

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FORUM



AN IDEA EXCHANGE FOR AMATEUR RADIO INSTRUCTORS

SEPTEMBER 1997

Welcoming Young Hams

One of the reasons we teach licensing classes is to perpetuate our great hobby. Somebody helped us get involved in Amateur Radio, so we return the favor to others. Besides teaching the licensing material, our job as instructors is to make sure our new graduates have somewhere to go for help. Yes, graduates can read "New Ham Companion" in *QST*, if they've been told that they should join ARRL. Yes, graduates can find out where the local club meets, but do you remember your very first club meeting? Did you feel welcomed or ignored? Instructors can personally invite graduates (it'd be better yet to invite them half way through the class) to attend club meetings. At the same time, ask your club to assign a member to host these new hams at the meeting. Clubs are always looking for new members, and these students or grads are perfect to latch onto — people who are tremendously excited about the hobby. As the students' instructor, you could ask for a few minutes of club meeting time to introduce your proteges. And what better way to congratulate graduates than to introduce them again, with their new call signs? Awarding EAD's

graduation certificates during the meeting shows everyone the importance placed on bringing in new hams. Many instructors garner even more publicity for these new hams by giving a list of their names to the club newsletter editor to print.

Some clubs establish technical committees and operating committees of two or more club members who are happy to answer questions. Make sure these folks' names and telephone numbers get into the hands of the new hams. Young hams, in particular, will be very bashful about approaching a ham to ask a question. A 15-minute question and answer session could be incorporated into all club meetings, with one question or two "planted" by you, to get the session off the ground. It is so easy to get involved with favorite ham friends during club meetings, ignoring newcomers. If young folks are ignored, they can easily become disinterested in, or inactive with our great hobby. Even something as simple as letting the new hams go first to the table with the doughnuts and coffee would be a nice surprise for the new grads. Ask your club to think about welcoming your grads; it'll be worth their while in the long run.



Fall Classes

It's that time of year, again — Fall class time! Most of you start your classes in October. Families have returned from vacations, and have settled down by then into a routine revolving around the school year getting started. This year, of course, we have a new Novice/Technician question pool for our licensing classes; that means all new textbooks, licensing videotapes and teacher's guides. The new version of *Now You're Talking* has been available since May and the *ARRL's Tech Q & A* (previously named *Technician Exam Review Guide*), is now in stores.

In late April, we began work on updating *The ARRL Novice/Technician Instructor's Guide* — we used suggestions that a few of you sent to us. We wanted to have it ready for you as soon as possible, and to make it a heavily revised, wonderfully useful tool. The old guide contained lesson plans, along with ideas on teaching Morse code, using our licensing video and follow-up with students. There were also graphics pages, sample exams and quizzes. The 1997 version will contain updated versions of all of these things, PLUS chapters on:

- how to get started (organizing a class, finding sponsors, finances, finding a room, getting PR, etc),
- effective teaching techniques; ways to motivate students; how to use graphics, contests and rewards; and how to make the most of your presentations
- Excellent ideas for a weekend course, and
- considerations on discipline, dealing with students' varied backgrounds, how to involve students and study skills to teach students

You'll want to get a copy of this guide to spark your thoughts on how to make your teaching an even better service to prospective hams. Price is \$10 plus \$3 for shipping and handling. You can call the EAD staff at 860-594-0301 with a credit card number for friendly help. Or send a check to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.



1997 ARRL Instructor Questionnaire

Here are some statistics on you, as ARRL-registered instructors. You teach an average of 1.5 classes per year, and your pass rate is 75%. Class size averages 8 students. You garner 88% Technician graduates, 5% Novice, 5% General, 1% Advanced and 1% Extra. For textbooks, 90% of you use *Now You're Talking*, 5% use the *Tech Exam Review Guide* (now called *ARRL's Tech Q & A*), 5% use the ARRL video licensing course, and the rest use others' materials. All of you asked to continue receiving this newsletter, 90% are ARRL members and 80% of your students join ARRL.

Many of you wrote helpful comments on your 1997 ARRL-Registered Instructor Questionnaires. We wanted to share your good ideas with other instructors.

