

What is a Hamfest?

According to the ARRL:

A hamfest is a meeting of people interested in Amateur Radio. Hamfests offer exhibits, forums, and fleamarkets for Amateur Radio operators or “hams”.

Purpose of a Hamfest

- Make money for the club
- Public interface to other hams
- Other purposes?

Planning for the Hamfest

- Short term: 2019 Hamfest – what can we do to make it better this year?
- Long term: Where do we want to go with the hamfest in the future?

Short Term Plans

- Implement exhibits/forums – we can hold them in the rink from 8 – 10.
- Lighted signs at entrance indicating hamfest.
- Organize the parking lot.
- Dog and Pony Table
 - With Flyers
- Other ideas?

Exhibits/Forum

- EmComm: the pods we have build, the WinLink we're setting up, the CARET net and even activating Park and Rides (more about that in another email).
- Kit Building: we've got a serious amount of members embarked on the uBITX adventure (more about a progress grid in another email – to ensure that we ALL reach the goal of a working, compliant radio). And there are spinoffs – we've got people building Pixies and so forth to play more in the CW world.
- Digital: this can be seen as a part of EmComm, but we're starting to get RPIs working with Packet and fldigi – even from park and rides. We've got the uBITXs doing digital.
- MicroComputers/Controllers: We're doing all kinds of things with RPIs, some of which we have mentioned above. And Arduinos – hey, what do you think is at the heart of the uBITX – the Raduino!
- Other ideas?

Dog and Pony Table

- PiGate
- Activate a uBITX with portable antenna
 - Build sessions
 - Compliance mods
- Rpi + USB sound card + Baofeng = digital
- Other ideas?

Local Hamfests

- 03/16: Frederick, MD
- 04/26: Sterling, VA
- 04/27: Spring Grove, PA
- 05/04: Hagerstown, MD
- 05/26: West Friendship, MD
- 06/16: Upperco, MD
- Harrisburg
- 07/27: Chambersburg, PA
- 08/04: Berryville, PA
- West Friendship, MD

Long Term Plans

- Change Day – Saturday
- Change Date – First Standard Sunday
- More indoor space.
- MD ARRL Convention
- Food
- Reflector Suggestions

Reflector Suggestions

- Indoor / outdoor venues
- Saturday (2)
- Early dispersal
- VFDs
 - Higher than Sportsman Hall
 - Higher than Ag Center???
- Mt Airy activities building
- More Suggestions???