

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FORUM



AN IDEA EXCHANGE FOR AMATEUR RADIO INSTRUCTORS

DECEMBER 1999

Michigan Success Story

Bill Chesney, N8SA, of Clinton Township, MI, writes that his Technician Plus class went very well. Out of the 10 students, 9 are under age 16! Bill's students are lucky, because they can attend an Amateur Radio open house, supported by SATERN and USECAARC. This wouldn't be so unusual, except that the open house

Out of the 10 students, 9 are under age 16!

is every Saturday evening from 7 - 11 PM. The open house is always held at the same location so that every-

one knows where to find it. You can imagine that Bill's students are very welcome there. The club sets up a complete HF station, including amp and computer logging if desired, for guest operators. They are also setting up a packet station on HF and VHF. The open house is always heavily attended by Elmers from the area.

Recruiting Young Students

If you'd like to see some younger students in your classes, convince your area ham club to do some targeted recruiting just before you plan a class. Club members can set up a ham station at a library or community center during Kid's Day, January 1, 2000. They can get permission from a teacher to set up a ham station for School Club Roundup on February 14-18, 2000. There is also international Thinking Day sponsored by the Canadian GOTA (Guides on the Air), similar to JOTA. It's on February 21-22 — Girl Scout troops get invited to hams homes for making QSOs (details are at <http://www.guidezone.sk1.com/hatdota.htm>). Your club could even get a special event call sign to use for these various activities. For information on getting a special event call sign, see <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/1x1.html>.

FCC and ULS

Make sure you have the latest on what the FCC requires in regard to using the Universal Licensing System and Form 605. Effective July 23, 1999, it became necessary for all applicants to provide their Taxpayer Identification Number (Social Security number) on the upper right corner of the Form 605. If you haven't been following the latest on this, watch *The ARRL Letter* or the ARRL Web site for the latest news.

Still Awaiting Restructuring

At this writing (November), we're still awaiting word from the FCC on restructuring of Amateur Radio licenses. We hope the FCC will announce something in early 2000, so watch the ARRL Web pages and *The ARRL Letter* for details. You may want to delay your classes until February; that's when many of you start, anyway — after folks have settled into the new year.



Seasons Greetings from ARRL Field & Educational Services



We in ARRL Field & Educational Services wish you the very happiest of holidays!

From: Margie Bourgojn, KB1DCO; Steve Ewald, WV1X; John Hennessee, N1KB; Tom Hogerty, KC1J; Gail Iannone; Kathy Kostek (our newest staff member); Mary Lau, N7IAL; Dan Miller, K3UFG; Rosalie White, WA1STO; and Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS.

How to Get Volunteers to Help Teach

Here are some hints on how to successfully find volunteers to help teach your class.

◆ Test the waters with your potential volunteers by casually talking about certain aspects of the class before asking them to help. Get a reaction to determine their interest.

◆ Know what your volunteers' hot buttons are. If you need a class taught on antennas, talk to a volunteer who loves experimenting with antennas.

◆ Prepare a simple outline of the class. The outline should have an accompanying timetable to show volunteers they can break things down into achievable parts. Be honest about the time their piece of the project will require. Point out any pitfalls to them, along with the benefits.

◆ Request assistance face-to-face, as you'll be able to better convey your enthusiasm, and it'll be obvious you need the volunteer's assistance. You also get an immediate response.

◆ Find the folks who can't say no, and ask them to talk to the volunteer with you. These folks give off a positive aura by just being there.

◆ Offer several suggestions for what volunteers can do to fulfill their task, ie, brush up on information by reading *Now You're Talking* or reviewing the ARRL Tech videos.

◆ Maintain a "can do" attitude with the volunteers, and praise those who have a positive outlook.

◆ Don't forget the power of humor.

