

# Thanks for stopping by our station!

Today we are participating in a statewide event called **Florida State Parks on the Air**. We will be making contact with other operators across the United States and around the world!



Are you interested in Amateur Radio?  
Anyone can get a license and join us on the air!

**Why do we need a license, you ask?** Because amateur radio operators aren't limited to specific channels or certified equipment like FRS or CB users. We're allocated portions of the radio spectrum and given the leeway to use it in many different ways, or to build our own equipment. To earn this freedom, we must demonstrate an understanding of important concepts related to radio. The material you learn helps minimize interference and ensure safety and regulatory compliance.

- The entry-level **Technician** license exam covers basic electronics, radio waves, RF safety, operating rules and best practices. After you pass your "Tech" exam, you'll be issued a callsign and have full operating privileges above 50 MHz.
- The next license class, **General**, grants you many operating privileges below 50 MHz. The General Class exam focuses more on the practice and science of long distance radio communication.
- The top license class, **Amateur Extra**, grants you all operating privileges offered to amateur radio operators in the United States. The exam is a little more rigorous and focuses more on some engineering concepts, but it's worth the effort!
- While Morse Code is alive and well in the amateur bands, it's no longer a requirement for any license.

Study materials are available in book form or online; [HamStudy.org](http://HamStudy.org) is a fantastic resource. Once you're ready to take your license exam, you'll need to locate a session near you. There are several Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) authorized by the FCC including the ARRL VEC ([arrl.org](http://arrl.org)), and Laurel VEC ([laurelvec.com](http://laurelvec.com)). Depending on the VEC, the exam may run from free to \$15.

Once you have your license, or even while you're still studying, you should consider attending a meeting of your local amateur radio club. Clubs are a great place to learn, share ideas, and experiment with different types of equipment before you purchase your own. You may find your local club through a web search, or by looking in the ARRL's database: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

<b>Visitor Radio Contact "QSL Card"</b>	Control Operator: _____
Station Worked: _____	Date: _____
Operator: _____	Time (Local): _____
Location: _____	Frequency: _____
Distance: _____ miles	Mode: _____
	Signal report: _____