

Ham 62 – Now You Are a General Class

Dr. Marc & Rosemary © 220904

1. Amateur radio has three aspects: technology, mental exercise, and lifestyle or what you do with it.
2. You are following the ham advice of *Be Prepared: Get licensed, Get a real-radio, Get radio-active.*
3. After you obtain your General ham license, now what?
 - a. Article 30, “Why General”, discusses the equipment. This article is about other privileges and services.
 - b. Ham radio is a volunteer group.
 - c. The Evergreen Communications Group (ECG) more so, since we are an informal group with common interests. We have no officers or dues.
 - d. If you see something that needs to be done, welcome. Just do it.
4. General makes you an *Elmer*, by definition.
 - a. However, that implies you are radio active so you can know what is going on.
 - b. No two people do the same thing or have the same skill sets. That is the strength of amateur radio.
5. If you are not an ARRL member, become one. They are our most effective lobbyists, repository, and publisher.
6. *Volunteer Examiner* is a ham certified to give the exams to new hams.
 - a. A General can give Technician, while an Extra can do all three.
 - b. After our classes, we give the exam. LtCol. Dan, K5CAY, is the liaison.
 - c. He must have at least 3 and prefers five VEs for each session.
 - d. The process is simple. For a walk-through, go to <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrrl-ve>.
 - e. It involves a 15-question open-book review of the VE Manual.
 - f. After you are certified, let Dan know.
7. *NET controller* rotates among the General and Extra operators.
 - a. ECG wants as many skilled people as possible, in case of an emergency.
 - b. If that floats your boat, let one of the Elmers know and you will be put in the rotation.
 - c. Brett, KI5TAX, maintains the GAB page for the group, which lists the rotation.
 - d. There is a protocol, but we supply the script to you.
 - e. Since the very first days, networks have been used to share and relay information, before telephone was common.
 - f. Do not be shy, the network is the people who will be your contact in an emergency.
8. *Teaching* is the best way to learn. It forces you to think through a topic.
 - a. For the ham license class, all the material is prepared for you.
 - b. Select one or more topics which floats your boat, and we will put you in the rotation.
 - c. It is very informal and other skilled trainers are there to back you up.
9. *Show ‘n Tell* is a casual way to spread the news.
 - a. We meet once a month, generally on the second Saturday.
 - b. You get to share your experience with others.
 - c. Obviously a General over time has a little more experience in some area.
 - d. The General and Extra not-surprisingly becomes the local expert.
 - e. Examples are handling noise, low signal levels, mounting antennas, grounding, programming radios, etc.
10. *Extra Class* is the highest-level ham license.
 - a. You can begin working on this.
 - b. If you passed the General, and you did, then you can pass the Extra.
 - c. It is a little more technical, but it is the same process.
 - d. We have prepared a study guide, just like the other two licenses.
 - e. We provide a PDF copy to our group.
 - f. A printed book can be purchased from Amazon.
11. You thought the Ham thing was getting a radio and talking? Well, there is that too!
12. Life is good. Enjoy.



Icom 7300, HF SDR

