

OBTAINING YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE

Some of the WVCG membership have obtained their Amateur Radio Licence and enjoying their new found skills in this exciting hobby. For the WVCG members it is not just a hobby but a licensing requirement if we wish to use transmitting radios in our Military Vehicles. A number of our members have military radios installed in their vehicles and it's one way we can communicate with each other on Club Runs, travelling in convoy and when we use our vehicles during joint exercises with the Re-enactment South Australia group.

It is one of the WVCG objectives that we become involved in more events so that we can all enjoy driving and showing off our beautifully restored vehicles and involve our families and friends.

We have been able to organise a Amateur Radio Course specifically for members of the WVCG organised through the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society who will run the course for our members, you will only be on the course with fellow WVCG members, no outsiders. I did the course last year and found it exciting and I am now a legally licenced radio operator and I am sure you can do it as well.

Only one handbook required for study and all the assessment questions come from the handbook, so you should acquire the book before the course starts and read it a few times before the start of the course to give you an understanding of what the instructor is covering.

So if you are interested in doing the course please advise Editor, Tony Van Rhoda ASAP so that we will have some idea as to numbers. You will be advised of Venue, date and timings once the course has been formalised.

Details below from the Wireless Institute of Australia will help you :



The Foundation Manual

The WIA has produced a book called the Foundation Licence Manual. It is a full colour manual consisting of 108 pages of relevant information for those studying, or those who would just like a reference book for Foundation Licence Operators.

The manual contains all the relevant information you will need to know to successfully complete a training course to obtain a foundation licence. It also contains a wealth of information a Foundation Licence operator will need. Items like Band Plans, Electrical Safety information, operating procedures such as the Q code,

how to contact your local radio club, the WIA and much more. Budding candidates can obtain the Foundation Licence Handbook from several sources. It can be purchased by clicking Foundation Manual on the left hand menu bar of the WIA webpage, from the WIA office in Melbourne, via many radio clubs throughout Australia, from most amateur radio equipment suppliers. The price for the Foundation Manual is \$24.50 plus postage, WIA members can purchase the Foundation Manual at the special members price of \$19.50 plus postage,

Radio Clubs And Training Courses



Radio clubs are the ideal place to learn all about the hobby of amateur radio, you get to meet other amateurs, attend interesting lectures, and find out lots of information, you will quickly learn of the hundreds of different facets to the hobby. There are over 70 radio clubs right around Australia running training courses to help people to get their foundation licence and to get into the hobby of amateur radio. The time taken for a training course is typically around 12 hours however this will vary from club to club, some offer training courses over several

week nights and some over a weekend.

Assessments

To obtain your amateur radio licence you will need to have successfully completed the required assessments. Once you feel you are ready, having completed your training either through a radio club course or through self study, you will need to book yourself in to be assessed. Radio clubs typically run assessments as part of your foundation licence, you will not be required to repeat it should you decide to upgrade to the standard or advanced licence grades. Even if you are an existing licenced amateur who received your licence before the requirement for a practical assessment was introduced and you wish to upgrade your licence, then you too will need to complete a practical assessment if you have not already done so.

Fees And Charges

A fees or charges associated with foundation licence training are up to the radio clubs conducting the training. The WIA charge for a foundation licence assessment is \$70.00 or \$35.00 if you are under the age of 18 The foundation licence is issued by ACMA and the licence cost is currently \$74.00 per year.

PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR IF YOU WISH TO DO THE COURSE ON :

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SO THAT WE CAN START WORK ON THE COUSRE. THOSE WHO HAVE DECIDED TO DO THE COURSE WILL BE CONTACTED WHEN FINAL NUMBERS ARE KNOW.

Editor: *Tony Van Rhoda*