

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO GET STARTED!

What is Amateur Radio?



Amateur radio is a non-commercial radio communication service on radio frequencies assigned to the Amateur Radio Service by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States and the International Telecommunication Union worldwide.

Who can become an Amateur Radio Operator?

Anyone of any age who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an amateur radio operator in the US. Before you can get on the air, you'll need to be licensed and know the rules to operate legally. In the US there are three license classes — Technician, General, and Amateur Extra.

How is Amateur Radio Used?

Ham radio is used for a variety of recreational and service-related activities. Amateur radio operators, also called "hams," use amateur radio equipment to engage in two-way personal communications with other hams, as well as:

- Participate in competitive events and earn awards in contests
- Aid communication during public events, such as parades and road races
- Act as a vital communications link during emergencies and disasters
- Advance their technical skills and build their own radio components

What kind of equipment will I need?

Starting simple is often recommended. A reliable handheld radio (as inexpensive as \$29), is a good and affordable way to get started while building your station over time. A complete amateur radio station typically includes a transceiver, power supply unit, antenna, amplifier, headphone, and microphone, and can include several accessories and related devices.

How do I get my Amateur Radio license?

The Technician class license is the entry-level license of choice for most new ham radio operators. To earn the Technician license requires passing one examination totaling 35 questions on radio theory, regulations and operating practices. The license gives access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "short wave") bands used for international communications.

Where to go for study materials/practice exams

The Internet has a wide variety of tools to study for your Amateur Radio license, many of them free! If you search on YouTube for "getting started in Amateur Radio," you'll find many of the popular Amateur Radio YouTubers providing study courses. You'll also find on the ARRL.org Web site a book called "ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 5th edition, which can help you study for your exam.

The Technician Class license exam consists of 35 questions. A passing score of 74% is required, so you will need to get 26 of 35 correct. These questions are taken from a pool of 412 questions, with a few drawn from each category/topic.

What's great is you get all of the questions and answers ahead of time. Simply study the material and take one of the many free, online practice exams from sites such as hamexam.org, hamstudy.org or others. **Make sure the materials you choose use the latest question pool for the Technician Class exam that was released July 1, 2022 and good through June 30, 2026.**

When I'm ready, where can I go to take my exam?

The Lakeland Amateur Radio Club and the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs Clubs offer no cost license examinations. All costs associated with administering exams are covered by the clubs, so there is NO COST to the candidate for their exam(s)!

For more resources on getting started, flip this page over. To find an upcoming exam session in your area, visit <https://tinyurl.com/radioexams>

A FULL TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS FREE (ONLINE)

Busy and can't commit to in-person classes?

If you would like to experience an entire Technician Class License course and study at your convenience, then the links below will help you get your Amateur Radio Technician Class license and study when your time permits.

W4EEY has put together a fantastic series covering each of the nine (9) chapters of the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 5th Edition with the Question Pool. Below are the links for each chapter in this series. This course is very well done, easy to understand, and includes questions asked by those who participated in the class.

W4EEY YouTube Technician Class links:

Chapter 1 (Introduction) - <https://bit.ly/3FdBFjQ>

Chapter 2 (Radio & Signal Fundamentals) - <https://bit.ly/3FbwUap>

Chapter 3 (Electricity Comp & Circuits) - <https://bit.ly/3HrgzRE>

Chapter 4 (Prop, Antennas, Feed Lines) - <https://bit.ly/3UydCSs>

Chapter 5 (Amateur Radio Equipment) - <https://bit.ly/3uvCwaD>

Chapter 6 (Comm with other Hams) - <https://bit.ly/3VTv84s>

Chapter 7 (Licensing Regulations) - <https://bit.ly/3HjfGe3>

Chapter 8 (Operating Regulations) - <https://bit.ly/3heYvj0>

Chapter 9 (Safety) - <https://bit.ly/3UIBTVQ>

Yes, you could study/memorize all of the questions and answers in the question pool and still pass the exam, but why not watch some of these outstanding videos for a better understanding of the material.

These videos will give you an edge on passing the exam the first time.

The videos in this series are good for the Technician Class Question Pool (Element 2) that expires June 30, 2026.