Ham Radio Licensing Suggestions by The Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team (DBERT)

In the event of a natural disaster, communication from Dillon Beach to neighboring cities will be crucial. The Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team has a communication plan that utilizes Ham Radio. We encourage Dillon Beach residents to learn more about Ham Radio and to obtain a Ham Radio license.

Why Ham Radio? Ham radio has proven to be the best method to communicate during an emergency. In an emergency, conventional telephone and cell phones frequently become overloaded or damaged and quit working. Unlike telephones and cell phones, which pass your communication though a system of switches and devices that can fail or create choke points, Ham Radio works radio to radio without additional equipment. Ham Radios are like very powerful walkie-talkies that can reach around the world. Ham radio was the only method of communication during Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. Ham radio is also a great way to strengthen our community during times of non-emergency use. Once you have your Ham Radio license, there is no fee to use the radio or repeaters. It's absolutely FREE

Ham Radio Licensing Options:

3 Hour Class & Exam Session:
- The Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society offers a class and exam session which makes it possible to get your license in one day. There is a $25.00 fee which includes materials and the FCC exam/license fee. About 90% + of the people taking this class pass the test. Visit the SMRS web page at http://smrs.us for more details or to find classes offered locally. This is an inexpensive, quick and easy way to get your license NOW!

Self-Study If you don't want to take a class, you can:
1. Take some on-line practice exams at the QRZ web site located at: http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/
2. Find an FCC exam session in your community using http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session
3. Attend the exam session and take the FCC Technician Class exam.
4. Another option is to download the **NCVEC** test questions, study only the correct answers then go take the test.

Cost: FCC Exam: A $15.00 fee covers your exam-and license which is valid for 10 years (no exam to renew).
Book (optional): About $20.00 at http://www.w5yi.org/catalog.php?sort=4or http://www.amazon.com
Equipment: A new two meter Ham Radio can be purchased for as little as $50.00, however, if you want a more powerful system with a permanent antenna, the cost can be $200.00 to $500.00 or more.

Practice tests for Ham Radio exams
- Go to: http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/
- Once you can consistently pass the practice tests, you are ready for the actual FCC exam.

FCC Examination Details for the Technical Class Ham Radio License:

Take a 35 question exam. You can miss up to 9 questions. Only 26 correct answers required to pass the test.
All test questions and answers are on the **NCVEC** web site at: http://ncvec.org/page.php?id=362
You will need: $15 cash, one photo ID, possibly a second ID (no photo), a pencil, a calculator and your Social Security number (or preferably an FCC Federal Registration Number). See: http://www.smrs.us/classes/frn.htm for details.
Exam session locations can be found at: http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session
Morse Code is no longer required to get a license! ₘThere is no minimum age requirement to get a license!

Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society Classes/tests are held may times during the year, usually on Saturdays, but sometimes on Thursdays. Visit their Website: http://www.smrs.us for more information.

Contact: Jeff Young at 707-322-3221 or at jeff.km6y@gmail.com for more info regarding technical questions, licensing or equipment selection.