Class Formats

Team teachers **Gary Bolla, N8ZFH** (Lincoln Park, MI) and **Bruce Moyer, KI8GR** (Woodhaven, MI), changed their class format, and are seeing good results because of it. For their beginner-level license course, they separated code-learning from the written study material. They hold code class on a different night from theory class. This allows students who want to learn code more code-practice time during their class. Another benefit is that many hams who already earned the Technician license have joined the code class, too.

Gary and Bruce also moved around the order of what they teach in the theory class. They start with Chapter 2 of *Now You're Talking!*, and do hands-on equipment demonstrations. Gary says, "We cover FCC rules in one of the last classes. By that time, students are more familiar with the terminology and aren't confused or turned off by ham jargon they don't yet understand."

Carl Moss, KC5IIS, of Whitehouse, TX, wrote about the format of his class. It is two 45-minute periods with a 15-minute break in the middle. **John Newman, KB5THL**, taught about uses of the repeater, and demonstrated the club's communications van. **Robert Hayes, KC5IMN**, discussed how area hams work with law enforcement agencies, such as assisting with locating missing children or with placing barriers in flooded streets. FCC rules were taught by **Jackie Ashworth, N5LVN**, and **Charles Lassiter, KD5AHW**, who also donated software to the class. The most recent class consisted of 10 enthusiastic potential hams.



Your Best Teaching Tips

You're familiar with the Amateur Radio educator's annual publication, *Proceedings of the ARRL National Educational Workshop*. In 1999, that title became the subtitle of the publication, and its main name changed to *Ham Radio...Planning for the Future*. This book's new name reflects its goal: finding ways to effect good teaching. The 175-page publication contains all of your best teaching and recruiting tips that come with time and experience in the classroom.

The book also underwent a makeover of the internal format. There is now an index that is easy to use, because it lists categories such as "Instructors and Teachers" and "Projects." You'll find an excellent article by L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, called "Youth Teachers and Tutors; Elmer Does Not Have to Be an Adult." There's also

"Learning RF Safety Using the Novice License Question Pool," by David Rogers, AB0BL. If you want ideas for educational radio games, read "Build the MactHam Board Game...and Learn as You Play!" by Rob Dey, KA2BEO. Other useful articles include John Spurlin's "A Simplified Technique for Estimating Decibel Values," and "Farnsworth Code Timing," by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B.

Next autumn you can get a complimentary copy of this publication if you submit an article (even a one-page presentation is sufficient) about your teaching techniques. For this year, the cost is only \$15 plus \$4.00 shipping/handling; you can order your copy by sending a check made out to ARRL, to Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, or calling her at 860-594-0219 with a credit card number.—WB3IOS

FCC Test Fees for 2000

The FCC announced that the maximum test fee reimbursement that can be collected by VEs and VECs during calendar year 2000 is \$6.66. (This increase is based on a 2.6% CPI increase between 9/98 and 9/99.) Accordingly, the ARRL/VEC has set its 2000 test fee amount at \$6.65 except for persons who take only Elements 1A or 2, which are always free per ARRL/VEC policy.

