



*Pete Hersey (KJ6NRR) leads a training session on emergency communications using FRS radios. Seated left to right, Ron Goodrich (K6IRG), Bill Taylor, Dena Cortez, and Susan Wilson.*

### **Amateur Radio Club**

The Four Seasons at Beaumont Amateur Radio Club provided training on Family Radio Service (FRS) handheld radios at the regular club meeting on 30 April for members of the community who were interested in expanding their skills as Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) volunteers and/or joining the club. Pete Hersey provided an hour of hands-on instruction on the club's FRS radio of choice: the Motorola Model 350. The 350 comes in a variety of colors and options but each of them functions in much the same way providing about a watt of output power that's generally good for covering most, if not all of the community, depending on your location. Training covered the basics including how to power on, change channels and set privacy codes as well as some more advanced techniques like tuning in NOAA weather channels and setting call alerts. Pete also covered some of the concepts of using your radio in a controlled network or "net." The club sponsors a weekly net on Wednesdays at 5:45PM where members and interested residents may check in on FRS channel 2 and share information on communications or EPP subjects all while learning about protocols necessary for keeping order on a single radio channel shared by as many as 20 communicators. Participating in the net is fun and also provides experience that could be valuable in an emergency situation.

We encourage you to get active in the club and the EPP and get yourself a pair of FRS radios! You can find the Model 350 on Amazon.com or locally at Home Depot or even Costco for around \$60—pretty inexpensive for the security (and fun) that they provide.

The next meeting will be held at 10 AM, May 31<sup>st</sup>, in the Game Room at the Lodge—come and join us and we'll show you how to use a "350"!

Jim Peterson, K6JWP