

Welcome to the Exciting World of Amateur Radio!

You've just passed your test.
Now what
do you do?

Here are some tips to get you started!

There are many different aspects to this hobby. Do you want to just talk with new friends on a local repeater?

Or would you like to use Morse code and chat with scientists at the South Pole? Maybe even chat with the International Space Station?

After specialized training, your ham skills can even serve the local community during natural disasters.

Every aspect of ham radio has its own requirements and training. You will learn by doing, and by following the example of other operators.

You can also take advanced classes in antenna theory, emergency preparedness and hundreds of other topics.

When in doubt, ask questions of experienced hams. When time and money permit, consider purchasing or



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Continued

borrowing the following publications:

*ARRL Operating Manual
Getting Started in Amateur Radio
The ARRL Antenna Book*

**Here are some tips to get
you pointed in the right
direction.**

**Most of all, it's a hobby so
Have Fun!**

Common Questions

Q: When can I get on the air?

A: As soon as your call sign is listed on the official FCC web site. This can take from 5-14 days. (Us old timers used to have to wait 3-6 months!)

Q: I just passed my General or Extra class license test. Can I use those privileges right away?

A: Yes you can! For a new General, just sign using your call followed by the words "Temporary AG" and for a new Extra class ham use "Temporary AE"

Q: How do I "Talk like a ham?"

A: Just be yourself! Use speech that you would use in normal conversation. Avoid profanity, and do NOT use CB type slang. Hams do not use "10" signals. "10-4 good buddy" will get you ignored by seasoned operators.

Q: What do I need besides a radio and antenna?

A: All amateurs should have a copy of, and be familiar with the part 97 rules. These can be had in book form from the ARRL (arrl.org)

Q: I need help setting up my new radio.

A: We have several club members who can help you get started. Just contact the club through our web site or via US Mail.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: Start with our club web site, kf4ixu.org (or springhillarc.com) Also spend lots of time on the arrl.org web site.

Repeater Etiquette

Q: Who is in charge of the KF4IXU repeater?

A: Our current repeater trustee is listed on the club web site. The trustee is responsible for the proper and legal operation of the repeater His/her personal license is on the line, so they take this responsibility very seriously.

Continued on back page

Repeater Etiquette Continued

Q: Why does the repeater send Morse code every few minutes?

A: Every transmitter is required to identify itself. Repeaters are no exception. The repeater ID is: KF4IXU/R in Morse every 8 minutes.

Q: How do I ID myself on the repeater?

A: Please use your call sign at the beginning of your first transmission, every 10 minutes during, and at the end of your final transmission. We all can forget sometimes. Most of us will ID each time we hear the repeater ID.

Q: I just accidentally used a 4 letter word on the repeater. Am I in trouble now?

A: Yes and no. Our repeater in general, and ham radio over all, discourages profanity or suggestive speech. Just apologize to anyone listening and try hard not to do it again. Repeat offenders will be asked to refrain from using the repeater. Habitual rule breakers will be reported to the FCC for enforcement.

Q: Can I test my radio on the repeater?

A: Yes, however let's do it right! First of all, listen to make sure no one is using it. Next, give your call sign and ask if any station can give you a radio check. If no one answers, try again later. Use a simplex channel like 146.490 instead of the repeater for checking SWR. Give your call sign, state that you are testing, do so as quickly as possible. Make sure and ID when you're done as well!

QSL Cards

Q: What is a QSL Card and do I need one?

A: For repeater work, no. When you are ready to try the HF (high frequency) bands, a QSL card is used to confirm your contact with the other station. This is useful for earning awards from the ARRL

Q: What should be on my card?

A: QSL card can be a simple index card with your call, the other station's call and the time, date, frequency and mode used when the contact was made.

Many hams will produce colorful, offset printed cards and use a computer program to fill in the required information.

Regular Meeting Schedule

Check the club web site's Event Calendar for Details and Maps

- ▶ YL Breakfast, 1st Friday at 8:30am. Just for the Gals!
- ▶ SHARC board meeting, 2nd Monday at 7:00pm
- ▶ VE Testing Session, 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm
- ▶ SHARC monthly club meeting, 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm
- ▶ McDonalds Breakfast, every Wednesday at 8:00am

**Spring Hill Amateur
Radio Club**
P.O. Box 6083
Spring Hill, FL 34611

Useful Internet Links

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org>

FCC: <http://www.fcc.gov>

FCC License Search:
<http://tinyurl.com/oeuo>

Radio Forums:
<http://www.qrz.com>

Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club:
<http://www.springhillarc.com>

Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.--