

OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

An International Educational and Scientific Organization

OMIK Radio Association, in conjunction with Frank Decuire, K6FED, its' educational chairman has reached a new milestone in our history. OMIK members now have the ability to enjoy this new mode of communication via the D-Star network both locally and globally. An Icom D-star radio can be programmed to operate a computer and reproduce your signal via the gateway for both a general CQ call or to a specific station, repeater or reflector. In this technology you can choose where your signal is heard or to which part of the world you might want to listen.

Our education committee members are happy to help any member get acquainted and to assist in programming a members equipment to their specifications. This new technology that now has a permanent place in Amateur Radio. Furthermore, a technician class licensee is free to use it. Amateur radio and OMIK have both now evolved to the point that for a \$400 to \$500 investment a technician class licensee can now reach around the world in both phone and packet format. This is a great recruitment tool as it allows a new ham access to global communications at a fraction of the cost of traditional HF stations. I am encouraging that those members who currently have D-star radios, who have not yet reached their full potential, to contact our education department and allow them to bring you up to speed. I am sure you will not regret it and you will find that these operations are now quite "user friendly". I have personally worked DX and local stations from my hand-held walking around the house.

D-Star will not replace HF or normal 2/440 meter functions and activities. This new mode is an enhancement to the technology we already have. What makes it so impressive is the small comparative cost. Perfect for entry level hams. In all of the last 6 conventions considerable discussion has been made as to how we might recruit younger hams to join our organization. This D-star technology is indeed one of our most effective tools. No longer will the new ham be frustrated by the cost and installation of a new HF station. He can get on the network with minimum cost and great capability with this mode.

Other manufacturers are also entering into this technology, i.e. Yaesu with their Fusion and the ever present Echolink programs as well. I understand that research is already on-going to bridge these technologies together.

In conclusion, for those of you that are already D-star ready, I recommend that you get updated by our education department. For the OM that might be considering it you should know that it is fun, quite convenient and portable. To the newly licensed ham I can think of no way you could get your money's worth to get started in worldwide communications via Amateur radio.

Please join me in spreading the good news to all who might benefit and hopefully let's bring in some new members to enjoy our extensive capabilities.

Jeff, N4JDU
OMIK President