

FOUNDATION LICENCE TRAINING WEEKENDS

The Summerland Amateur Radio Club holds Foundation Licence training and examination weekends regularly.

In just one weekend you can train & then sit for the multiple choice and practical examination. If you're successful you can also apply for your operator's certificate and your station licence. You'll leave knowing exactly how you've gone and can start planning for your next step in the Amateur Radio adventure.

This course covers radio and electronics theory, operating regulations and practical skills. It's specially tailored for the Foundation Licence exam. Some people say that the level of theory is similar to high school science and that the regulations section is easier than the road rules section of a car licence test. The practical is certainly much easier than a car licence practical test!

Saturday is devoted to training in the three areas of theory, regulations and practice.

Sunday starts with revision and an opportunity to ask any last minute questions.

Then it's into the multiple choice combined theory and regulations paper. There are 25 questions and the candidate must get at least 18 correct. The second part is a practical exam in which you demonstrate your competence in 20 aspects of amateur radio practice. You'll be giving verbal answers to some questions and using equipment supplied by the club. Relax, we'll go through everything as part of your training and it's not as hard as you may think.

Finally, the successful candidates fill out all the forms for their operator's certificate and station licence.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Before the course:

Before commencing the course you need a copy of the text book, "**Your Entry Into Amateur Radio**" by Ron Bertrand & Phil Wait. This book is available from the WIA or from SARC for about \$25. This book is essential and it's a good idea to read through it prior to attending the course. SARC also has a CD available with additional information.

On Saturday:

Please bring your text book, pen & paper.

On Sunday:

In addition to your text book, pen & paper you need to bring the following:

Photo ID. Your assessors are required to sight a photo ID as proof of identity. A driver's licence or student card is fine. Please talk to us about other methods of providing proof of identity on Saturday at the latest.

Passport Photo. Your application for your Operators Certificate must include a 35mm x 45mm colour passport style photo. Chemist shops often provide passport photo services.

Money. The club charges \$20 to cover the cost of the incidentals including lunch, postage printing etc. The club accepts cash or cheques. The WIA charges an exam fee of \$70 (or \$35 if you're under 18). Successful candidates may wish to apply for a station licence & call sign. This involves a WIA Callsign Recommendation fee of \$5 if you'll take the next available callsign, or \$20 for a specific callsign and a licence fee of \$65. The WIA accepts licence application fees on behalf of the ACMA. Both the WIA and the ACMA accept most credit cards and cheques. Prices as at 01 DEC 2010

THE TRAINING WEEKEND

Saturday is the training day and commences at 9:00 am and continues through until 4:00 pm. Your training consists of a series of lectures following the text book. You'll also receive hands on training for the practical part of the exam. Don't forget to bring your text book, pen and paper.

The Syllabus consists of:

1. Electricity, Frequency & Wavelength
2. Transmitters and Receivers
3. Antennas & Transmission Lines
4. Propagation
5. Transceiver Controls
6. Safety
7. Compatibility, Immunity & Interference
8. Regulations
9. On Air Practice
10. Practical examination training.

Sunday starts at 9:00 am with some revision and time for last minute questions. At about 10:00 you sit for the multiple choice Theory/regulations paper. The assessors mark your paper individually in your presence, providing feedback. The hard part is over well before lunchtime. Then you work through the practical section of the exam. Things can slow down a bit at this point depending on the number of candidates and the number of assessors available.

AND after you've passed? Congratulations! Now we'll fill out more paperwork for your Amateur Radio Operator's Certificate and your station licence. That's also your opportunity to request a particular callsign if you wish.

If you don't feel confident about sitting for the exam by the end of the course then that's fine – see you next time. SARC provides free tea & coffee and a sausage sizzle on both days. Soft drinks are also available for purchase.

WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO?

Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio, is an international hobby enjoyed by over 3 million people throughout the world. Your Amateur Radio Licence lets you operate your station for the purposes of self education, experimentation and communication with fellow amateurs. The level of involvement is up to you. It can be as simple as chatting with your friends or leading edge experimentation involving computers, microwave dishes, satellites and, of course, your amateur radio transceiver. Join the 14,000 Australian Radio Amateurs and talk to the world. You never know who may answer your call. Your next conversation may be with a King, President or an Astronaut!

Did you know that most Astronauts, including Australia's Andy Thomas, hold Amateur Radio Licences?

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET ON AIR?

Good question! How much do you want to spend? For a start you'll need to renew your station licence each year to remain legal and to retain your callsign. The annual fee is the same as your initial ACMA licence fee.

You may be able to get on air with second hand gear for a few tens of dollars. However the first purchase for many new Foundation licence holders is often a handheld transceiver for the 2 meter band. These sell from about \$100 upwards. A new HF or multiband transceiver will cost from \$800 upwards. Antennas, power supplies and other accessories vary in price from tens to hundreds of dollars.

By the time you're seriously into amateur radio you'll probably spend a few thousand dollars. That's where most of us stop. For some, Amateur radio is a lifetime passion and the sky's the limit!

WHO CAN HELP YOU?

Whether you have your licence or not; you may also like to join our local club, the Summerland Amateur Radio Club (SARC), and our national body, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA).



SARC

WWW.SARC.ORG.AU

vk2src@sarc.org.au

414 Richmond Hill Road
Richmond Hill
NSW 2480



WIA

WWW.WIA.ORG.AU

nationaloffice@wia.org.au

PO Box 2042
Bayswater
Victoria 3153

WHERE CAN I FIND SARC?

The Summerland Amateur Radio Club is located at 414 Richmond Hill Road Richmond Hill via Lismore. The Clubrooms are normally open Sunday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and on Thursday nights from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Our next Training Weekend is on Saturday & Sunday:

TRAINING CONTACTS

Duncan Raymont Ph. 02 6628 1337
education@sarc.org.au

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