

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: More Hams!

Last week we looked at eleven different flavors of amateur radio enthusiasts. Here are a few more:

The *Scout*: Typically a former Boy Scout, the Scout likely earned a merit badge in radio and wanted more ribbons and badges. Years later they are still involved, but almost all of the radio activity takes place on hikes, outdoor trips, The Jamboree on the Air, etc.

The *CW Bug*: For these folks, real hams know code! CW is the only way to communicate. Digital is mere upstart.

The *Specialist*. Technically the *CW Bug* is one of these, but others include: the *Satellite operator*, the *APRS expert*, the *Microwave user*, *Moon Bounce*, *Meter Scatter*, you name it, just about every mode has die hard advocates. Learn from them!

The *armchair ham*: may not own a radio and does not get on the air. Or does so at Field Day only. They have a lot of knowledge, just are not active on the air.

The *Mobile operator*: May have more antennas than a CIA intercept van. They sure have fun. A near cousin is the *portable operator*. The portable operator may go to a mountain peak for Summits on the Air, or to an island for Islands on the Air, or other semi exotic places.

The *organizer*: May be hard to tell from the *armchair ham*, but the organizer is an active individual. So active planning club events or EMCOMM drills or lining up net controls for a net that they seldom have time to get on the air themselves.

The *technical expert*: need a tower installed? want an antenna designed or analyzed? The technical expert has the tools and expertise to help. An invaluable member of the ham community!

The *equipment operator*: Has a radio and the desire and license to use it. But that is about all they know. They do not yet have the skills to design or build an antenna,

power supply, etc. They may some day, just not yet.

The “*sport vehicle enthusiast*”. Ever notice how many Jeeps have radio antennas on them? The SVE is a subclass of mobile that actually uses amateur radio for communication where you just cannot get a cell signal.

The *Experimenter*: another hybrid. They take great pride in trying new stuff. They may need *Builder* skills to make it, and it may not work, but by golly they had fun doing it!

The *QRP'er*: technically a specialist but often displays other traits. Low power is a breed of its own!

There you have it. 28 types of hams, and I am really sure I missed some! What type are you?