

2022 Ham Class Overview

General-Class License-Upgrade Course

Santa Fe Trail ARC

15 Oct 21

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club's (SFTARC) 2022 Amateur Radio Service ham radio classes.

Our club has been teaching Amateur Radio (ham) classes for over 30 years. Assuming that COVID-19 situation cooperates, we will hold the classes in person at the Salvation Army Building, 420 E Santa Fe, Olathe KS 66061. In the event of an increase in COVID concerns, or winter storms that would make travel to Olathe unsafe, we are providing for the use of Zoom as a back-up plan. As instructors, we certainly prefer the in-classroom approach to teaching and hope to conduct the classes in person.

Classes run each Saturday from Jan 8 to Feb 26, 2022, from 9:00 am to approximately noon. We assume that students already have a Technician-Class License, however we will review some of the Technician-level material as part of our class. Our goal is to present the material in a manner whereby students who do not have a technical background can increase their understanding of regulations, operating practices and the technology that makes voice, digital, satellite and other forms of radio communication enjoyable and provides a service during emergencies—especially on the HF bands.

Let's look at some things students may want to know:

- The book that we use is the Ninth Edition of the ARRL's *General Class License Manual*. This manual contains a wealth of information, and in the classes we will walk through the material and help students focus on the more important concepts.
- Students can have the SFTARC provide the spiral-bound version of the manual as part of the \$35 enrollment fee, or they can purchase the manual themselves and pay only a \$20 enrollment fee. That choice can be indicated on the online enrollment form. For those wishing to purchase the book through the SFTARC, we plan to distribute the books at our first class on January 8. For student age 16 and under, the enrollment and book fee is only \$15. Payment may be made by personal check or cash at the first class.
- Registration (via our Web Site) needs to be completed by Dec 28, 2021, for anyone wanting the SFTARC to supply the manual. The class size will be limited to the first 20 students to register online or by email.

- In the event that we have to fall back to conducting one or more classes via Zoom, the class would convene at 8:30 for the first Zoom session to give everyone time to work out technical bugs. Using a computer with a larger screen is advantageous to improve the viewing experience. A computer with a live camera that allows the student to interact is beneficial, but not required. Zoom can be downloaded for FREE from the web at this address.
<https://zoom.us/>
- A syllabus provides visibility of the information covered in each of the any particular classes, and the designated instructor for that class.
- Questions and discussions are encouraged during the class. Students who may have questions outside of class time may contact the respective instructor. Contact information for the instructors is provided in the syllabus.
- The class presentations will utilize Microsoft PowerPoint slides that the instructors will present in class (or over Zoom). The instructor will make a pdf copy of the presentation available online prior to the class time. In the event of a Zoom class, any student that would experience difficulty getting into Zoom via the computer could participate in the audio portion of the class over the telephone and follow along with the pdf copy of the presentation for the visual aspect. Additionally, any student that is unable to attend a particular class will be able to use the PowerPoint slides for self-study.
- Many classes will include some type of a fun-FYI presentation, providing the instructors and students with an opportunity to share some of their favorite aspects of ham radio.
- The last class, scheduled for February 26, will actually be an exam session, where a team of independent Volunteer Examiners administer the exam. After the completion of the exams, we traditionally teach a Practical-Information class that focuses on setting up and operating an HF station.
- As part of registering for the SFTARC's General class, you will receive a one-year free membership in the Santa Fe Trail ARC. We invite you to participate in our club activities and enjoy the camaraderie that our club offers.