

TECHNICIAN LEVEL AMATEUR RADIO COURSE - - April 2008

Sponsored by: Alcona County Amateur Radio Group

Location: Alcona County EMS/EOC Building; 2600 East M-72 (on the south side of M-72 just east of F-41)

Registration: contact Instructor

Course Cost: No cost for course; \$14 Standard FCC exam fee for All Non-Alcona School 4-H attendees applies

Instructor: Stan Darmofal, W8SZ; e-mail: w8sz@arrl.net; Phone: 989-724-5550

Alcona County Emergency Coordinator and Radio Officer;

ARRL Instructor and Certified FCC ARRL/VEC Examiner

High School Science Teacher: Rich VanDam, KB8ZZB; e-mail: vandamr@amaesd.k12.mi.us; 736-8534

4-H Program Manager: Les Thomas; e-mail: thoma322@msu.edu; Phone: 724-6478

Amateur Radio Support: Art Laatz, K8AKL; Cliff Dolliver, N8HA; Dave Huff, W8HUF; Denise Botkin, KC8HXK; Jim Smith, N8AVX; Paul Botkin, Jr., N8JR; Russ Stevens, KC8KPV

Textbook: *Ham Radio License Manual*, 1st Edition **ONLY** by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League); Available from the instructor at the discounted rate of \$18.75

Some Helpful Hints:

- Read the material **in the order** as shown in the **Syllabus** below. Be certain to go to the referenced test questions in the chapter you are reading when you see: "Before you go on, study test questions...."
- If you have any problem understanding a question, review the specific material referenced below the question's answer **only once!**
- If you don't understand the information after the review, make a note of your question(s) and have the instructor clarify the information for you in class - - don't waste your time re-reading - - chances are others have the same question and the instructor can get to the appropriate information quickly!
- Don't become discouraged if you don't understand the technical and mathematical material immediately - - the in-class videos, hands-on demonstrations and fun projects will go a long way to help you learn!
- Don't buy any equipment until you have a chance to see the various Ham gear in action in the class

Here are a few sites that will provide you information on Amateur Radio. The ARRL site is by far the best with many links to other sites:

<http://www.arrl.org/> - - The American Radio Relay League Site

<http://www.alconaradio.org/> - - The Alcona County Amateur Radio Group Site (See "Links" Page)

<http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/RealTime/JTrack/Amateur.html> - - Amateur Radio Satellites (click on "Lift-Off Home" to get to NASA Home Site)

<http://www.findu.com/> - - primarily an Amateur Radio database archiving weather, position, telemetry, and message data using the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)

<http://www.qrz.com/> - - A Ham Radio "Super Site"

<http://www.echolink.org/> - - Echolink allows licensed amateurs to communicate over the Internet

SEE PAGE 2 for SYLLABUS

Class SyllabusDate & Time:Prior to April 6**Read:** Chapter 1: Welcome to Amateur Radio &

Chapter 2: Radio and Electronics Fundamentals

Review: Chapter 9 questions referenced in the reading material aboveSunday, April 6,
10 am – 2 pm**Class Overview****Hands-On Demo:** 2 Meter Repeater; Repeater Phone Patch**Video:** “New World of Amateur Radio”**Review:** Chapter 1: Welcome to Amateur Radio**Review:** Chapter 2: Radio and Electronics Fundamentals**Video:** “Basic Electronics & Amateur Radio”**Hands-On Demo:** Using Electronic Components & Measuring Devices**Test:** Chapters 1 & 2; Sample of FCC Questions; **Review** answersPrior to April 13**Read:** Chapter 3: Operating Station Equipment &

Chapter 4: Communicating with Other Hams

Review: Chapter 9 questions referenced in the reading material aboveSunday, April 13
10 am – 2 pm**Review:** Chapter 3: Operating Station Equipment**Hands-On Demo:** Building & Testing Antennas**Hands-On Demo:** Using a SWR Meter, Antenna Analyzer**Review:** Chapter 4: Communicating with Other Hams**Video:** “The Last Voice in Kuwait” (9K2DZ)**Hands-On Demo:** Operating a HF Station**Video:** “What are those Funny Sounds?”**Hands-On Demo:** Operating VHF/UHF/Packet/Digital Modes**Test:** Chapters 3 & 4; Sample of FCC Questions; **Review** answersPrior to April 26

Chapter 5: Licensing Regulations &

Chapter 6: Operating Regulations &

Chapter 7: Radio Safety

Review: Chapter 9 questions referenced in the reading material aboveSaturday, April 26,
10 am – 2 pm**Review:** Chapter 5: Licensing Regulations**Review:** Chapter 6: Operating Regulations**Review:** Chapter 7: Radio Safety**Hands-On Demo:** Safety Practices, Limiting RF Exposure**Test:** Chapters 5, 6 & 7; Sample of FCC Questions; **Review** answers**Hints:** “How to pass your Technician Level FCC Exam”**Test:** Sample of Actual FCC Exams; **Review** Exam AnswersPrior to April 27**Study:** Chapter 9 Technician Questions; Use AA9PW Internet Site noted below**Sunday, April 27,
1 pm – 3 pm****FCC Exams for all license levels; must pre-register at:**<http://www.alconaradio.org/test.aspx>

Here is an Internet site for the On-line FCC Amateur Radio Practice Tests (It randomly creates tests just like the exam you will take) - - be certain to read the "Help Page" information link in the first paragraph:

<http://www.aa9pw.com/radio/index.shtml>