



Congratulations!



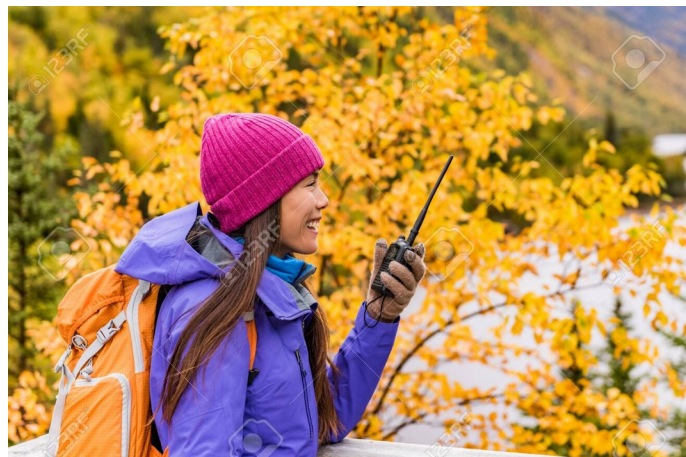
With all the study and hard work you committed to amateur radio, you have now **passed the FCC exam!** You will soon receive your official FCC amateur radio license with your own personal station call sign!

Your call sign is very much like your name. You will now be able to use your call sign every time you use your radio and transmit. As you meet more and more hams over the air, your new call sign will distinguish you as YOU! Radio operators will hear your call sign and soon start to recognize it, and you! It is your new HAM ID! And you earned it! We salute you for your hard work and determination. Now it's time to start using your new FCC ID and have some FUN! There is a new website page that belongs to you too. We'll explain that shortly.

Welcome Aboard New Amateur Radio Operators

Now it's time to become **RADIO ACTIVE!**

It is important to get on the air and use your new call sign. Something clicked in your mind when you learned about ham radio, so now it's important to get active and start using those magical airwaves. There is lots to learn as you go. You are in great company too. We all started out as new hams, perhaps a bit shy, and probably overwhelmed by all the gear we can legally use and all the frequencies we get to choose from. So our recommendation is that you choose a well known brand of ham radio, usually a hand held radio we call HT's.



(HT is ham slang for Handy-talkies.) Usually a good dual band 2 meter & 70cm FM radio is a good first choice. At the bottom of this "Welcome Aboard" letter is a list of **IMPORTANT STUFF** you need to know. We will also have this letter posted on our website so you can easily click on any link to learn more about any topic. It's a big confusing world but with a little searching, you will find what will best work for you for the time being and where to look when you are ready to expand your radio gear.



History has proven that most new amateurs are really interested in the high bands when first licensed. However some folks may be more interested in HF and global communications. It's all at your fingertips as you progress on your amateur radio journey. [Humboldt Amateur Radio Club](#) has a large membership of very active hams. All of us are here to help mentor and advise you as questions arise. One of the benefits of our club is our Ham Radio Email Reflector. The email reflector is a great way to reach out for advice and assistance or to get informed of events, nets and meetings. Our primary interest now is to help you get on the air for the first time. Remember, we all started right where you are right now—a shiny brand new ham!

[Humboldt Amateur Radio Club](#) wants to hear you AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! You will bring your own history and unique skills to our growing and changing ham community. We are excited and completely motivated to help all new hams as they get started. The more you learn, the more you can help others coming along after you! It's also a lot of fun!



Did we say fun?! If your interest is mountain top operating, emergency services, casual contacts, working the space station or satellites, building kit radios & radio science, public service, radio contesting and radio sport, or assembling the best ham shack ever, than you are in very good company!

Once you get active you will learn what works best and what doesn't work so well where you live. This information is important since you will want to maximize the gear you have or plan to obtain. Now you have to practice and that means getting on the air often to learn which directions you can transmit to or hear from. One of the best tips we can offer you right now is finding a good outside antenna! Those little rubber ducks (whip antennas) are great when you are near the station you want to talk to but they don't work very well trying to use repeaters or talk with someone driving on the highway. An outside antenna and some coax will give that HT the added power to radiate your signal much farther and of course you will also hear those distant signals way better too. Buy or build a good 1/2 wave or 5/8 wave dual band antenna to ensure you have a solid and consistent signal. Even if you only use RG58 coax, the difference will be immense. If you plan to use your HT while mobile, then a good mobile antenna is a must, and anything better than a 1/4 wave will do you justice when you are "on the go." Remember, a good antenna installed as high as you can install it is the same **or better** than an expensive radio amplifier. Good antennas are a modest investment that will perform amazingly well for many years to come. The better the antenna, the better and farther your signal will be heard by other hams.