LaMarr G. Rupp, K8MZY, Bryan OH: I've found the best PR is to ask hams to spread the word to their co-workers or friends, that I teach classes. It also helps that ARRL sends my name to prospective hams. Also, any question asked by students probably shows that others don't know the answer, and therefore, that I need to present the information in another way, for clarification. Students sometimes fear that their wrong answers will amuse their peers. [School teachers start with easy questions, or questions with one-word answers, and they immediately respond with "That's close!" or "That could be right, but..." before other students can criticize.]

Bill Shimmin, W7GBC, Tacoma WA: We run a "concentrated" course in two days. It's very successful, as measured by license exam pass rates.

David Tersigni, KD6DUN, Camarillo CA: I am teaching a group of my team members in the Camarillo Disaster Assistance Response Team. We need reliable communications while working with multiple service agencies and other response teams. It is hard to pace a course for everyone — electrical engineers, retail sales clerks and business people. Some take longer to learn the concepts. I've had students ask what the success rate is of using *Now You're Talking* (NYT) as long as people stay in class and read the text. [Your surveys show a success rate of 75%. But if you prefer a text that is closer to a question-and-answer format for your students with technical backgrounds, you may want to try using *The ARRL's Tech Q & A* (ATQA) and do more demonstrations of operating skills and station set-up (in NYT, but not ATQA). Or you may wish to have your advanced students go in a room by themselves to read the *General Class License Manual*, and then re-join the class for sections on operating skills/station set-up.]

Jim Richardson, N5OHL, Oklahoma City OK: I teach theory and code with eight others, for a General Class for eight weeks. We meet at the club station, with two HF stations plus packet and two meters. It's a great place to teach hands-on stuff, and I even open up the antenna tuner to show what an inductor looks like. I also run code practice sessions on two-meter simplex every night. Many folks from outside the class have joined this group, and said it was this daily practice session that made the difference. This little-used simplex frequency has now become busy, both before and after the sessions, as a sounding board for other questions and as a ragchew. Two of the students help me send code, which we run for about 20-25 minutes. It is fun to see so many people enjoy the thrill of passing; the instructors enjoyed it almost as much. The last day of class I brought in a VE team, and after the exam, we went out to eat at a local restaurant to celebrate!

Eric "Rick" Lagerstrom, KN6FR, Seaside CA: In class, I use many ARRL publications as I introduce modes and on-the-air activities. This energizes, motivates, excites and develops curiosity in all students.

David C. Berry, KE4W, Conway SC: I've asked club members to help teach sections of the class. It breaks up the monotony of just one instructor, no matter how good that person is. I'm certain students get tired of just one voice.

Ray Crepeau, K1HG, Indianapolis IN: For several classes, I have been extensively using EAD's EXAMWIN software to give students practice exams each week (including the first session). At first, students are somewhat dismayed at the low number of questions they can answer correctly, even though it's at the beginning of the course. But they quickly get "hepped up," since the number of correct answers goes up each week. At the last class I give students seven exams to take, one each night leading up to the actual test session. This has worked great! Thanks for all of your support and the informative newsletters.

Leonard A. Spencer, WA6CBQ, San Rafael CA: Our Marin Amateur Radio Club has activities going to get students to the club station and to build gear and kits.

James Bridge, KQ6BS, Buena Park CA: I use the ARRL video course at the beginning of the course and again at the end. As expected, when students first view the tape, they are fuzzy on the concepts. Then, reinforcement in class with *Now You're Talking*, overhead projections, and then the last showing of the video, really drives up the success rate.

John Covington, W4CC, Charlotte NC: This year I taught one General Class course and two seminars — one on packet and one on Amateur Radio and the Web. I use the *General Class License Manual* and *ARRL General Class Instructor's Guide* plus the EAD videos. I played the one on antennas and the one called *Last Voice from Kuwait*, during the course — the students LOVED them. *Last Voice* was not part of the course, per se, but they got excited from it and how they would soon be upgrading in my course.

Kenneth W. Kyle, KC6PFQ, McMinnville OR: My students said that my practice tests "pull them through." I teach a fast track course in the spring, plus a regular course in the fall. You folks do a tremendously good job. Keep it up!

