

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: The Well Read Ham

Amateur Radio is not only fun but educational. Whether you are just starting your adventure into the wide world of amateur radio or been around awhile, you may find something in the numerous American Radio Relay League publications that piques your interest.

You may be familiar with the ARRL licensing exams, which help you obtain your Technician, General and Extra class licenses. Not only do they provide info to help you pass the exam, but they have value afterwards. I used my Technician book to help me study for the General and it and the General book to help study for the Extra. The latter exams build off the Technician exam.

Once you passed the Technician exam, three books are a must have: The *ARRL Handbook*, published yearly and the *Operating Manual*, which is updated every few years. Those two books are a must have. I refer to the operating manual the most. The third is the FCC Part 97 rules. When you received your license, you signed that you knew the rules, so you had better know what you signed for!

New Technicians probably want the *ARRL Repeater Directory* and *Radios to Go!* Both provide basic information needed to get your HT or mobile radio talking on repeaters and internet resources such as **EchoLink**.

The *ARRL Antenna Book* appears to have changed formats and the classic version replaced by a box set or an eBook.

When you are ready to get on the HF bands, *Your First Amateur Radio HF Station* and *Get On the Air with HF Digital (2nd ed)* can be your passport to intercontinental radio fun!

Perhaps the most used book in my library is the *Radio Amateurs World Atlas*. I have several, one in the shack and one in each Go-Box.

Maybe something caught your eye as you were studying for the exam(s). *Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners*, *Portable Operating for Amateur Radio*, *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio (3rd ed)* and *Morse Code Operating for Amateur Radio* could be your ticket to even more radio fun!

The ARRL has even more specialized books covering topics ranging from antennas to grounding and bonding to emergency power and contesting.

They seem to be gone from the catalog, but the *ARRL North American VHF Grid Square Map* is a very useful item. It was designed to record the grids one made contact with using VHF frequencies, typically via satellite or microwave. It was %North America+but did not

extend very far into Canada or Mexico. I use it to mark off the grids I work on HF. For FT8 it helps me determine at a glance if I need that grid or not, and gives me an idea of where my radio has been. I am fascinated how some ranges of Maidenhead Grids are completely filled in, while others are totally blank or only have a few grids filled it.

Catch π a on the air!

Thank you for reading all the way to the end of this article.

The following section is offered as a convenience to the reader to show the book titles mentioned in the accompanying article.

Ordering from this document is not an option. Please ignore any references to ADD TO CART and ADD TO WISH LIST.

Books can be purchased from the American Radio Relay League On-Line Store.
www.arrl.org/shop

Prices shown in these static screen snapshots may not be available when you shop. Any references to Special Offers or Member Pricing are subject to change without notice.

ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 4th Edition (Spiral Bound)

Get your FIRST (Technician) ham radio license! For exams through June 30, 2022.

Item No. 0826 - \$32.95

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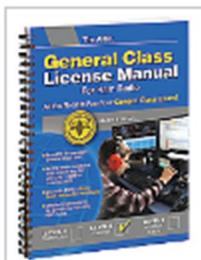
ARRL General Class License Manual 9th Edition (Spiral Bound)

Upgrade your license to General Class! For exams through June 30, 2023.

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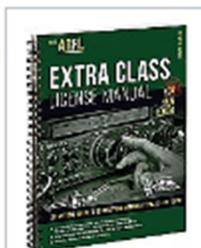


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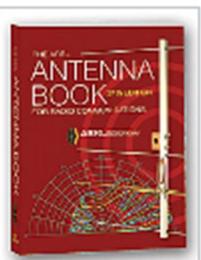


ARRL Antenna Book (Softcover)

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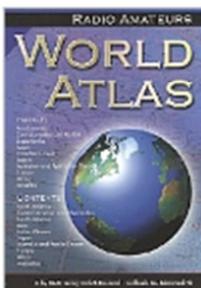


Radio Amateurs World Atlas

Beautifully detailed maps of the world, with call-sign prefixes.

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IGC North America Wall Map

Colorful wall map features current geographic detail and labels, grid squares, call sign prefixes and more. Size 27" x 39".

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ARRL Operating Manual

Everything for hams to get involved, get active, and get on the air. Softcover Edition.

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FCC Rules and Regulations

FCC Part 97 Rules & Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service. Rules effective November 1, 2017.

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Your First Amateur Radio HF Station

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Radios to Go!

If you own a handheld transceiver, or trying to decide which one to buy, this is the essential guide!

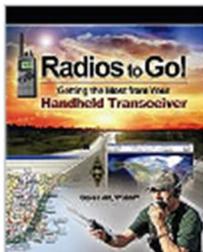
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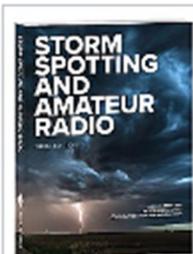
Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio 3rd Edition

A resource for the amateur radio operator who volunteers as a trained storm spotter.

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ARRL Repeater Directory 2020 Edition

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Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners

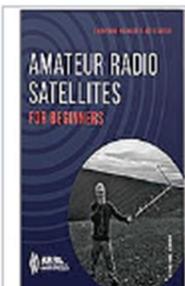
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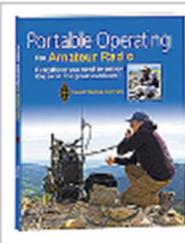
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Now simply called "CW", this is the perfect introduction to radio communication by Morse code.

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