

## Why Hams Do It

For most people, electronic communication isn't about the technology.

With the internet, cell phones, PCs, etc., what's interesting is the content, not how it gets to you. Most people *\*expect\** it all to work perfectly 100% of the time on the first try, automatically. It's the email/phone call/message/website that's the important part; the technology is just how you get to it.

But ham radio is about "radio for its own sake". It's all about the journey rather than the destination. It's the difference between riding in an airliner from, say, New York to San Francisco and piloting your own airplane over the same route. Sure, in both cases you "flew", but the journey was completely different.

If you send an email to Australia, you *\*expect\** it to get there in a few minutes at most. You're disappointed or even angry if it doesn't. Working a ham in Australia on the air is a completely different thing.

Some people don't get this - in fact, most people don't get it. When someone's first question about ham radio is "what do you talk about?", it's an indication that they don't get it. That's not a bad thing, just a different view.

73 de Jim, N2EY