

Hello new ham!

These are just a few thoughts that will hopefully help you to get on the air.

The **#1 most helpful advice** I can give, is to find and join your local club. Visit <http://arrl.com/find-a-club> to find a club near you. Meet the hams in your area and ask plenty of questions.

A **few awesome websites** with loads of info.

- You have passed your test now it is time to see if your call is in the FCC database.
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp> The FCC license search page.
- <http://www.arrl.org> The ARRL is the national association for amateur radio in the US.
- <https://www.qrz.com> QRZ is the place to go when looking up a call sign of a fellow ham, they also have great news, forums and a swap meet area of used radio equipment to check out.

Now you need a radio. A decent dual band handheld or mobile is a good place to start. Handhelds are definitely the easiest way to get on the air. Handheld radios come in a wide range of price points and everything you need is in one small package. With a mobile you also will need a way to power it with 12 volts and a separate antenna. Each radio has good points and bad. While checking out radios, ask questions and think about what attributes are most important to you. This is where your local radio club comes in handy. Everyone will have advice on a great starter radio. One way to help decide is to read some reviews. Eham has a large database of reviews. However, it includes radios which are no longer in production. My suggestion is to check out some of the stores below, pick out a handheld or 2 which are in your price point, and look them up on the eham website. www.eham.net/reviews

Below are some of my favorite online radio stores.

www.hamradio.com
www.dxengineering.com

www.randl.com
www.mtcradio.com

www.gigaparts.com
www.rwantennastore.com

When you receive your radio, you are going to need to program a few frequencies. Some radios are easier to program than others and it may be a good idea to get the programming cord for your radio.

First up here are some simplex frequencies. There are more available but below are a few of the most common simplex frequencies are **146.52** MHz (2 meter calling frequency) / **146.55** MHz / **146.58** MHz / **446.00** MHz (not much action on this one but it is the 70 cm calling frequency)

From here you will need to **program some of the local repeaters** in your radio. There is an app for that. Download repeaterbook on your phone or search the web. The app will list the nearest repeaters to you as you travel.

Here are my go to sites for searching up amateur radio repeaters.

www.repeaterbook.com

www.radioreference.com

www.nyrepeater.com

You may also have seen that some repeaters are linked together. When you transmit on one of the repeaters it repeats it to all of them. Here are the frequencies of the Warren County W2WCR system (www.w2wcr.org)

- 146.73 – 600 kHz offset with a PL Tone 100 on Prospect Mt. in Lake George
- 146.775 – 600 kHz offset with a PL Tone of 146.2 on Burch Hill in Hebron
- 147.120 Gore Mt. + 600 kHz offset with a PL Tone of 123 on Gore Mt in North Creek
- 224.78 has a – offset of 1.6 MHz with No PL Tone on Prospect Mt. is linked in for nets.
- 443.450 You may be able to listen in but this frequency is mainly used for linking the repeaters.

Check out our **NEW HAM FREQUENCY LIST** for some of my top 30 favorite frequencies.

If you need help just ask. Remember for a repeater you need to program the frequency the repeater transmits on, the offset, and in most cases a tone. Start with some of the closest repeaters. Program them into your radio and see if you can transmit into and or receive them. Just remember to say your call sign when you transmit. Most repeaters around here are open to public communications, however, the one on Whiteface Mt 145.11 is only used for emergency comms.

Now you've got your radio all programmed up. **Before you transmit** be sure to read the attached document on **repeater etiquette**. I would suggest reading through it and listening to others on the repeater system. Then, take the plunge and put your call out on the radio. Most hams like to talk to newly licensed hams and will welcome you onto the repeaters.

Nets are scheduled so hams can get together on a frequency or repeater system at a set time. Below we have listed some local nets to check out. Except where noted, most nets are open to all amateur radio operators.

W2WCR repeater system -

- Every morning 7am Local - Weather net-
- Tuesdays 7pm Local - RACES net – (RACES members only)
- Wednesday 7pm Local - Tech net
- Thursday 7pm Local time - Ragchew net

Monday 7pm Local 10 meters 28.400 MHz – W2WCR Tenderfoot / Geezer net

K2DLL repeater system - Sunday 7pm local time - Saratoga ARES net

K2RHI 146.94 MHz-

- 6am to 8:15 am Local - Commuter assistance net
- Wednesday 8pm Local - The Trader Net
- Listen in on Saturday night at 9pm to This Week In Amateur Radio

N2TY 145.17 MHz - Thursday 8pm local - Social net

NoBARC Mt Greylock repeater system

- Western MA ARES Nets (Sundays)
 - 146.91 MHz 9am
 - 449.425 MHz 9:45am
- NTS Traffic Nets (Monday thru Friday)
 - 146.91 MHz 1pm
 - 146.91 MHz 4:30pm
- 146.91 MHz- 7pm Western MA RACES Net (First Monday of the Month)
- 146.91 MHz- 6pm The N1ISB Newcomers' Roundtable (1st Sunday of the Month)

Capital District Traffic net – every day 147.33 MHz 6:30pm

Albany County Emergency Services Net – Tuesdays 146.64 at 7:30pm (145.19 MHz Last Tuesday of month)

Last but not least is to visit www.w2wcr.org Check out the ham licensing and classes area to find more links, topics, and info to help you on your way. Working from a handheld is just the beginning. There is a whole world out there on HF sideband. If you have any suggestions to add to this New Ham Packet please email me. I am always happy to help wherever I can. Mickey Corentto N2MC n2mc@arrl.net