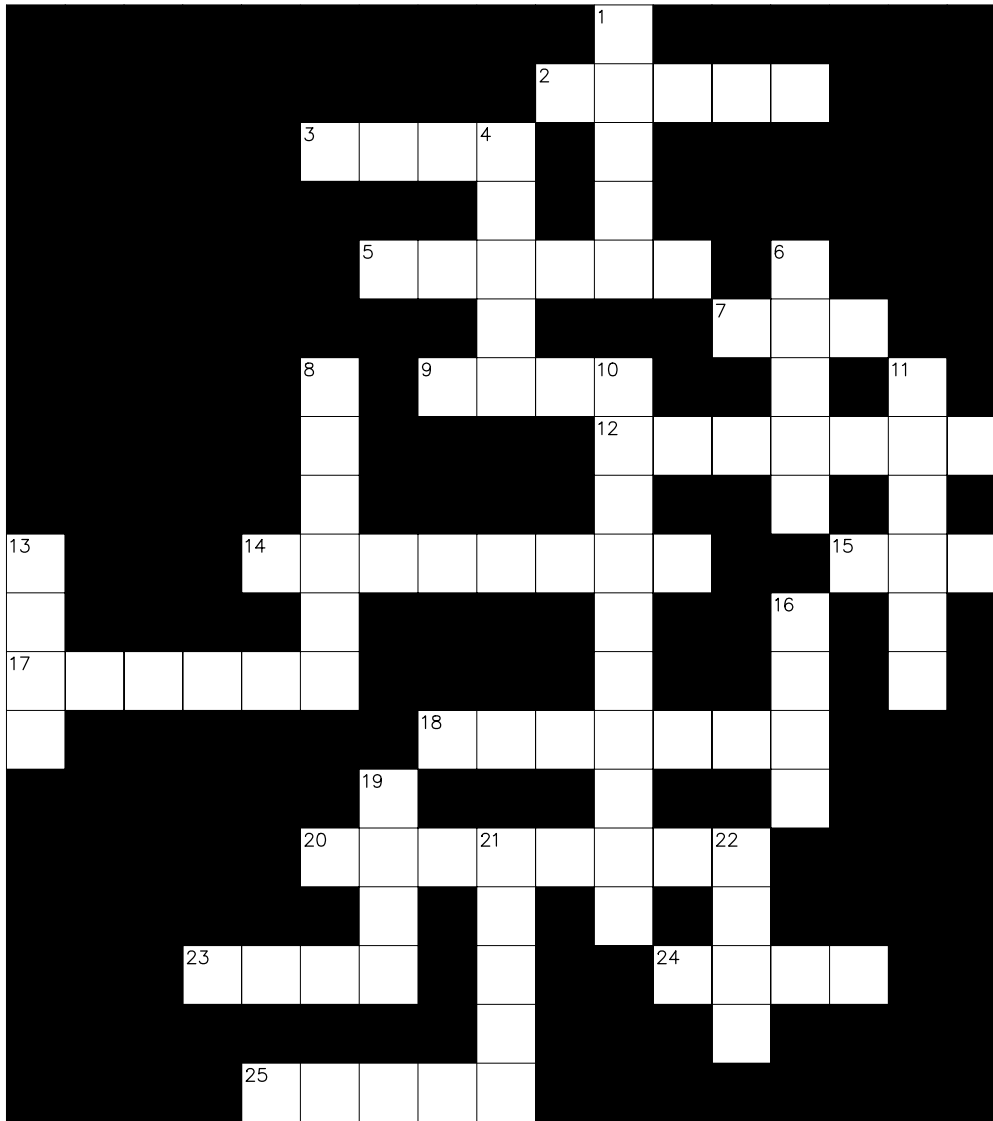
The \$6.65 fee will be collected from persons seeking an upgrade using the FCC Morse Exemption System.

For those of you who are ARRL VEs, the current ARRL/VEC Test Session Report form (a two-part carbonless form) no longer lists the fee amount or a year reference, so that you can use the form from year to year by simply writing in the applicable fee amount for that calendar year.—ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

Rob L. Dey, KA2BEO

ANTENNAS



ACROSS

- 2 A transformer that essentially balances unbalanced feedline
- 3 A beam that is cubical
- 5 A soft metal that is melted into a conductive joint
- 7 A wire used to strengthen a structure
- 9 The pole that supports most aluminum antennas
- 12 A large wire antenna
- 14 The pair of conductors that carry power to and from the antenna, which can be open
- 15 An 8-foot nail to ground your station
- 17 The earth
- 18 An antenna tuner
- 20 An antenna that is not horizontally-polarized
- 23 The supporting element of a beam
- 24 A cable with a center conductor and an outer shield
- 25 An antenna

