The do it yourself (DIY) movement is nothing new to ham radio people. Amateur Radio folks were the original makers and hackers.

(Note that some older people will not know that the term "hacker" now does NOT necessarily mean someone that hacks into other people's computer systems. The word use has changed in the past 15 years to now refer to someone who creates a program or application to achieve some specific task. A "hack" is the program or application itself, but the word also may refer to a non-computer creation.)

For just over a century, "hams" have been working in basements and attics, taking things apart and putting them back together in new ways for the fun of it

The enjoyment of seeing your **<u>own</u>** creation work

–or even if it fails-

always surpasses being a mere user of mass-produced products.

Today's hams continue to use technologies in new and creative ways that can become the consumer products of tomorrow and, in the meantime…

They have FUN!

This is your key point…..   **The ham radio bands are the last place in the radio spectrum where <u>individuals</u> can make or modify their own wireless equipment, try ideas out and see what happens.**

Hams were the original Makers and Hackers, using new, used and scavenged parts to make transmitters, receivers, and antennas capable of communicating with other hams anywhere on Earth…. And beyond.

Hams are the only non-government folks who can talk with the International Space Station. In fact, Amateur Radio is the backup emergency communications system for the ISS.

In this hobby, communicating is the keyword.

      And, **when computers came along, they fit right in to the ham's wide world.**

Hams put together advanced communication networks connected by radio waves instead of wires.

From microchips and robotics to time and space itself, the Makers within the Amateur Radio ranks build and explore new ways to play with the radio spectrum.

…such as bouncing UHF signals off a meteor's trail

…or sending email without the Internet

Hams even build their own satellites and systems to talk out to space and have set world distance records for communications here on earth using microwaves.

Hams are even developing whole new systems where a computer *IS* the radio called Software Defined Radios (SDR).

If you want a new radio, you'll be able to download it!

Go back and ask the audience about times they made something for themselves – get examples and stories from them. Note the pleasure they have in telling their story. Key on the enjoyment of creating things.

Anecdote:

You can go to McDonalds and order a fish filet sandwich anytime. But isn't it a lot more fun to go fishing for yourself. It's not as fast, but feeds the soul.

Hams are like that.

Action:

Be sure to give them some specific action to do **that day** after they leave.

It could be a website, a handout or a phone number to call....but you need a call to action and it must be specific. (Not just "if you want, you can come to our meeting someday.")

Thank you and I look forward to _____ (seeing them complete the call to action).