



“OK, I Just Got My License....
What Do I Do Next?”

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What Do I Do Next? Executive Summary

- ▶ Find a few Elmers: Your GOAL = Your first QSO !
- ▶ Understand your license operating limits
- ▶ Decide:
 - ▶ Band
 - ▶ Mode
 - ▶ Rig
 - ▶ Antenna
 - ▶ Integrate into the home geography
- ▶ Budget and scrape up some money (\$\$\$)
- ▶ What gear can you borrow for a little time?
- ▶ References
- ▶ Learn more about the risk of significant RF radiation exposure, shock, lightning
- ▶ Go back to line one above

What Do I Do Next? Elmers

- ▶ Elmers are your keys to a successful start-up
- ▶ It's easy to find Elmers. There are many in this room.
- ▶ Elmers have been where you are
- ▶ Elmers are resourceful and have many resources
- ▶ Get names, call signs, email, and phone numbers
- ▶ Show them your enthusiasm

What Do I Do Next?

What are your license limits?

- ▶ Technician
 - ▶ CW on limited frequency bandwidth 80M, 40M, 15M
 - ▶ SSB, RTTY, data on limited frequency bandwidth on 10M
 - ▶ All allowed modes on all amateur bands, 6M and higher frequency
 - ▶ Certain power limitations
- ▶ General
 - ▶ All privileges, except reduced frequency bandwidth 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M
- ▶ Extra
 - ▶ All privileges

What Do I Do Next? Decide...

Band (Meters)

- 160
- 80
- 60
- 40
- 30
- 20
- 17
- 15
- 12
- 10
- 6
- 2
- 70 cm and beyond

Mode

- CW
- SSB (AM, DSB)
- FM
- Digital
 - PSK
 - WSJT
 - RTTY
 - DStar, Fusion, DMR
 - Many others

What Do I Do Next?

Rig (transmitter/receiver)

Freq. Coverage Terms

- ▶ HF high frequency (160M – 10M)
- ▶ VHF very high frequency (6M – 2M)
- ▶ UHF ultra high frequency (1.25M – higher authorized frequency bands)



Rig categories/suppliers

- ▶ HF – Popular commercial transceivers
 - ▶ ICOM
 - ▶ Kenwood
 - ▶ Yaesu
 - ▶ Elecraft
 - ▶ Flex
 - ▶ Others
- ▶ Handy talkies- popular VHF, UHF
- ▶ Mobile- popular HF, VHF, UHF
- ▶ Kits and homebrew- HF, VHF, UHF

What Do I Do Next?

Antenna

Relative antenna size

- ▶ Relative size increases as the wavelength (band) designation increases
- ▶ For example:
 - ▶ 40M = approx. 40 meters or 20 meters for $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength
 - ▶ 2M = approx. 2 meters or 1 meter for $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength
- ▶ Antenna polarization
- ▶ Property space considerations

Manufactured & Homebrew

- ▶ Designs use wire + insulators or aluminum tube + insulators
- ▶ Generally, manufactured costs more, but often not so much more at the smaller wavelengths (Bands).
- ▶ Extremely cost effective to make and erect a dipole antenna for higher frequency HF or VHF bands

What Do I Do Next?

Integrate into the home geography

- The Shack
 - Empty bedroom
 - Basement Area
 - Warm garage area
- The antenna
 - Backyard
 - Roof
 - Attic



What Do I Do Next?

Budget and scrape up some money (\$\$\$)

- ▶ What can you afford?
- ▶ Break the needs down by equipment:
 - ▶ Rig
 - ▶ Antenna
 - ▶ Accessories
 - ▶ Home or yard modifications
- ▶ Buy, build, borrow
- ▶ You are limited only by your level of motivation!

What Do I Do Next?

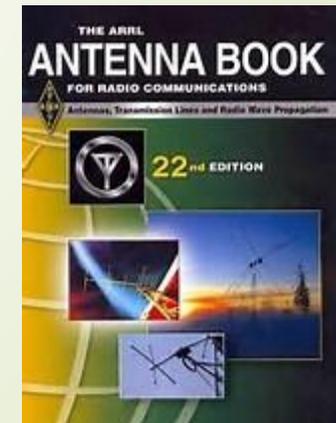
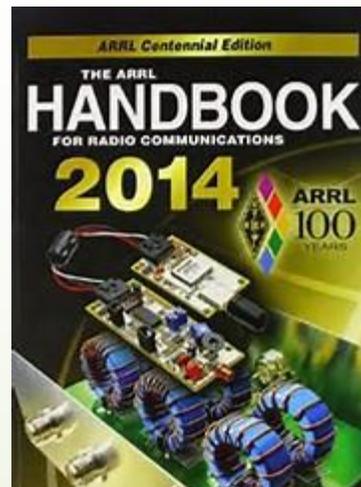
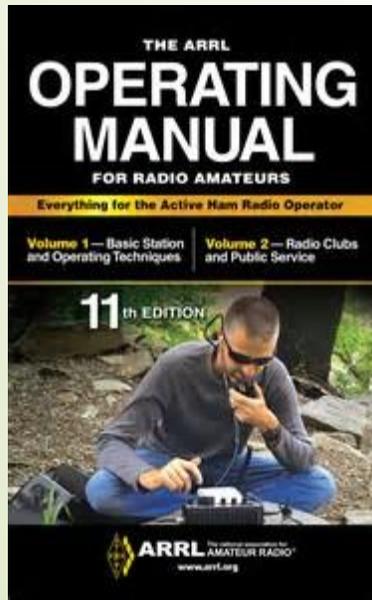
What gear can you borrow for a little time?

- ▶ This is where you put pressure on your Elmers to help you find stuff if the budget is tight. They will come through!
- ▶ Elmers are also good for seldom needed gear such as borrowing antenna analyzers.
- ▶ Take an Elmer and a few bucks to a hamfest!

What Do I Do Next?

References

- References are good but don't get hung up with them.
- ARRL
 - Operating Manual
 - Handbook
 - Antenna Book



What Do I Do Next? Elmers, Elmers, Elmers!!!

- ▶ Ask them, plead with them, use them to help borrow, assemble and erect equipment
- ▶ Ask them to show you operating techniques
- ▶ Ask them to explain about determining your station risk of electrical shock, RF exposure, and lightning hazards
- ▶ Hurry up: Get that first QSO (Get on the air). WHAT'S YOUR GOAL ?
- ▶ Are you motivated?
- ▶ Thank them, thank them, then thank them again
- ▶ As you pile up experience you better be ready to become an -

ELMER