The General Class

The purpose of this class is to prepare you to pass the Amateur Radio General license (Element 3) exam, and impart some general knowledge. Whether you attend the classes or participate in them is up to you. I expect a good deal of self-study. Bring your questions into class, otherwise I will bore you with 'sea stories'. I will try to keep us on schedule and on subject.

I recommend you purchase the <u>Gordon West General Class Manual</u> before the first class. It contains the entire Question Pool with a short explanation of each question, and is available from the following retailers:

⇒Ham Radio Outlet; Portland, OR: 1-800-854-6046 http://www.hamradio.com (GWGM-07 $20.95)
⇒Amateur Electronic Supply; Las Vegas, NV: 1-800-634-6227 http://www.aesham.com (W5Y GWGM07 $20.99)
⇒K1CRA Radio Store http://stores.ebay.com/The-K1CRA-Radio-Store or http://www.k1cra.com W5YIGWGM-07 ($17.95)

The Exam

The Exam consists of 35 multiple-choice questions. You must correctly answer 74% (26 questions). That means you can miss 9 questions and still pass. For each test question there are approximately 10 alternates. The questions on **your** test will be selected by computer from the Question Pool of 484 questions. The questions are grouped in the Pool. Many are similar. The questions and answers on the test will appear **exactly** as they are in the pool, except that the **order of the answers** may change.

On Test Day:

Bring a <u>calculator</u> and <u>two pencils</u> (with erasers). Bring <u>photo ID</u> and <u>$14</u> (cash, or check made out to "ARRL VEC"). You will also need your Technician License. Bring the original **and a photocopy I can keep**. If you have a CSCE, bring it.

Make one pass through the exam, only answering the questions that seem obvious. Save anything that requires figuring out, or that you are the least bit unsure of, for a second pass. If the answer doesn't jump out at you, move on and come back. This lets you knock out the greatest number of questions while you are fresh. Some later question may jog your memory for one you passed over.

Be alert for questions that ask "Which of the following is **NOT**…". They are asking for the one 'wrong' answer. Be careful of the answers that include "Never", "None of the above", or "All of the above".

Once you have answered a question, *DO NOT CHANGE IT*! All too often, people will change an answer from right to wrong. Unless you are really, absolutely, positively sure it's wrong, you are usually better going with your first impression.

Be careful to mark your answer sheet in the correct place. It is very easy to put an answer in the wrong place. Once you do, all subsequent answers may end up in the wrong place too. There is no time limit for the test. Don't rush. Take your time and get it right.

Be sure to mark an answer for **EVERY** question. If an answer is not marked, it is 100% wrong. If all else fails, **GUESS**. You have a one-in-four (25%) chance of being right. If it comes to guessing, and you can eliminate one (33%) or two (50%) obviously wrong answers you increase your odds. Another trick; look for the one answer that is noticeably longer (or shorter) than the rest. The longest answer is right about a third of the time; the shortest is correct only half as often. Trust yourself. Go with your instincts.

Some Internet Resources:

The Question Pool is available on line at:	http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html
Practice taking the exam	http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl
Pacific County Amateur Radio Club	http://www.qsl.net/w7rdr
Sunset Empire ARC, Astoria	http://w7bu.net
STARS Club, Seaside, OR	www.freewebs.com/wa7ve_stars
Pacific County's "BeachNet" repeater network:	http://www.qsl.net/nm7r
American Radio Relay League	http://www.arrl.org
Problems? Questions? I'd be happy to help!	nm7r@yahoo.com
Frank Wolfe 360-665-5292	04/08