

Microvolt

Monthly newsletter of the Utah Amateur Radio Club

November 2025



Service

HAM RADIO OPERATORS HOLD FOOD DRIVE



The collective of amateur radio operators is made from not only a **diverse population**, but more importantly a people with common interests. One of those universal passions is service, especially here in Utah, the undisputed home of volunteerism. Over a year ago we had mentioned that service was among the **very first purposes** of amateur radio, addressing our involvement in EmComm as a way to offer our time and skills. But what about you? What kinds of amateur radio service opportunities have roped you in?

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Cover – Service

Let's first distinguish between two general categories of service. One is a *radio service* type defined by a particular purpose, such as maritime, aviation, broadcast, public safety, and amateur. Our discussion surrounds **community service**, which is the rendering of assistance, such as that performed by organization leadership, search-and-rescue, volunteer firefighters, and emergency communicators.

Performing some sort of service is natural for many of us, especially those who became licensed because of a desire to assist with [EmComm](#). While a fair amount of overlap exists between community service types, ours tends to be classed as those for public interest, for personal interest, and for the amateur radio service itself.

Public interest

Service in the public interest is typically effort and activities aimed at using amateur radio in helping people, especially those in government and public events. Here are examples of ways amateurs can use radio to provide public service:

- Traffic reporting (read about [Richard's example](#))
- [ARES](#) (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
- Aid stations at [ultra marathons](#)
- [City drills](#) (in behalf of civic and religious third-parties)
- [CERT](#) (training, callouts)
- [TERT](#) (Timpanogos Emergency Response Team) and SAR (search-and-rescue)-related
- [Skywarn](#) (weather spotting)
- Parades and public events
- Become a VE (volunteer examiner)

Personal interest

Service for personal interest loosely means helping individuals and groups of individuals rather than organizations and government. Here are some examples or people-oriented service opportunities:

- Become an [elmer](#)
 - ◊ Be a resource of ham radio knowledge
 - ◊ Respond to signal report requests
 - ◊ Offer your shack to a newer ham
 - ◊ Learn the art of kind helpfulness
- Make a go-kit that includes ham radio
- Become a resource for technical knowledge



- Assist in an antenna raising party
- Scouts and [JOTA](#)
- Offer or post repeater info updates

For amateur radio itself

Much of our service opportunities focus on people, using amateur radio as a means to an end. These tend to focus on the craft of radio:

- Volunteer as net control
- Start a website / page / group / blog that showcases amateur radio
- Teach something
 - ◊ Volunteer to give a training topic on a net
 - ◊ Offer to give a club presentation one month
 - ◊ Write a newsletter article (hint!)
 - ◊ Insert yourself in a preparedness event
 - ◊ Share a skill at [Homebrew Night](#)
 - ◊ Teach a class on a radio topic
- Serve in the club leadership or as a specialist
- Start a ham radio club
- Volunteer to help out at [Field Day](#)
- Set up a [POTA](#) station and share your experience
- Start a net

Finally

Not only are there ways in which you can serve, but that your service is actually in need. Our amateur radio community is growing at a break-neck pace, and all these new hams can't be adequately served by the same few people. You might not feel like you know very much about ham radio, but you might also be surprised to find just how much you have to share with even a few who can use your experience.

Microvolt editorial staff