

Dear Instructors and Teachers,

This is the time of year when clubs begin to focus on their licensing instruction plans for the fall. We've updated a list of resources on our website to help you with that. In fact, we're doing some extensive reorganization of our education Web pages. You may run across a few dead links while we move things around, but we're trying to make resources more accessible through the development of some new pages. Here's one of them:  
<http://www.arrl.org/es/instructor-resources>. On this page we've pulled together resources ARRL offers and some shared resources developed by the amateur community that you may draw on as you plan your licensing instruction. Twila Greenheck, NØJCP, Vice Director of the Dakota Division, has supplied some ideas for recruiting students to your next class (see her article in this newsletter). And there's a new template for a class flyer you may want to adapt to your particular needs.

### **Let's reactivate the on-line Forums!**

I've been trying to find out why the interactive Education Activities Forum (EAF) and the Amateur Radio in the Classroom Forum (ARIC) that are available on our website have not been more active.

The EAF is designed for licensing instructors as a place to share ideas for instruction, and the ARIC is designed for classroom teachers. Ronald Handrop, KC6HMX found the EAF recently and helped us to identify some editorial errors in our Instructor's Manual. Thanks Ronald! It seems to me in these days of blogs and chat rooms that this kind of tool for sharing ideas should work well. Maybe you didn't know these forums were there, or maybe if you did, you just couldn't find them! Here are the links:

EAF for instructors:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/newsletters/EAF/>

ARIC for classroom teachers:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/newsletters/ARIC/>

You might bookmark these sites in your browser, and look over some of the postings to see what content you find valuable... and then add a comment or a contribution of your own!

Rick Ward, WH6FC shared some ideas with Rose-Anne, KB1DMW here in our office about how he structures his licensing instruction. I've asked him for permission to post that email in the instructors' forum. His instruction is focused on licensing for emergency communications applications. He has some good ideas about how to structure a class with this focus, and provide hands-on learning in the context of licensing instruction. Check out what Rick has to say and feel free to add comments and ideas of your own.

There are some excellent ideas shared by teachers in the ARIC Forum as well, and the archive of past published forums has many ideas that are still applicable. I'll be trying to find a more prominent way to feature these links on our new Web pages so they are more easily located.

73,

-Debra Johnson K1DMJ

## **Fall 2007 Amateur Radio Class Promotion Ideas**

**HELP! How do we get students for our fall ham radio class?**

**Use a Shotgun Approach.**

In other words use a variety of ways to spread the news that your club is offering classes.

- Posters and brochures at the local ham radio store
- Newspaper announcements in their community activities section – its free
- Bulletin board notices – libraries, grocery stores, and any public place
- Net announcements – hit all the nets
- Club newsletters – your club's as well as others

- Announcements at club meetings – your club as well as others
- Hamfests
- Encourage club members to also spread the word
- As many ways and places you can think of

Enrolling a few students from each of these will add up to a sizeable class. It works!

Begin NOW to get word out about your classes; at least a couple months in advance.

It takes time for news to travel and for people to make the decision and plans to enroll.

Get a rolling start by [downloading the class flyer](#) on the ARRL website. It's in Word document format, and allows you to add additional information and make changes. The flyer gives you a basis to begin. Then you can add your club logo and more specific information about your classes.

*Here are a few suggestions:*

- Place, dates, and time
- Cost of the class and materials?
- Are there any prerequisites?
- Date of the FCC exam
- Contact information

Print the flyer out on bright colored paper, and/or use colored text, and you're on your way to successfully recruiting students.

Please give us feedback of other ways you have successfully used to enroll students. We want to hear from you, and to share your ideas with other instructors.

*-by Twila Greenheck, NOJPH*

**When you schedule your fall classes don't forget to list them on the ARRL website! To list, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/courses/location.html>**

## Interested in a math tutorial for Extra Class License preparation?

Some students end up memorizing the answers to the more complex math computations on the Extra Class exam without mastering the math involved. Sometimes this approach is merely expedient, and if asked, students would really like to have a math refresher to be able to truly understand and master the calculations. Often there isn't time within the framework of a class to offer this kind of instruction. Which brings me to my question: Do you think there would be interest in a downloadable math tutorial designed to review the fundamentals needed for Extra Class exam preparation?

## Four Teachers Institutes have been completed this summer...

in Rocklin, CA, Spokane, WA, and two during the past two weeks here in Newington. Forty-eight teachers participated, representing forty-four schools. Teachers are typically all smiles after completing the four days of intensive immersion into wireless technology, as this photo from the Rocklin session attests. Though licensing is not the focus of the workshop, seven teachers did take the Technician exam and receive their licenses during the workshop over the four days, while two teachers upgraded to a General license. I guess they were convinced that amateur radio might have something to offer in their classroom!



