

OES Ham Radio Station, VE7FJK

Do you want a new hobby, or want to add one you will like? Do you want to be involved in community service and have fun while doing and learning things with others? How about a conversation with people or friends far away without using a phone or the internet but by using a radio you control? Would you like to get better prepared to handle an emergency like we see happening in these times of natural upsets?

If you said “yes” on any of these, then read here about the radio-communication station at the SSAC which is linked to the Office of Emergency Services for our area. The radio station at SSCAC, VE7FJK, is operated by licensed radio operators who are people like you who got licensed to use the VE7FJK radios - which is easy to do because learning help is available for this, too.



You can join a group of radio operators from the Sun Coast Amateur Radio Club Society and be part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES is pronounced air-eez), which gives public service by volunteers who deliver communications during emergencies. Amateur Radio operators, also called Hams, establish ad-hoc radio links where and when needed. ARES relies on the Ham radio operators who volunteer their time, equipment, and expertise for the benefit of the community.



ARES and Ham operators do not replace the communication infrastructure used by police or other emergency responders, or the systems in place to support agencies and recovery organizations.

Instead, operators augment existing communication infrastructure by providing added flexibility and capacity that is often needed during emergencies (for example, between Emergency Operations Centres, community shelters, hospitals, evacuation points and other facilities). Another value that Ham radio offers is flexibility, survivability, and scalability if traditional commercial resources are overloaded, like cell phone services. Ham radio can serve as a Plan B option when primary communications systems are challenged or disabled.



Ham radio is a hobby that is distinguished by providing a unique mix of fun, convenience, and public service. The appeal of Amateur Radio is the ability to communicate across the country, around the globe, and even with astronauts on space missions. Many Ham operators build and experiment with radio.

Computer hobbyists find the new digital modes to be a low-cost way to expand their ability to communicate. Those with a competitive streak enjoy contests where the object is to contact as many other Hams as possible in a fixed time. Some like the portable technology (mobile stations) which gives them portable communication. Others use radio to open the door to new friendships over the air, or through participation in an Amateur Radio club. Many combine Amateur Radio with the Internet in creative ways. All ages and interests are welcome.



We have a vibrant community of amateurs on the Coast and this hobby is an opportunity to combine social connection with an interest in technology and experimentation. The station, licensed as VE7FJK, has a long legacy at the SSAC and is a vital part of emergency preparedness for the town of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast.

If this interests you contact the SSAC or Larry Peterson, VA7LSP at **778-319-7474** or send an email to **iamstr8aero@gmail.com**. ●

