



NFARL

North Fulton
Amateur Radio League



So you want to be a HAM? This is a one page guide to acquiring your ham radio license with help from the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) – Roswell, Georgia Website: nfarl.org

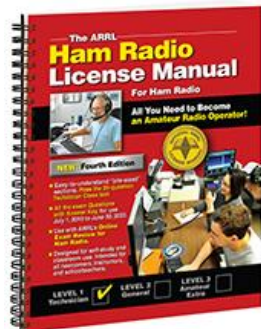
Amateur (or ham) radio is a **very fascinating, fulfilling, and fun HOBBY**. In fact, it is more than a hobby. It is also considered a **SERVICE**. In ham radio, you can help your community in times of disaster. At the NFARL, we believe that the most fun occurs when you understand the basics behind ham radio.

Look at this video introducing amateur radio from our friends in England: <https://tinyurl.com/ox7b2x>

Although obtaining a license is not difficult, it takes some time commitment on your part. We also believe you will enjoy the hobby the most when you are **associated with other amateur radio operators** at the local level. In fact, we'd like you to visit our website nfarl.org and attend one of our meetings.

One thing interested people always ask: Does it cost a lot? No. To get started, it costs about \$40. Radios can cost more but some start as low as \$30. A worldwide radio can be obtained for \$100 to \$200. The NFARL club has a radio loaner program for members and club dues are only \$30 per year.

Yes, you do have to obtain a **license to talk** or transmit on the radio. But you may listen without a license. People achieve their license at any age – **school kids to retirees**. To obtain your license from the US government (called the **FCC**), you need to pass a test. We'll help you prepare and do that.



Our program has 4 parts: 1) **Let us associate you with a MENTOR** (also called an ELMER), a person to help you as you study and learn. This mentor will meet with you either live or on the phone and will be a resource to answer questions and work to get you licensed and “on the air”. To get started, send an email to elmer@nfarl.org. Include your phone number so they can chat with you and answer your questions. This is a very important step and highly recommended.

2) We recommend this study book – the **ARRL Ham Radio License Manual** which you can obtain at one of our meetings in Alpharetta or at our local radio store – Ham Radio Outlet on Buford Highway. <https://tinyurl.com/y7tbcedb> To buy? \$30 But our club also has loaner books. We suggest the spiral bound version.

3) A series of videos to watch. We suggest those by **Dave Casler, KE0OG**, from Colorado on youtube. Do a search for KE0OG and notice he has a series of 38 short videos that follow the book we recommend. <https://tinyurl.com/ya78swyb> Dave has many other interesting amateur radio links.

4) Take the test at one of the NFARL (or other club) **Volunteer Examiner testing sessions**. The test costs \$15. The NFARL testing sessions occur once per month in Alpharetta. Tests are around ATL each week.

You may proceed as quickly as you wish but **it will require about 12 hours of study** to pass the test. You may take longer or shorter, based on your own pace. But here is our most important suggestion – **set yourself a time table** for taking the test. Your mentor will be happy to work with you in setting this target date and a schedule to reach that goal. Don't worry. The date can be very flexible but it will make your travel to ham radio a great experience and a great accomplishment.

Remember: If it was easy, everyone would be a ham already! But oh, the sense of pride and the friendships you will make around the world. 1/15/2019