

## What does it take?

### Requirements

Must pass exam for each of the three Classes of license: Technician – usually the entry level; General and Extra – these two allow more privileges than Technician. Each exam tests knowledge of operating procedures, regulations and theory. License is valid for 10 years.

### Exam/Study

Methods of study available are classes, books and online. Depending upon prior experience and training, the Tech exam can be passed with 20-30 hours of study. The other Classes may take a little more. Morse Code is no longer required for any Class license.

### Radio types and Costs

#### Handheld Transceiver (HT),

Typically 5-8 watts UHF/VHF bands, hundreds of memory channels. Costs are \$30 to \$120. Minimum Tech Class license required.

#### Mobile Transceiver,

Single, dual or quad bands, 50-100 watts, hundreds of memory channels, cross-band repeater, often used as base station. Costs are \$200-\$500. Used equipment is often a good value. Minimum Tech Class license required.

#### Base Transceiver,

Multi-band, up to 1500 watts with amplifier. Range can be nation wide as well as world wide. Costs from \$500 up. Power and bands require a General or Extra Class license.

#### Antenna,

Location and elevation are very important: the higher, the better. The cost for UHF/VHF range from \$20 for mobile to \$60+ for base.

## Will you join us?

### CARS Columbia Amateur Radio Society

has provided emergency communications in this area for more than 5 decades. The Columbia County club for hams was formed in 1958 to help promote amateur radio, train members on emergency communications procedures and enjoy the hobby with other hams. One of our main purposes is to help new members prepare for and take the FCC exam to become an amateur radio operator. The club holds monthly meetings and is regularly involved in community events – the Air Show, track meets, emergencies - providing communications when normal telephone service fails.

**NF4CQ.com** the Club website provides information of events, alerts and conditions.

**ARES** The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

**ARRL** The national association of ham radio operators. Mission Statement: To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.



**Columbia Amateur Radio Society**

**NF4CQ.com**

**Lake City, Florida**

Contact name/phone

# What is and what does it take

## to become a ham radio operator?

## Send and receive voice, digital/text, Morse code even television.

**Amateur Radio is...  
Science... Service... Skill...  
Join us!**

Amateur Radio operators are licensed to use radio frequencies for local communications, across country and around the world. Hams can get the message through when other systems are down.

During times of emergency or just for fun, we can send and receive voice, text/data, Morse Code and even television signals. Columbia Amateur Radio Society (C.A.R.S.) is the local ham club formed to promote the hobby, the science, the service and the technology.

C.A.R.S. works with sponsors of community events and activities providing extra eyes and ears for safety and service. At the 2016 Lake City Air Show, we staffed the radios from dawn to dusk handling emergency medical traffic, grounds safety requests and ICS-



NIMS forms and logging. We work with the EOC during hurricanes, floods and wildfires. We are ready when the time comes. Be ready -

**JOIN CARS TODAY!**