Our local hams that were licensed before you have done some really cool and fun things over the years. They have built many repeaters that you can use. Some of these repeaters are linked together, so your signal can be easily heard throughout Humboldt. We also formed amateur radio clubs that help fund the repeaters, meeting places, websites, operational communication vehicles, picnics and more. We greatly welcome your patronage and encourage you to join. Most of us are also members of the [American Radio Relay League](#) which is the **heart of amateur radio** in north America. The ARRL is our voice when dealing with governments and various agencies like the FCC or IATU world wide. Many commercial interests would like to take our privileges to use the airwaves and the ARRL is our first line of defense—we strongly urge you to become a member of

[ARRL](#) and help support ham radio in the U.S..

There are a lot of hams in the U.S. and we are lucky to have one of the oldest websites on the Internet to help us make contact with each other.

That site is qrz.com. QRZ is a Q code which is used by Morse code



QRZ.COM

operators around the world, and it means “Who is calling me.” You can click on the link below and look yourself up. All hams should register with this site (it's free!) and update their email contact so if another ham needs to contact you, it's easy for them to find your contact information. That's what the phrase “I'm Good on QRZ.” means! Most hams add a brief biography and a picture or two to their QRZ page. But make sure you DO keep your email contact information up to date.

We operate many nets here in Humboldt. You can click on the HARC website's [nets page](#) and see all of them listed in day order. The nets are an important element to amateur radio. You can learn to judge how well your station is hearing other stations and figure out how well you are heard. You can also get your feet wet by checking into the nets and getting to know your neighboring hams. A great time to ask for a signal reports (how do you hear me?) is during or after these nets. We are looking forward to hearing you check in, so don't be a stranger!

Popular Repeater & Simplex Frequencies We Use

HARC repeater, 145.470 (-600 Tone 103.5) This is our club's VHF repeater in Eureka.

FWRA repeater, 146.700 (-600 Tone 103.5) This is the main VHF repeater in Eureka.

KE6SLS repeater, 444.400 (+5000 Tone 103.5) This is the main UHF repeater in Eureka.

RARC repeater, 147.090 (+600 Tone 103.5) This is the club repeater in Fortuna.

SHARC repeater, 146.790 (-600 Tone 103.5) This is the club repeater in Garberville.

The National Simplex calling frequency is 146.520.

Arcata and McKinleyville areas 146.430 (Also Monday night net frequency)

Greater Eureka areas 146.460 (Also Monday night net frequency)

Greater Fortuna areas 146.580

We Would Like To Hear From You

We really hope this pamphlet provides the information you need to get you ON THE AIR! There are so many facets to using Amateur Radio, and once you get on the air, you will discover why we enjoy this fascinating hobby so much. You have just opened a door and are at the entrance of the Wonder of Radio. We are excited for you! We have lots of radio activities every week so you are sure to start making new contacts very soon.

We would like to know if this pamphlet was helpful. Did we forget something in this pamphlet that you needed to find elsewhere? Do you have a question about ham radio? Please send us an Email at w6zzk@humboldt-arc.org with your comments or questions. We'd love to know how we're doing.

All of us are grateful for our great V.E. team. Thank you VE TEAMS!

Really Super Neato Important STUFF

Ham radio equipment dealers:

DX Engineering	https://www.dxengineering.com/
GigaParts, Inc.	https://www.gigaparts.com/
Hamcity	https://hamcity.com/
Ham Radio Outlet (HRO)	https://www.hamradio.com/
Universal Radio	https://www.universal-radio.com/

Humboldt Amateur radio clubs:

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club HARC	N.Humboldt	https://www.humboldt-arc.org/
Redwood Amateur Radio Club RARC	C. Humboldt	
Southern Humboldt Amateur Radio Club SHARC	S. Humboldt	https://www.sharc-ca.org/
Far West Repeater Association FWRA		https://farwestrepeaters.org/
American Radio Relay League ARRL		http://www.arrl.org/

Email reflector Send Email request to w6zzk@humboldt-arc.org (include full name and call sign)

First Contact, Neat video https://youtu.be/Xq5J_0lwOvc

Worlds largest and oldest websites for looking up hams <https://www.qrz.com/>

Instructions for Email address at qrz: https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/how-do-i-add-my-email-address-to-my-listing_544745/

You will need to know how to use your ABC's on the air. Here's a very handy chart you can use to memorize the official Phonic Alphabet. You will be surprised at how useful this knowledge is and how helpful it is when sending voice messages. Every ham needs to know this.



NATO PHONETIC ALPHABET

	A alpha	B bravo	C charlie	D delta	E echo	
F foxtrot	G golf	H hotel	I india	J juliett	K kilo	L lima
M mike	N november	O oscar	P papa	Q quebec	R romeo	S sierra
T tango	U uniform	V victor	W whiskey	X xray	Y yankee	Z zulu

Congratulations

We look forward to meeting you
ON THE AIR!