

Amateur Radio Entry-Level (Technician) License Preparation Class at Lake Pleasant Library

This class is a combination of self-study with periodic review sessions and an intensive weekend review just prior to taking the FCC entry-level Technician Amateur Radio license. Self-study is required to be successful. Self-study start date is as soon as you can. The study guide is available free on line.

Introduction: Hamilton County Amateur Radio Club Meeting
7 pm Monday October 18 at Lake Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department

Class dates: Evening Review Sessions: Weekend Review Sessions:
Wednesday October 27; 7~9 pm Saturday December 4; 9 am ~5 pm
Wednesday November 10; 7~9 pm Sunday December 5; 11 am~3 pm
Monday November 22; 7~ 9 pm

License exam: Sunday December 5 at 3 pm

The Hamilton County Amateur Radio Club will give all students who sign up for the class and pass the Technician test a free hand-held radio.

Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) is the most powerful and versatile radio service available to the average citizen. The communications possibilities are virtually endless, from across town to around the world. It's fun, educational, and can be extremely useful in emergencies. Ham radio is also a very social activity, because the point is for hams to communicate with each other.

Cell phones and the Internet require costly subscriptions and rely on billions of dollars of infrastructure, but hams are free to communicate directly. This is particularly useful in emergency situations or just when far away from cell towers or phone and Internet connections.

Other personal radio services such as CB, FRS, and GMRS are severely limited in range and number of 'channels.' But hams can use a wide range of frequencies from just above the AM broadcast band to high microwave frequencies, with power levels up to 1500 watts. Hams can also build and modify equipment, making the hobby a super way to learn about practical applications of math, science, and technology. Radios can be interfaced with computers for all kinds of wireless digital communications. Ham radio has been the stepping stone to countless technical careers.

Because ham radio operators have so much power and flexibility, a license is required. Getting the entry-level "Technician" license requires passing a test on rules, operating procedures and basic technical concepts. You do not have to be an engineer or math whiz. Kids as young as 10 have passed the test.

The multiple choice questions and answers are published, but simply memorizing Q and A is not advisable. However, it is possible to expedite the process by focusing on the test questions. Getting the license quickly allows you to actually get in to the hobby and have more fun learning by doing.

The class will use the No-Nonsense Technician License Study Guide. It is available as a free download at <https://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>. Paperback, Kindle, Nook, and audiobook versions are also available. There are many additional free on-line learning resources.

There will be three short evening sessions and then a day and a half weekend 'ham cram' session, with the license exam given afterward. The sessions will be given by Peter Newell KC2WI, Emergency Coordinator for the Northern New York Section of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Rocco Conte, Deputy Emergency Coordinator for Southern NNY, and members of the Hamilton County and Tryon Amateur Radio Clubs.

Students will be expected to study the material on their own. Simply attending the review sessions will not be sufficient to learn enough to pass the test.

There is no cost for the class and a \$15 administrative fee to take the test. The test session is open to anyone whether or not you attend the class. If you already have a license, you may take the appropriate test to upgrade.

Additional information is available on the Hamilton County Amateur Radio Club web site hamcoarc.org