

VE3FW

LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 2571

THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

P7B 5G1

LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

This little message is meant to answer a few questions about Amateur Radio (also known as Ham Radio) for you, and if you have any questions at all, please feel free to ask.

To become a licenced Radio Amateur, you must pass a Department of Communications exam, which contains three main sections. The first is the rules and regulations governing Amateur Radio. The next is a theory portion which offers basic electronics and radio theory, and finally, the Morse Code. You must be able to send and receive at a speed of 10 words per minute. The course covers all aspects of the exam, and we are quite confident that on the completion of our course that you should be able to obtain a passing grade.

Once you have obtained your Amateur Radio Certificate, the whole world of Amateur Radio awaits you. You will be able to talk to other Radio Amateurs all over the world in places you may not have even heard of! Via Amateur Radio it is possible to talk to people in South America, New Zealand, Africa, Japan, Europe, you name it. How about a ham in space? Well believe it or not, a local ham has done it. How's that for an "out of the world" contact? And that is just the beginning.

Amateur Radio Operators have put several orbiting satellites in space for the exclusive use of amateurs. You can also use your personal computer to "talk" to other amateurs. How about a television picture? Well, thats being done also. All in all, Amateur Radio is a very exciting and dynamic hobby, and in many ways, the world is at your finger tips.

I should also tell you a little about amateur licencing, and what your Amateur Radio Operators Certificate (or ticket as it is sometimes called) allows you to do. You can set up and operate your own amateur radio station (receiver and transmitter) and operate your station with a maximum power level of 1,000 watts. You will be issued a callsign by the Department of Communications (VE3---) for Ontario. It will be a unique callsign, as no one else in the world will have the same callsign. You can contact other radio amateurs all over the world on shortwave bands on frequencies assigned to Amateur Radio (there are quite a few of them). These frequencies are also known as "bands".

In addition to that, you are allowed full voice privileges on the amateur bands above 50 MHz. The most common band in use here in Thunder Bay is 144 to 148 MHz band, commonly referred to a "two meters". The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club owns and maintains two repeaters or relay stations for club members. They are equipped with a telephone interconnect system which allows you to connect your radio to the telephone system for local telephone calls. Sorry, business calls are not allowed.

The cost of the course is \$75.00, and after the September 9th orientation night, it is non-refundable. Classes will be held on Wednesday nights from 7 to 10:00 p.m. with a 15 minute coffee break at 8:30. The course fee covers the cost of the classes, which includes a copy of the Canadian Amateur Radio Relay League Study Guide, and an associate membership in the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

Richard Barry, VE3OPI
Course Co-Ordinator
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