

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

Hams get the message

**when other
systems fail.**

**Voice,
digital/text,
Morse code even
television.**

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

C.A.R.S.

Columbia Amateur Radio Society works with the Columbia County Emergency Management to provide back-up communications for hurricanes, floods and wildfires. We staff the EOC radio room with ham radio operators trained in emergency radio communications and digital messaging.



We have worked hurricane Matthew, the Bugaboo wildfire, and disaster drills. Club members hold radio events each month to test equipment and sharpen skills. We are ready to go.



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 logging.



We get critical information, both voice and digital/text, across town and across the state with portable, mobile, handheld and fixed stations. Using solar charged batteries, we are on the air when power is out! Connecting our radios to a



computer, we transmit digital data without the use of the Internet. Hams get the message through when other systems fail. Join us, now. We will help you with licensing, setting up your first radio and training for emergency communications. **Columbia Amateur Radio Society**