BASIC AMATEUR RADIO PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP

Supported by:

Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County, Inc.
www.ARCCC.org

Augusta Ham Net
www.augustaham.net

SYLLABUS

NOTE: To participate in the Basic Radio Programming Workshop and to receive the best learning experience possible, we ask that you complete and comply with the list of prerequisites on page 2 prior to arriving to the workshop. Please keep in mind the Basic Radio Programming Workshop focuses solely on radio programming only and does not provide equipment, teach basic radio operation, teach basic repeater operation, teach basic computer operation, internet browsing or other operations inherent to performing radio programming.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION:
Basic Amateur Radio Programming Workshop, Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 9:00 AM to Noon at Martinez Bible Chapel, 4352 Columbia Road, Martinez, GA 30907. Please drive around to the back of the parking lot and enter the SIDE of the building… Look for signs!

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Rusty Welsh, KG4HIR
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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:
The Basic Amateur Radio Programming Workshop is designed to teach amateur radio operators how to completely and successfully program their amateur radios on their own using their own equipment, the CHIRP software (a free open-source tool), efficiently as well as provide an introduction to other radio programming methods. Additionally, other programming information resources will be explored which can ultimately enhance the amateur radio experience.

PURPOSE OF COURSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Enable Amateur Radio Operators to properly program their radio(s) using their computer in effort to be
  o Prepared for Emergencies prior to the Emergency Occurrence
  o Programming and Operation Efficiency
  o Amateur Radio Enjoyment
- Guide participants through the use of CHIRP Software, native programming software for various makes and models of radios as well as provide radio programming best practices.
- Provide information resource guidance on how to use the CSRA Amateur Radio Communications Resource codeplug located on the AugustaHam.net website for importing all of the CSRA frequencies into your radio so a complete listing of CSRA frequencies will be available for use in your radio.

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PREREQUISITES (BRING WITH YOU TO THE WORKSHOP):

1. <u>COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS</u>
   a. Basic/Intermediate Computer Operation Skills and Familiarity including basic commands and file system operation
   b. Internet Capable Computer with Wi-Fi and Administrative Rights, Laptop preferred (Participant must have own computer set up and ready at start of workshop)
   c. Power Supply and cords for above laptop
   d. Optional External Keyboard/Mouse/Trackball for following along during instruction
   e. All computer/radio updates completed prior to the beginning of the workshop including but not limited to Operating System, Apps, Clients and other software installed on the computer/radio
   f. Two or more web browsers installed and updated and both able to visit http://www.augustaham.net/ with ease
   g. Current CHIRP Radio Programming Software Installed on your computer
      i. Download here: https://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Download
   h. Tested CHIRP Software (After downloaded, ensure software will run without error)
2. <u>RADIO REQUIREMENTS</u>
   a. Basic Knowledge of Amateur Radio Operations (Licensed Preferred but not required)
   b. Bring Portable Amateur Radio programmable by computer/CHRIP (<u>Most</u> newer radios are capable)
      i. Check https://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Supported_Radios
   c. Bring the User Manual for the Portable Amateur Radio you plan to program
   d. Charged Battery for the radio above (the radio you plan to program)
   e. Proper Original Programming Cable for the radio you plan to program (typically with FTDI Chipset, workshop time will not be spent on making knockoff chipset cables operational)
      i. RT Systems Cables usually work great - https://www.rtsystemsinc.com/
   f. Proper Driver Installed for Proper Programming Cable for the radio above
   g. Connect Proper Programming Cable to Computer, Connect Proper Programming Cable to Radio, Turn on Radio and change the frequencies to frequencies not used in this area, test reading the radio using CHIRP software (*FILE MENU, RADIO, DOWNLOAD FROM RADIO, PICK PROPER COM PORT FOR THE PROGRAMMING CABLE, PROPER VENDOR AND MODEL OF RADIO, PRESS OK*) to ensure proper operation and operation without error. Also, if using a USB Programming Cable, make note of which USB port you have tested the cable with so the same port can be used at the workshop.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Participants will be provided an agenda upon arrival. A brief discussion of the instruction material will be given followed by ensuring all present have completed the required prerequisites for the workshop. Using Powerpoint slideshow as well as computer operations projected on a screen, the instructor will guide participants through each task to complete the requirements needed to fulfill the workshop.