

The M.O.R.E. Project

Phil-Mont Supports the M.O.R.E. Project Initiative

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club is proud to support and promote the Make Operating Radio Easier (MORE) Project, an exciting initiative dedicated to expanding the amateur radio demographic by training, licensing, and equipping hundreds of new Hams across the country. We are sharing the full details of this successful program, submitted by Project Director, Dr. Rebecca Mercuri (K3RPM), to encourage our members to learn more about this effort to grow our hobby and to consider getting involved as a volunteer.

From: Rebecca Mercuri, Ph.D., K3RPM, MORE Project Director

The Make Operating Radio Easier (MORE) Project is a joint initiative of the Princeton-area David Sarnoff Radio Club (N2RE) and the Princeton / Central Jersey Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Broadcast Technology Chapter (IEEE-PCJS BT). In mid-2021, shortly after the start of the COVID pandemic, we received very generous funding from Amateur Radio | Digital Communications (AR|DC) for the purpose of expanding the demographic of Hams to include a MORE diverse population of ages and genders. We had originally intended to provide in-person training primarily in the tri-state (Eastern PA, Eastern NY and all of NJ) area, but because of the nationwide lock-down, quickly pivoted to offering amateur radio license training over Zoom, which enabled participation throughout the USA. No one who applies is ever turned away (as long as they satisfy radio licensing eligibility requirements), but we try to reach out to encourage under-represented groups and individuals to join the hobby.

Our primary goal is to train, license, and get on the air 500 new Hams, each of whom receives reimbursement of their testing (up to 3 tries) and licensing fees. Currently, we have trained MORE than 400 candidates, with over 250 successfully licensed. Our grant also pays for a GOTA kit for each of the newly licensed Hams, which includes a Yaesu FT-65R HT, plus programming cable and a variety of additional materials to help them get started. The candidates attend a weekly 2.5 hour training course, for 6 sessions, which is followed by testing. After the GOTA kits are distributed to those who have completed the training and received their callsign, additional activities are scheduled to help these new Hams experience a broad range of radio operations. To date, we have completed 21 MORE Courses, including Seniors at Rutgers Bioengineering, Engineering students at The College of New Jersey, youth members of the NJ Civil Air Patrol, "preppers" across the USA, "Radio Weaves" which is a group of indigenous tribal youth, and MORE!

To join the MORE Project as a license candidate, all one needs to do is download a form from our website at n2re.org/m-o-r-e-project, fill it out and email to MOREProject500@gmail.com. We'll review to ensure that all information has been correctly provided, and then add the applicant to our database to receive notices when new MORE Courses are opening up. We also welcome licensed Hams, at the General level or above, to contact us at the same gmail address, if they are interested in assisting as trainers or VEs (such as for ARRL and GLAARG in-person or remote exams). Considerable study materials, including videos, lecture slides, and Q&A review flash-cards for the full Technician question pool, are freely available at our n2re.org/more-project-resource-page. For further information, and to get involved with MORE as a student or volunteer, please contact Dr. Rebecca Mercuri, K3RPM, at our MOREProject500@gmail.com address.