you can be their kind, listening friend who's willing to read the emotion behind the text, and maybe stand up for them when signs of bullying are posted.

And while you're giving back, please also don't forget to **pay it forward**. Patiently [elmer a new ham](#) or one who might be struggling with a disability. Do good unto others the same kind of good others have done unto you.

Anything to add? Email editor@utaharc.org