

2026 Ham Class Overview

Extra-Class License-Upgrade Course

Santa Fe Trail ARC

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club's (SFTARC) 2026 ham radio classes.

Our club has been teaching ham classes for over 35 years. In 2026, we will hold the classes in person at the Salvation Army Building, 420 E Santa Fe, Olathe KS 66061. In the event of winter storms that would make travel to Olathe unsafe, we are providing for the use of Zoom as a back-up plan for that class. We look forward to sharing with you our appreciation of and excitement for ham radio.

Classes run each Saturday from Jan 10 to Feb 28, 2026, from 8:30 am to approximately noon. We assume that students already have a General-Class License. Students that already have an Extra-Class License are welcome to take the class as a more-in-depth review of the material. The Extra-Class material contains some more advanced technical concepts. 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 radio communication enjoyable—especially on the HF bands.

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

- The book that we use is the Thirteenth Edition of the ARRL's *Extra Class License Manual* (ISBN: 978-1-62595-193-9). 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 \$45 enrolment fee, or they can purchase the manual themselves and pay only a \$25 enrolment fee. That choice can be indicated on the online enrolment form. For those wishing to purchase the book through the SFTARC, we plan to distribute the books at our first class on January 10. For student age 16 and under, the enrollment and book fee is only \$15. Payment will be collected at the first class.
- Registration needs to be completed by Dec 29, 2025, 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 Zoom meeting would open a bit before 8:30 to give everyone time to work out technical bugs. Using a computer with a larger screen is advantageous to improve the Zoom viewing experience. A computer with a live camera that shows the students face is beneficial, but not required. Zoom can be downloaded for FREE from the web at this address. <https://zoom.us/>

- A syllabus will provide visibility of what information will be covered in any particular class, 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). For in-person classes, a pdf copy of the presentation will be posted on the SFTARC website after the class so that students can use it as a review. For any class conducted over Zoom, the instructor will make a pdf copy of the presentation available online prior to the class time. In the event any student would experience difficulty getting into Zoom via the computer, the student 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 would 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.
- An exam session is planned for Saturday, March 7, where we bring in a team of Volunteer Examiners to administer the exam. After the completion of the exams, we provide a Practical-Information presentation that focuses on setting up and improving your HF station.