DOWN

- 1 Contains more than one wire
- 4 A type of beam with loops
- 6 An artificial antenna
- 8 The outer conductor in a coaxial cable
- 10 Used to match the transmitter output impedance to the antenna system
- 11 The most common balanced-wire antenna
- 13 A flat beam with 2 or more elements
- 16 A conductor
- 19 A directional antenna
- 21 Used when a mast is too short for the job
- 22 A circular conductor

Operating Aids for Grads

Don't forget that you can get a set of operating aids for your graduates. The set includes the card describing RS/T, UTC, etc, plus a card with the frequency allocation chart and the WAS map. You can also get graduation certificates and the important First Contact Awards to start off your students on the right foot. Special ARRL membership offers are in the package, giving your grads a choice of a free book from a set list. Send a postcard or e-mail note to Margie, KB1DCO, c/o ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or kb1dco@arrrl.org, giving your name and address, and the number of grads you'll have.

EAF Electronically

Don't forget that you can get delivery of this newsletter about two weeks quicker if you send a note saying you'd like to have it delivered electronically. Just give us the e-mail address that you'd like for us to use.



You Deserve an Award

You may likely deserve one of ARRL's educator and recruiter awards! There's the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year award that is always co-sponsored by the Lake County (IN) Amateur Radio Club. The Brier award is for those volunteer instructors who aren't paid to teach, although they may receive some money to cover teaching expenses for such things as chalk or photocopying of work sheets. In 1999, we had so many nominations of excellent volunteer instructors that the ARRL Board of Directors gave the Brier award to two instructors, with the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (Danbury, CT) as a second co-sponsor of the award.

ARRL also sponsors the ARRL Professional Instructor of the Year award. This is for those of you who are paid to teach license classes at such places as community colleges or vocational educational schools, although you are not state-licensed professional teachers. Another award to ask a friend to nominate you for is the ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award, co-sponsored last year by the Carson Valley (NV) Radio Club. ARRL very much enjoys honoring as many of our educators and recruiters as possible by telling the world that colleagues nominated their deserving peers for awards.

If you were one of the many good teachers nominated this past year for the Brier award, we *really* want you to update your information for 1999 in order to compete again. Nominations are judged by Amateur Radio educators who are your peers, the ARRL Educational Advisors.

Send the nominations to your ARRL Section Manager (page 12, any *QST*) by January 31, 2000. For nomination forms, see <http://www.arrl.org/ead/award/application.html>, and for the award's Terms of Reference, click on the pertinent award title at <http://www.arrl.org/ead/award/>.



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. Whenever the FCC announces details about Restructuring, this information on pertinent dates for use of study guides will be publicized. 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 3rd edition: (good through June 30, 2001)
- ◆ ACLM 4th edition: All printings
- ◆ ECLM 6th edition: All printings
- ◆ FRB 11th edition: All printings
- ◆ NTIG 3rd edition: Use with 3rd edition of NYT (good through June 30, 2001)
- ◆ GIG 4th edition: Use with 3rd edition of GCLM



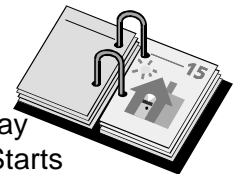
Note: The VEC Question Pool Committee has suspended its revision to the Advanced Class Question Pool until the FCC's restructuring plans are released.

Outstanding Young Ham

If you know an outstanding young ham, check out the Hiram Percy Maxim Award at <http://www.arrl.org/field/awards/hpm.html>. Nominations for this award, established in 1936, are made by ARRL Section Managers (SM) after suggestions and supporting information, including the endorsement of ARRL affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League officials have been sent to the SM. The winner receives a cash award of \$1000, an engraved plaque, and travel and accommodations expenses to attend an ARRL convention at which a formal presentation will be made. Nominations from Section Managers must be received at Headquarters by March 31.

Recruiter's Calendar

January 1, 2000	Kid's Day
February 1, 2000	Class Starts
February 14-18, 2000	School Club Roundup
February 21-22, 2000	GOTA Thinking Day



Educational Activities Forum

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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 Field & Educational Services care of the address above.