

# Tablet and Smartphone Apps for the Amateur Radio Operator

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# Introduction

Smartphones and tablets have become universal and ubiquitous devices. Nearly every ham has at least one, in addition to their radio(s).

This presentation will introduce you to a sampling of apps targeted for and useful to hams. It is in no way a comprehensive list of apps – it's some that I've run across that I've found useful.

If you use an app I haven't mentioned in this presentation, by all means share!



# Disclaimer

Note that I am an iPhone/iPad user, and I've focused on iPhone/iPad apps. Some of these apps do have Android versions, while others have very similar apps developed for Android.



# Apps

- Exam Preparation
- Morse Code Practice Apps
- General User Apps/"Multi-Tool" Apps
  
- Specific Use Apps
  - Logging
  - APRS
  - EchoLink
  - Digital Modes
  
- Other Useful Apps



# Exam Preparation

- There are lots of exam prep apps, both FREE and FEE
- FREE ones generally do not have the entire question pool available; FEE ones do
- Good way to review questions anywhere, anytime
  - Amateur Radio Exam Prep (each license class):  
FREE/\$4.99 (Tech/Gen)/\$5.99 (Extra)
  - Ham Radio Exam (each license class)



# Morse Code Practice Apps

- **Morse Code Driller** (FREE; [user.gru.net/nemesis/](http://user.gru.net/nemesis/))
  - The **Morse Code Driller** includes a sequence of activities designed to help you learn and master the Morse Code. It includes a Review screen, a Mix & Match activity, two variations on Multiple Choice, and finally a drill where you pat the screen to tap out the codes to match test letters and numbers. You can choose to study letters, numbers or both and you can configure the drills to test all the selected letters and/or numbers once, or as many times as possible within a time limit you set.
- **CW With Me** (FREE/\$0.99; [www.pignology.net/cwwithme](http://www.pignology.net/cwwithme))
  - **CW with Me** is an app for helping learn morse code. Getting away from impersonal, computer generated morse code, CW with Friends allows you to send and receive messages with real people, over the Internet.
  - When you receive a new message it is initially hidden from view. You can play the CW, practice decoding it then view the original message to see how close you were.
  - You can send and find CQ messages as well as call your friends. In Settings you can manipulate the code speed, set a Farnsworth value and change the CW pitch.
  - The non-free version of the application removes advertisements and has Push Notifications for when you get a new message
- **Morse Key (FREE)/Morse Test /Morse Words** (Hot Paw Prodcutions)
  - Practice code with a straight-key type interface
  - Code Test
  - Word-based code generator/drill



# HamTool (\$1.99)

- Locate a repeater anywhere in the US using your GPS location, ZIP code, or by callsign
- Satellite Pass information
- Solar data and band conditions
- Callsign lookup
- Band plans, Q codes, DXCC prefixes
- Reference Guides for certain rigs
  - FT-857
  - FT-817
  - VX-3R



# General Purpose Apps

- Ham Radio Reference – band limits/plans, country codes, local/UTC time, useful formulas/calculators, more (\$0.99)
- RepeaterBook – Repeater Directory with locator
- Ham Square – Maidenhead coordinate locator
- Ham I Am – multi-tool reference
- HamSearch, Ham Radio Call, Callsign Search – Callsign lookup
- iSDR – Software Defined Radio control
- Satellite Explorer Pro – real-time satellite tracking
- DBHam – compute distance and bearing based on Maidenhead coordinates
- DXCluster/DXClusterLite -
- QST Magazine



# HamLog (\$0.99) ([www.pignology.com](http://www.pignology.com))

- HamLog is an amateur radio logging and tools application. It is meant for use when operating portable from the field or mobile.
  - Contact logging and search (including FD/contest/dupe detection)
  - Rig control via the Pigtail device from Pignology
  - QRZ XML integration for QRZ subscribers
  - HamQTH XML integration
  - Automatic name/QTH resolution based on callsign (via QRZ, HamQTH or Pignology databases)
  - Independent callsign lookup tool
  - HamStack control interface (see [hamstack.com](http://hamstack.com) for more info)
  - And lots and lots of additional features – too many to list here



# APRS

- OpenAPRS (\$3.99)
  - OpenAPRS iPhone Edition brings the world of APRS right to your iPhone. Paired with iPhone's built-in map engine, Internet connection and GPS, OpenAPRS gives you access to check your APRS messages, beacon your position and view other Amateur Radio operators anywhere in the world.
- APRS-IS (\$2.99)
  - APRS-IS allows amateurs on the move to send location updates to APRS-IS (the Internet side of APRS) from their mobile device. Once sent, your position can be tracked using services like [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi). You can turn it off at any time. You can also send email, SMS, Tweet or Facebook status update containing an [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi) tracking link with your callsign or a map link showing your current location.
- APRS (\$1.99)
  - APRS allows licensed amateurs to connect to an APRS server and receive regional APRS data. Messages are displayed on a Google map with an appropriate icon.



# EchoLink (FREE)

- EchoLink for iPhone is an edition of the EchoLink software that runs on an iPhone or iPod Touch; EchoLink for Android is an edition of the EchoLink software that runs on an Android smartphone or tablet, such as a Motorola Droid or HTC Evo.
- If you own one of these devices and are a validated EchoLink user, you can access the EchoLink system from nearly anywhere where WiFi networking is available. If you have an iPhone, you can also use it to access EchoLink over the cellular data (3G or EDGE) network.
- EchoLink for iPhone is available free of charge from Apple's App Store; EchoLink for Android is available free of charge from the Android Market; tap the Market icon on your phone and search for EchoLink.
- Both iPhone and Android editions focus on the basic features of EchoLink, such as managing the Station List, connecting and disconnecting, and transmitting and receiving voice and text. Unlike the Windows edition, you can be connected to only one node at a time, and there is no Sysop mode. The user interface has been re-designed to function smoothly on the smaller screen of a smartphone, and to take advantage of some of its built-in hardware features.



