Hello;

 My name is Stiv Ostenberg, K9STV, and you may have met me at a club meeting, or in my other efforts in Outreach to the Ham Community. You may have visited my interim website at [qsl.net/k9stv](https://www.qsl.net/k9stv/index.html) outlining the work I have done so far to promote the hobby in the area. A lot of the work I have done has been laying the groundwork for an ambitious plan to revitalize participation in Ham Radio and solve the problems I identified during my tenure. A presentation of my findings and conclusions (Finding and retaining next generation hams) is available with my other presentations at [Index of /PowerPoint Presentations/](https://ftp.ai6ym.radio/PowerPoint%20Presentations/).

I believe we can accomplish much more together then we can as individual clubs. I believe we can support each other, and maybe take some of the load off the Officers who are holding these clubs together by sweat, perseverance, and tenacity.

I would like to establish a line of communication between all the clubs in the area. To accomplish this I have created a Groups.IO site with lists for various topics. I have created a list for each club by which that club can be contacted. I have created a list for Ham Angels, the people who are willing to help out at events, as speakers, or as Elmers can be contacted here. I have created a list where new projects can be posted for review and collaboration. If projects take off, we can create their own list.

I cannot do this alone. I need you. I need your members. I think we can solve the problems we face if we are willing to work together.

So what do I have to offer you? Well, first off I think that having a line of communication to your peers in other clubs will help us get advice and assistance when we need it. I think that centralizing some of the projects that no club seems able to tackle alone will benefit all of us. What are these projects, and why am I proposing them?

**Ham Academy: (Elmering and new hams)**

I have been to many of your club meetings, and while the Speaker topics may be fascinating, they may be well beyond any relevance to new hams. As a new ham, what practical use is a discussion of Fast Fourier Transforms in Digital Signal Processing? Talking to new hams, and as a new ham, I put together a list of topics that might be more relevant:

* Programming radios and using Chirp  (with a file already defined with local Net sites provided)  Cheat sheets also should be included.
* Logging.  Breakdown of logging programs,  ADIF files, Upload sites (EQSL, LoTW, etc).  Contests, POTA/SOTA, and specialized logs.
* Digital Modes:  CAT Controls, Connection Types, Basic Networking.  FT8, RTTY, VARA, Outpost, Winlink.
* Basic Antenna Principles and choosing an Antenna.  Tuning an antenna.
* Be Radio Active:   Provide an introduction to all the activities available to ham radio operators, and how to get started.
* Sending messages using FT8 (yes, you can!)

While these topics might be “basic” to some of your members, these are the sorts of things new hams actually need. Also, remember a new General Class ham may be just as overwhelmed as a new Technician. Perhaps you don’t HAVE enough new hams to make these worthwhile, but if that is the case you need a place to send them to get this information. Lack of this information contributes to our loss of new hams. I would like to work with y’all to build these classes, and make them available to all the clubs. You could present them yourselves, or request a presenter. If we get a couple people willing to present in a day, we have an Academy!
 I intend to introduce these “classes” at the Electronics Flea Market. If other clubs are willing to set up a booth, we can have multiple classes and an academy! I want a new ham to be able to get hands on instruction, and even help him if he brings his own gear. If we get buy in, we could offer get togethers shortly after a Ham Cram to present these topics and try to increase our retention.

**Information Resource Projects: (Workload distribution)**

 Instead of individual clubs putting together config files, cheat sheets, net lists, club lists, presentations, and how-to documents and duplicating each others efforts, we should get a few folks together to make these things, and share them with everyone. A list of Nets in the area would be invaluable to both clubs and new hams. A library of standardized Cheat Sheets for various radios could also be shared. Justin AI6YM is hosting a fileshare where we could keep these… Each of these would count as a “project” we could collaborate on.

Localized