

For Immediate Release
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Simplifies Access to Ham Radio Licenses

Fort Myers, December 28, 2023 – The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (FMARC) is making it easier for individuals to obtain a ham radio license, also known as an amateur radio license, with monthly exams conducted by a local team of Volunteer Examiners (VEs). The exams take place by reservation on the second Thursday of every month at the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, 2675 Ortiz Ave, starting at 6:30 pm. The next session is January 11th, 2024.

In collaboration with the Laurel (Laurel Amateur Radio Club) VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator), the club is pleased to offer subsidized exams with no charges incurred for those taking the exams in Lee County other than FCC fees. The FMARC will reimburse the FCC fee for license applicants under the age of eighteen. This initiative aims to encourage participation in ham radio licensing and foster a vibrant community of radio enthusiasts.

Benefits of Getting a Ham Radio License:

1. **Emergency Communication:** Ham radios provide a reliable means of communication during emergencies, making them invaluable in times of natural disasters or crises.
2. **Community Service:** Licensed ham radio operators actively contribute to community service by providing communication support for public events, parades, marathons, and other gatherings.
3. **Learning and Skill Development:** Obtaining a ham radio license involves learning about radio technology, electronics, and communication principles, providing an opportunity for technical skill development.
4. **Global Communication:** Ham radio enables long-distance communication, connecting individuals with people from around the world.
5. **Hobby and Experimentation:** Ham radio offers a diverse range of activities, from talking to other operators to experimenting with antennas and building equipment, fostering creativity in radio communication.
6. **Friendship and Community:** A ham radio license opens the door to a vast and diverse community of like-minded individuals, allowing for the formation of friendships and valuable connections.
7. **Public Service Opportunities:** Licensed operators often volunteer for public service activities, including communication support for events, search and rescue operations, and community projects.
8. **Preparedness and Self-Reliance:** Ham radio licenses align with the principles of emergency preparedness and self-reliance, providing a crucial means of communication in times of crisis.

9. **Career Opportunities:** Skills and knowledge gained through ham radio can open doors to various technical and communication-related careers in telecommunications, electronics, and related fields.
10. **Personal Satisfaction:** Becoming a licensed ham radio operator is a fulfilling and rewarding experience, offering a sense of accomplishment and mastery of a technical skill.

To operate a ham radio, individuals must first pass the technician exam, considered the entry-level license exam. Morse code is no longer a requirement for the entry level Technician license. This license allows transmitting on VHF and UHF amateur bands, as well as limited transmitting on HF or "shortwave" bands. The FMARC offers classes for individuals seeking to obtain their first license. For information on these classes visit <https://fmarc.net/classes/> or by email, education@fmarc.net.

Established in 1957, the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has been dedicated to fostering camaraderie among individuals with a shared passion for Amateur Radio. With a commitment to facilitating the exchange of information, promoting electronics and amateur radio knowledge, advocating for good radio operating practices, and advancing the art of Amateur Radio, the club strives to create a vibrant community. Additionally, the club actively sponsors and promotes various education activities related to amateur radio, provides crucial public service during emergencies, and actively engages in other community initiatives. For more information or to register for the next exam session visit <https://fmarc.net/license-education/ham-radio-licensing/> or by email at fcc_exams@fmarc.net.