

Editorial – The transfer of knowledge

When considering an education, we typically refer to our own quest for learning. This time, let's take a look at the learning we might provide others. After all, is it not better to give than to receive?

We've discussed two forms of knowledge transfer, [elmering](#) and [formal instruction](#) in previous *Microvolt* articles. There are, of course, many ways of sharing your mental information with another person. Spock had his way, but we Earth beings must rely on communication by mouth, signage, email, internet, body language, and yes, ham radio. A pat on the back is a common sign of acceptance or approval in the western world. Even a smile or a nod might say the same.



When your kids were growing up, you likely wanted to pass on to the next generation all the good things you've learned. How did that work out for you? Did your own parents share with you everything they had learned in life, or did they miss a few things?

It seems that an overwhelming majority of those in the teaching profession do not say that they chose their vocation to get rich off a teacher's salary. Therefore, their incentive or reward for choosing education as their way to make a living must be rooted in another reason. Indeed, most seem to find that the sharing of their knowledge and life's lessons are some of their own greatest rewards. Of course, it's also nice to be paid for doing it. As some put it, ***If you enjoy your job, you'll never work a day in your life*** (paraphrased from Mark Twain).

Emergent knowledge transfer

There are times when the knowledge that needs to



be transferred or conveyed is not book-learning or academic, but a little more time-sensitive. If a friend is suffering a cardiac arrest, for example, and you've called 9-1-1, the dispatcher is likely going to ask you to provide some critical details. These include breathing, heart rate, temperature, bleeding status, along with some static demographics, such as age, gender, and weight. This information is important to help the responder understand the emergent conditions of the patient, to help determine the subsequent steps.

During an incident, an emergency, or a disaster, this kind of time-critical information could mean the difference between life and death. As an amateur radio operator, you might be well-trained in radio protocol, but have had little medical training. Still, your skills can provide a lifeline for a helpless person who is suffering from a medical episode. At that time, your transfer of **health and welfare** regarding an injured person is an effective example of information-passing.

One last note regarding the passing of information, especially during message-handling. Some have become so mired in the letter of the law that they go to great lengths to ensure that they are passing along every word precisely as dictated to them. If that strict adherence makes sense, then by all means be exact in your transmission. ***But when somebody's life is at stake, and you're hyperventilating, and you miss a non-critical word that you should have conveyed, let it go.*** By the time you've re-sent the correction, the patient could have died. World War III is not hinging on your transmission, and there's no need to exercise pedantic bit corrections over self-important messages.

Anything to add? Email editor@utaharc.org