Online Ham Radio License Courses

There are three Amateur Radio license classes in the USA:

- Technician Class (intermediate)
- General Class (intermediate)
- Amateur Extra Class (expert)

There is currently no true entry-level USA Amateur Radio license, although the American Radio Relay League – ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio[®], is working on an entry-level license proposal. Meanwhile, both the Technician and General Class licenses are accessible to almost any person who has entered middle school or above.

Most candidates will do well to pass both Technician and General exams, allowing them access to all Amateur Radio bands. Technician operators have limited CW (Morse code) access to three bands, namely 80 m, 40 m and 15 m, below 28 MHz in the shortwave spectrum where long-distance skywave communications are routinely possible. The Amateur Extra Class license is much more difficult, but it only confers access to a few more frequency segments beyond those allowed to General Class operators on the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m and 15 m shortwave bands.

The recommended textbook for the Technician exam is **ARRL's Tech Q&A** 6th **Edition**, which is available directly from the ARRL¹ or from Amazon .² The General Class textbook is **ARRL's General Q&A** 5th **Edition**. You may wish to order both textbooks together to save shipping costs and let you move onto studying for the General Class exam just as soon as you have mastered the Technician material.

On-line courses are available free of charge for both Technician Class and General Class. Send an email to n7rr@mail.com requesting either course or both. You may also telephone Bruce Prior N7RR at (360) 332-6046.

Welcome to the exciting world of Amateur Radio!

¹ http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-s-Tech-Q-and-A-6th-Edition/?page=1

² http://www.amazon.com/ARRLs-Tech-Q-ARRL-