

## Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Offers FCC Testing Session

Fort Myers, March 19, 2026 – The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (FMARC) is making it easier for individuals to obtain a ham radio license, also known as an amateur radio license, with monthly exams conducted by a local team of Volunteer Examiners (VEs). The exams take place by reservation on the first Thursday of every month at the Tice Fire Department, 9351 Workmen Way, Fort Myers, FL, starting at 6:00 pm. The next session is April 2, 2026.

In collaboration with the Laurel (Laurel Amateur Radio Club) VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator), the club is pleased to offer subsidized exams with no charges incurred for those taking the exams in Lee County other than FCC fees. The FMARC will reimburse the FCC fee for license applicants under the age of eighteen. This initiative aims to encourage participation in ham radio licensing and foster a vibrant community of radio enthusiasts.

Benefits of Getting a Ham Radio License:

1. **Emergency Communication:** Ham radios provide a reliable means of communication during emergencies, making them invaluable in times of natural disasters or crises.
2. **Community Service:** Licensed ham radio operators actively contribute to community service by providing communication support for public events, parades, marathons, and other gatherings.
3. **Learning and Skill Development:** Obtaining a ham radio license involves learning about radio technology, electronics, and communication principles, providing an opportunity for technical skill development.
4. **Global Communication:** Ham radio enables long-distance communication, connecting individuals with people from around the world.
5. **Hobby and Experimentation:** Ham radio offers a diverse range of activities, from talking to other operators to experimenting with antennas and building equipment, fostering creativity in radio communication.
6. **Friendship and Community:** A ham radio license opens the door to a vast and diverse community of like-minded individuals, allowing for the formation of friendships and valuable connections.
7. **Public Service Opportunities:** Licensed operators often volunteer for public service activities, including communication support for events, search and rescue operations, and community projects.

8. **Preparedness and Self-Reliance:** Ham radio licenses align with the principles of emergency preparedness and self-reliance, providing a crucial means of communication in times of crisis.

9. **Career Opportunities:** Skills and knowledge gained through ham radio can open doors to various technical and communication-related careers in telecommunications, electronics, and related fields.

10. **Personal Satisfaction:** Becoming a licensed ham radio operator is a fulfilling and rewarding experience, offering a sense of accomplishment and mastery of a technical skill.

Carmine Vetrano, the President of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club stated, “While governed by the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** to ensure orderly communication, Amateur Radio—often called "Ham Radio"—has evolved into a high-tech, accessible hobby for all ages. To join this global network, enthusiasts begin by passing the **Technician Class** exam. This entry-level license has been modernized for the 21st century; notably, **Morse code is no longer a requirement**, removing a long-standing barrier to entry and opening the doors to a diverse new generation of "Hams."

**Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC):** An ARRL-affiliated club since 1957, FMARC provides the education, licensing, and community support to turn a passion for technology into a lifelong hobby and a vital public service. For more information or to register for the next exam session visit <https://fmarc.net/license-education/ham-radio-licensing/> or by email at [fcc\\_exams@fmarc.net](mailto:fcc_exams@fmarc.net) or call (941) 275-9145.

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