# Digital Modes

- ircDDB
  - View status and activity of D-STAR network
- WSPR Watch
  - Allows WSPR users to see who can hear you and details of each spot
- PacketPad (\$2.99)
  - Lets you view Packet transmissions on your iDevice (requires proximity for audio or a patch cable from your radio's audio output to your iDevice)



# Not ham-specific but useful:

- MESONET

- Mesonet is a compilation of weather data gathered by the National Weather Service's Norman office from over 50 monitoring stations across the state of Oklahoma. It compiles all of that data into a comprehensive picture of weather across the entire state. It is unique to Oklahoma – this is the first state to have such a network and such an app. There's a huge amount of weather data available on the app, and I highly recommend it.
- I believe it's only available as an iPhone app from the iTunes store.

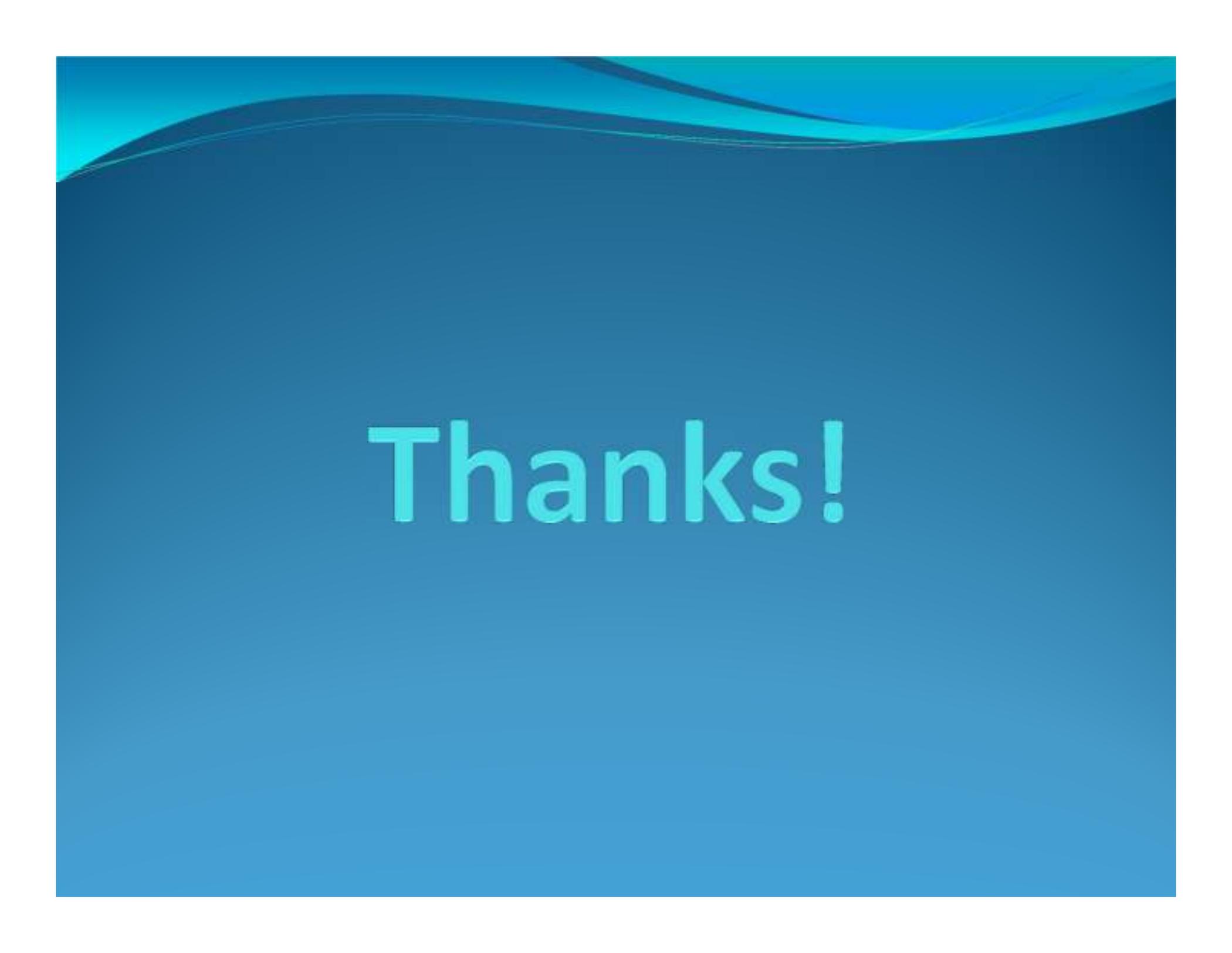


# A plug for podcasts

- While not technically a ham-specific app, there are several ham-specific or ham-related podcasts out there, often with some very good information. Your device should have a podcast app and a way to download them from the store. Most are free to subscribe to. Examples:
  - Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (great for new hams)
  - SolderSmoke
  - Resonant Frequency
- You can download past podcasts as well and store them on your device for later playback. Great for those of us who travel a lot and have time to kill on plane trips or otherwise.
- Podcasts can also be downloaded and played on your PC



What apps have you found useful?

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**Thanks!**