

GETTING YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

The Anchor Bay Radio Club does not offer any classes to help you obtain your Amateur Radio License at this time.

There are many online resources to help you along. Taking practice examinations is one of the best ways to become comfortable with the examination process. Doing a Google search for Technician Class practice exams brings up several sites that offer such exams. AA9PW.com/radio or qrz.com are good ones at no cost. Feel free to try any of the others that are out there. Their format should be about the same.

Rather than just taking practice examinations, you should really try to learn something about Amateur Radio as you go along. That is going to mean doing some reading and studying on your own. Some of the better study books do a pretty good job of explaining why the correct answers in the examination are what they are. Again, check the web for study materials. A good manual is put out by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It is *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* (www.arrl.org/shop). Another is the *Technician Class Book*. This is put out by the W5YI Group (www.w5yi.org). One thing you must be sure of is that you get a CURRENT manual. The questions and answers change every 4 years.

The Technician class question pool, thus the book, is good from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2022.

The General class Question Pool is effective July 1, 2015 and is valid until June 30, 2019.

The Extra class Question Pool is effective July 1, 2016 and is valid until June 30, 2020.

To pass the examination requires a score of at least 70% which is correctly answering 26 of the 35 questions. A good rule of thumb is continue taking the practice examinations until you constantly get scores over 90%, then you are ready

OK. You have studied and you feel you are ready to take the Ham radio test. Who do I contact and what do I need to do next?

You may contact the webmaster via email. There is a link at the bottom of every page on the www.abarc.club website. They will in turn notify the contact person for the VE Team (volunteer examiner). A testing session will be set up to accommodate you as well as any other individuals who have expressed a desire to take the examination. We normally do not test just one individual at a time. Testing requires 3 examiners and by the time all the preparation and paperwork is done between 2 and 3 hours are used so we try to get a group of 5 or more candidates before giving the test. This is your opportunity to maybe get together with friends and all study for the test.

Now comes the paperwork. You will be EXPECTED to have completed all the paperwork requirements before coming to the examination. Remember, licenses are issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Yep. The government.

First order of business is to get a Federal Registration Number (FRN). Not hard to do and it is painless. One thing you will be asked is to make up a password. Make it up and then copy it down and file it where it won't be lost. Any business you conduct with the FCC in the future will require that you have the password. It is a real pain to get a new one should you lose the original.

Go to : <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> and just follow the instructions for getting your FRN. Once you have your FRN, you will need to fill out a FCC Form 605. Follow this link :
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/NCVEC Form 605 2017 Sept Interactive.pdf>

It may say in a colored line *This PDF document contains forms. The filling of form fields is not supported.* Off to the right it says "Open with a different viewer". Click on that, then " Open With" then "Save File". At this point you should be able to fill out the form. In Section 1 there is a box for your Social Security Number or your FRN. Here is one place to use your just issued FRN. No applications will be accepted at an ABARC testing session which have Social Security Numbers.

It is imperative that you fill out the Form 605 online and print it out. Sometimes it becomes very difficult to decipher someone's chicken scratch and we do not want any mistakes made with your paperwork as it moves through the system. Sign and date the form at the examination session.

There is a fee for taking the examination. This fee is not charged by ABARC, but by the people that furnish the testing materials, check all the paperwork when it is submitted and then forward the information on to the FCC. ABARC gets nothing of your fees. Currently (2019) the fee is \$15.00. If you take the examination with ABARC, we would like checks only made out to ARRL VEC.

You may have noticed that the ARRL was mentioned several times in this discussion. They are the National organization for Amateur Radio in the United States. They are our voice for the Amateur Radio Community. You are encouraged to become a member. Much of the information provided here came from the ARRL website, (www.arrl.org). I encourage you to look at the website. It covers areas I have just skimmed over in much greater detail.

Thank you for looking at our website and hopefully you will soon become a member of the Amateur Radio community and of ABARC. There is information on becoming a member on our webpage, www.abarc.club.