Larocca "Rocky" Jones, KC4UXO, and Peggy P. Kelly, N3PPG, Gaithersburg MD: For our General Class course, I called EVERY Novice and Technician member of our club. It paid off!

Robert Swann, W5NYM, and Caroline Swann, KJ5GF, Dallas TX: We have worked with individuals and taught classes (some were an "all-Saturday marathon") since 1990.

F. Paul Passmore, III, N6DBL, Lomita CA: I really enjoy your newsletter. Our group will be aiming our classes at scouts with expanded electronics sections to qualify for these merit badges: Electricity, Electronics and Radio. The scouts will attend a four-week course with a campout on the last weekend. That Sunday afternoon a VE team will come to the camp and give tests.

Herb Clarkson, KM6DD, Rancho Palos Verdes CA: We run two different types of classes. One uses the ARRL video course and is totally comprised of adults on staff in our school district. The other is a Saturday morning class with all ages from 10 years old to 65+ years old.

Stephen Bosbach, KG5BR, Austin TX: Don't equate auditory sound waves with low frequency radio waves. Frequency may be the same, but the difference should be emphasized. RF is not a pressure wave.

Dan Spears, NL7UW, Anchorage, AK: Just got home from the first night of our Novice/Technician course; we had a lot of fun! We gave a Novice/Technician pre-test to our students (age 9 to 59, men, women and children), then a General test to those folks who excelled on the first two tests. We made a big deal over them, even if they got five questions right: "Without even cracking a book, you got five (or whatever) correct?! Why that shows you that you must know more about ham radio than you'd realized!" Then we explained some of Part 97 and called it a night

ARRL Awards

The ARRL Board of Directors recognizes volunteer instructors and recruiters through the annual ARRL Instructor of the Year awards program. Winners were to be chosen as this newsletter went to press. Nominees for the 1996 ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year award are: Eric J. "Rick" Lagerstrom, KN6FR; Herbert E. Clarkson, Jr., KM6DD; Monte G. Bateman, WB5RZX; Francis McNally, KF0WF; Richard L. Dees, AA7WG; Charles G. Weymouth, N1NEZ; Barry Norrgran, WZ7V; William E. Miller, K6NEQ; Jose Ledesma, KA7AIR; Halbert E. Johnson, WB6SLA; William Tabor II, K8NIO; Robin C. Moseley, WA3T; Sammy E. Neal, N5AF; Steven M. Arkon, AA7YL; William Sepulveda, N5EIF and Mike Zane, K6URI. Nominees for the 1996 ARRL Excellence in Recruiting award are David O. Hachadorian, K6LL, and Anthony Young, WA3YLO. Watch the December newsletter for announcements on the winners of these awards. —KB1GW

FCC News

In May, the FCC released a new Form 610, dated March 1997, that among other minor changes, includes a space (item 3A, the same line as the street address) for Internet addresses. The new form is available via the FCC's Internet site (<http://www.fcc.gov>) and their fax-on-demand service (202-418-0177; request form number "000610"). The environmental impact question has become a statement where the applicant certifies that "the construction of the station would not be an action which is likely to have a significant environmental effect (see Commission Rules 47 CFR Sections 1.1301-1.1319 and 97.13a)." The Gettysburg FCC staff says they will continue to accept Forms 610 dated November 1993, March 1995.

Dan Miller, K3UFG

We'd like for you to meet Dan Miller, K3UFG, EAD's newest staff member. Late last year, EAD staffers Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and Peter Budnik, KB1HY, moved to ARRL's Publication Sales as customer service staffers. They took with them one big EAD project — fulfilling prospective hams' requests for information about how to become licensed. But their move left a hole in EAD.

Dan, K3UFG, came to EAD from Erie, Pennsylvania. He is responsible for *The ARRL Novice/Technician Instructor's Guide*, new audiovisual selections, helping to raise money for a reprinting of the Archie comics and other educational projects. He also answers telephone questions from instructors and school teachers.

Dan has taught Amateur Radio license classes, edited club newsletters and held numerous club offices. He likes to do PACTOR on 15 meters, and RTTY on 15 or 20. He's recently established the Connecticut Connection on 40-meter phone, where hams in the Erie area, and hams who used to live in Erie, can get together to ragchew and catch up on news from home.

