

How to become a Ham?

How to Become a Ham - Beginner Workshop

Group Members:

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Event Overview:

- **Name of the Event:** How to Become a Ham
- **Number of Participants:** 3-6 people
- **Level of Experience:** Beginner (no prior experience required, participants are preparing to get their licenses)
- **Duration:**
 - 3 hours per session, every week.
 - Each session is split into 1.5 hours for lecture and 1.5 hours for practical activities.
- **Location/Space Needed:**
 - A local radio club or a similar facility equipped with basic radio equipment.
 - The space should have a lecture area and room for radio operation practice.

Food:

- **Meals:** No food required.

- **Refreshments:** Optionally, provide water or coffee.

Budget:

- **Do you need money for the event?**
 - Yes, around **5-10 € per person** to cover materials (pens, notebooks, etc.).
 - Money can be collected from participants or sourced from the local radio club.

Materials and Equipment Needed:

- **For Lectures:**
 - Pen and paper for participants.
 - A blackboard/whiteboard or a projector for the instructor to explain concepts.
- **For Practical Sessions:**
 - A working radio station for participants to practice QSOs.
 - A morse key and software/hardware for trying out CW (optional).
 - A computer or station to try digital modes (optional).

Organizer's Preparations:

- Prepare all necessary teaching materials in advance (lecture slides, handouts, etc.).
- Set up the radio station and ensure it is functional for practical exercises.
- If using digital modes, install the necessary software and verify the setup.

What Participants Need to Bring:

- A notebook for taking notes.
- A positive attitude and a smile!

Workshop Content:

Workshop Structure:

1. Lectures (1.5 hours per session):

- Cover the following topics over the course of several weeks:
 - **Basics of Amateur Radio:** What it is, the different modes (voice, CW, digital), and the purpose of getting licensed.
 - **Operating a Radio:** How to handle radio equipment safely and efficiently.
 - **Call Signs & Procedures:** How to identify yourself and communicate properly on the air.
 - **Radio Etiquette:** Common dos and don'ts during QSOs.
 - **The Phonetic Alphabet:** Learn and practice using it in mock QSOs.
 - **Basic Regulations and Frequencies:** An overview of important laws and frequency bands for amateur radio operators.

2. Practical Sessions (1.5 hours per session):

- **Simulated QSOs:** Each participant practices making a basic QSO with their peers under instructor supervision.
 - Focus on proper use of call signs, signal reports, and correct radio procedures.
- **Introduction to CW (Morse Code):** Try basic CW operations using a Morse key or software.
 - Start with simple letters and numbers, progressing to simple words.
- **Digital Modes (optional):** A brief introduction to FT8, PSK31, or another digital mode.
 - Demonstrate how to set up a computer-radio interface and make digital contacts.

3. Weekly Focus:

- **Week 1: Introduction & Radio Basics**
 - Learn what amateur radio is, basic concepts, and hands-on radio operation.
- **Week 2: Call Signs, QSO Procedures, and Phonetic Alphabet**
 - Focus on how to make QSOs and communicate on the radio effectively.
- **Week 3: CW & Digital Modes Introduction**
 - Introduce participants to CW and some basic digital modes, allowing them to practice both.
- **Week 4: Practice QSOs, Mock Radio Exams, & Review**
 - Give participants time to practice their skills and prepare for their amateur radio license exams with mock scenarios and exam questions.

Learning Objectives:

- Help participants understand the basics of ham radio and the procedures for making QSOs.
- Build confidence in using a radio station, handling equipment, and operating on different modes (voice, CW, digital).
- Prepare participants for their upcoming amateur radio license exam by teaching key concepts and allowing practical hands-on experience.

Role of the Referee:

- Ensure participants are following proper radio procedures during QSOs.
 - Provide guidance on correct radio operation and QSO etiquette.
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