

"I heard you are interested in getting your amateur radio license!"



Sparky says, "Many hams use Morse Code... but it is NOT required for your license."

Amateur Radio is still an exciting and valuable radio service!
Forget what you remember about a room filled with vacuum tube radios. Modern radios can be as small as your cell phone, but with even more features and functions!

It's not that hard - just follow these steps.

1 - Study!

Operating an amateur radio requires a license, which you earn by taking a test on basic electronics, radio operating procedures, and FCC regulations.

- **Ham Radio Outlet**—11705 SW Pacific Highway in Tigard, sells study guides, other books, equipment, and accessories
- **ARRL.org** - <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>— Click on "Help for Beginners" for study guides and other resources
- **ARRL.org** - <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html> - if you already know basic electronics, you could just download the amateur radio test pool questions and study them

2 - Practice Taking the Test

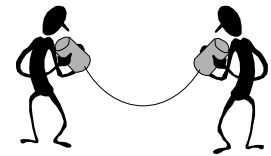
Practice at one of these websites until you are passing the test consistently

- <http://www.aa9pw.com/radio>
- <http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>
- <http://www.eham.net/exams>

3 - Take the Test @ locations in Hillsboro and Tigard

<http://www.otvarc.org/VETest/index.html> (1st Saturday of each month in Hillsboro)

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=OR> (Search for another local test site)



"Can you hear me now?"

4 - Join an Amateur Radio Organization (or Three!)

Once you have your license, you'll want to make new "ham" friends, hone your skills, share "tricks of the trade," and learn the many ways you can put your license to good use. Emergency communications and public service are common themes with the organizations listed below.

American Radio Relay League — the "professional" organization for amateur radio operators in the United States. Membership includes a subscription to "QST" magazine. Also provides amateur radio testing, Amateur Radio Emergency Service organizational support, and lobbying on behalf of amateur radio frequency retention and FCC rules changes.

<http://www.arrl.org> - organization website

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/> - certifications and continuing education

Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service — provides emergency communications for local governments, schools, hospitals, fire districts, water districts, and community events. Meets at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha on the 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. (but come @ 6 for dinner)

<http://www.WashCoARES.org> - ARES website

<http://www.WashCoARES.org/events.html> - meeting dates, on-air net times & frequencies, events

wash_co_ares_races-subscribe@yahoo.com - subscribe to ARES e-mail distribution list

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club (OTVARC) - local social and service club for amateur radio operators and their families. Meets at the Hillsboro Elks Club on the 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

<http://www.otvarc.org> - OTVARC website

5 - Have Fun!

(This might be the most important step!)

Still have questions? Please contact: Sharon Kennedy, City of Hillsboro Emergency Manager, (503) 681-6412 or sharonk@ci.hillsboro.or.us