For favorite activities beyond ham radio (Dan says: "Is there a life beyond ham radio?!"), Dan enjoys getting outside, particularly to camp, and has been known to even pull out his accordion, taking it outside to play.

When you call EAD, you may speak to Dan, along with Mary, N7IAL; Glenn, KB1GW or Jean, WB3IOS. They're all equally friendly, knowledgeable and anxious to help you however they can.

10 Most powerful two-letter words for instructors:
"If it is to be, it is up to me."

Subscribe to W1AW/ARRL Bulletins

You can receive W1AW/ARRL Bulletins free via email. To subscribe, send email to:

W1AW-list-request@arrl.org
SUBJECT LINE: subscribe
(your email address)

No Text

No Signature



ARRL instructor Bob Swann, W5NYM (back to camera) of Dallas, TX, explains a point to students.

New Video for 1997

EAD is offering a new videotape in our library series; the new tape is called *Amateur Radio History* (Order #6273), and contains:

* *1935 Tour of ARRL HQ*. ARRL HQ as it was...a historical silent movie, recently narrated by retired ARRL staffer George Hart, W1NJM; master produced by Bob Anderson, K1TVF. 1996 [15 min]

* *The Trans-Atlantic Tests and Station IBCG*. Re-live the 1921 Trans-Atlantic test with Amateur Radio station IBCG. Produced by Antique Wireless Association Club Historian Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. 1996 [28 min]

* *An American Inventor — Maj. Edwin Howard Armstrong*. A commentary (includes a rare voice recording of him) including his inventions (the regenerative receiver and other radios). Produced by Antique Wireless Association's Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. 1996 [50 min]

In response to your comments, in early 1996, EAD improved the way our Audiovisual Program functions. We have 9 different VHS tapes, each containing 2 to 6 good programs. You can permanently keep these tapes, sold to you at cost, to use for programs whenever they're needed, including for last minute events. Your (and our) cost for duplication, shipping (in the US) and handling per tape is \$12. Call Jean, WB3IOS, in ARRL EAD at 860-594-0219, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern), using a credit card. Or you can send a check to ARRL EAD, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Credit card orders will go out the next day, if you call before 2 PM Eastern.



The Boulder (CO) Amateur Radio Club sponsors BARC Jr as an auxiliary club for area youth, and runs theory and code classes regularly. The photo above shows KBØLRR (I) learning about his new HF privileges — after all, ham radio is about getting on the air — from Dave Casler, KEØOG. BARC Jrs (all licensed, see photo below) helped Jack, WTØG, (center) put up his nursing home ham shack. Do today's kids have heart? You bet! *Photos by NØQCX.*



ARRL Training Materials

As always, here's the list you request of the current editions of ARRL training material. The edition number and printing number are listed in the first pages of each book—look for the copyright box. If the book is a new printing, it has minor updates. If the book is a new edition, it has gone through major revisions. Abbreviations are as follows: *Now You're Talking!* (NYT), *ARRL's Tech Q & A* (ATQA), *General Class License Manual* (GCLM), *Advanced Class License Manual* (ACLM), *Extra Class License Manual* (ECLM), *FCC Rule Book* (FRB), *ARRL Novice/Technician Instructor's Guide* (NTIG) and *ARRL General Class Instructor's Guide* (GIG).

- NYT 3rd edition: All printings (good through June 30, 2001)
- ATQA 2nd edition: (good through June 30, 2001)
- GCLM 2nd edition: All printings
- ACLM 4th edition: All printings
- ECLM 6th edition
- FRB 10th edition: All printings
- NTIG 3rd edition: Use with 3rd edition of NYT (good through June 30, 2001)
- GIG 3rd edition: Use with 2nd edition of GCLM

Educational Activities Forum

published by the

American Radio Relay League

225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111 USA

telephone: (860) 594-0301

Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV

President

David Sumner, K1ZZ

Executive Vice President

Rosalie White, WA1STO

Editor

Educational Activities Forum is an idea exchange and information newsletter for Amateur Radio instructors. Please contribute photos, stories and instructional ideas by sending them to the Educational Activities Department in care of the address above.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, Conn.
Permit 2929

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494