

Cape Ann
Amateur Radio Association
TECH-IN-A-DAY

Everything You Need To Know

Your “Instructor”

My name is Stan Stone, W4HIX and I live in Gloucester. You can reach me at w4hix@caara.net or 978 994-2048 (cell). I received my Amateur Extra license on August 21, 2008 and was the president of CAARA for four years. In case you are wondering, W4HIX was my father’s call sign.

Introduction

This will be a long, dull day, but odds are you will walk out with a passing grade on the FCC Element 2 examination which will entitle you to an Amateur Radio Service Technician license.

The Technician Class ham license is the first or entry-level license class. You should think of it as being like a driver’s license. The FCC and the rest of the hams ‘on the air’ want you to have a ham license and join us but, just as with a driver’s license, you need to know the rules of the road and how to drive properly. That’s all this test is trying to do...making sure you know what not to do so everyone else can safely enjoy your company on the airwaves. That’s me up ahead, get it in gear and let’s go!

Schedule

Time	Activity	Study Sections	Number of Questions
8:00 AM	Arrive/Check-in		
8:30 AM	Introduction		
9:00 AM	Session 1	T1 A-F	78
9:45 AM	Break		
10:00 AM	Session 2	T2 A-C, T3 A-C	71
10:45 AM	Break		
11:00 AM	Session 3	T4 A-B, T5 A-D	74
11:45 PM	Lunch		
1:00 PM	Session 4	T6 A-D, T7 A-B	71
1:45 PM	Break		
2:00 PM	Session 5	T7 C-D, T8 A-D	71
2:45 PM	Break		
3:00 PM	Session 6	T9 A-B, T0 A-C	61
3:45 PM	Break/Review		
4:00 – 5:00 PM	FCC Element 2 Exam		

The Course

This course is designed to remove you from the distractions of your everyday environment and allow you to concentrate on familiarizing yourself with the questions and answers of the Element 2 exam. Typically more than 90% of the people who have used this method have passed the test. Don't try to learn the material—that is something for another day. Your job is to read the question and the right answer only. After studying the booklet, you will have seen every question that might be on the test. There will be exactly one question from each subsection.

The course is broken into six one-hour segments, with 45 minutes devoted to studying and a 15-minute break. Be sure to get up during the break—stretch, walk around, and get some water or fresh air. After the last segment, you can review the questions or go ahead and take the test. Feel free to get up anytime and get something to eat or drink or use the restroom. Please respect the other members of the group by not talking during the study sessions. Please step outside if you need to make a call.

The Test

The test consists of 35 multiple-choice questions taken from the pool of the 396 questions in your booklet. Passing score is 26 correct (75%). Be sure to answer all questions—there are no penalties for wrong answers. Avoid changing answers later if you are not sure—what they said in school is right, your first answer is almost always correct. Work quickly and don't "over think" the answers. If you pass, you can take the General license exam (Element 3) at no charge.

If you don't pass, you can take the test a second time by paying another \$15, or if you would like to study overnight, the test is given again the second Sunday of every month at the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Assn. clubhouse at 6 Stanwood St., Gloucester between 10:00 AM and Noon.

I Passed! Now How Do I Find My New Callsign?

Your license will be valid as soon as your name appears on the FCC ULS database: (<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp> or <http://tinyurl.com/oeuo>) or you can check <http://www.qrz.com>. On the search, type *Lastname, Firstname Middle Initial*.

What About a Radio?

I'm partial to Yaesu because they are quite popular and that's what I started with. A good 2 meter handheld (HT, or Handy Talky) can be purchased from Ham Radio Outlet in Salem, NH (<http://www.hamradio.com>). There are a lot of Chinese radios available today, some you can get on Amazon.com for \$35. They work well, but are a little tricky to program

What If I Have A Question?

Find yourself an Elmer—which is a ham radio mentor. Elmers help out new hams. Drop by the CAARA clubhouse on Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon for coffee and donuts. There will be someone there more than happy to help.

Join A Club

The best way to learn about ham radio is to join a club. The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association has a clubhouse at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester. CAARA operates the local repeater at 145.13 MHz (no P.L.). Check out the website at <http://caara.net>. For \$40 a year, it is a great deal.