These teachers at the Rocklin CA Teachers Institute are grinning with satisfaction having "taught" their robots to behave in an orderly fashion. If only kids were this easy!

## New Links!

As we work on reorganizing and updating the education pages on our website, no doubt you'll encounter some broken links. But as we refresh information we'll be providing some new pages that we hope will meet your needs.

Here is one new page you'll want to check out as you plan for fall classes.

<http://www.arrl.org/es/instructor-resources/>

If you haven't updated your registration with us lately, please visit our new instructor /teacher registration page to let us know about your most recent activities. <http://www.arrl.org/es/register>.

We are also building a new home page for instructors. It is not posted yet, but will be available in the next few weeks. Here is the new URL:

<http://www.arrl.instructor>.

## Recent Licensing Statistics

The licensing surge continues. Take a look at these year-to-date totals!

|                         | 2006<br>Jan 1 -Jul 31 | 2007<br>Jan 1 -Jul 31 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| New Technicians         | 12,268                | 15,549                |
| New/Upgrade<br>Generals | 2,384                 | 15,730                |
| New/Upgrade Extras      | 1,909                 | 4,284                 |

## Classroom News



Devon Day, KF6KEE, an English teacher at **Wilson Classical High School** in Long Beach, CA reports "the PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) nominated me for a \$5,000 grant for the amateur radio station. 23 teachers across the nation won the grant. I AM ONE OF THEM!"

Here's what Devon's up to. She and her students completed the project shown in the photo: a mobile amateur radio station on a small trailer that can be housed inside the school's earthquake bin on campus. In an emergency, the school will be able to communicate directly with the Long Beach Emergency Communication Center. Devon attended ARRL's Teachers Institute in Rocklin, CA earlier this summer to learn more ways to integrate amateur radio in her classroom instruction.

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Earlier this year **Romeo Elementary School** in Dunnellon, Florida took advantage of the educational opportunities presented by an ARISS QSO by engaging 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in science experiments (radio waves and sound waves), and making QSOs with US hams with help from Silver Springs Radio Club. Club members gave presentations and demos to students, and set up a Web site for the community to follow the ARISS activity. The classroom teacher won two grants to buy radio equipment, an antenna and a satellite tracking program.

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Nathan McCray, K9CPO, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science and math teacher at **East Elementary** in Zion, IL has had some great success starting a radio club in his school through active support from the local club, Lake County RACES. The school club, aptly

named "Radio Active," includes 24 students and 2 teachers and a parent. During the past two years, club members have learned about Morse code, basic electricity and electronics, and as you'll see from the photo, are getting their hands dirty in some practical soldering building a radio kit.



East Elementary has received an equipment grant from the Education & Technology Program along with donated radio equipment from Lake County RACES club members. Nathan attended the recent Teachers Institute here in Newington. His wife Michelle, N4NRN is also licensed, and just got a job as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at East Elementary. Looks like there will be more exciting activities for young hams in Zion!

## Start making plans for fall School Club Roundup!

Amateur radio provides many modes and kinds of experience for operators new and old. Some prefer voice, others digital and CW. In the School Club Roundup, it is not always about getting a high score, but it is about getting new, prospective hams interested and excited about our wonderfully diverse hobby. And it can present many teachable moments.

This is how David Turin, W6OQK organized School Club Roundup in his classroom: "The best part of the week was introducing our hobby to more than 200 students at Barnhart School, in Arcadia, California. In groups of 10, our 4th through 8th grade students visited the radio room. As two students operated the radio, we projected a PSK

contact on our digital white board. Students used a map and ruler to create ratios and proportions to calculate the distance between the two stations."

The next opportunity to participate this coming school year will run from October 15-19, 2007. Operation starts on Monday at 1300 UTC and ends on Friday at 2400 UTC. Visit the School Club Roundup Web page at [www.arrl.org/SCR](http://www.arrl.org/SCR) for rules. Check the [scr-L@yahoogroups.com](mailto:scr-L@yahoogroups.com) discussion group for more information.

*Did you know that November Sweepstakes provides for a School category?* Check out the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/novss.html>

## Grant Opportunity

Here's a grant opportunity that you may find a creative way to engage with amateur radio in your classroom.

**Title:** Best Buy Teach Awards

**Organization:** Best Buy

**Eligibility:** K-12 schools

**Value:** Eight awards of \$100,000 each

**Deadline:** September 30, 2007

Applications are now available for the 2008 Best Buy Teach Awards, which award innovative use of technology in K-12 classrooms. Winners will be announced in February 2008, and eight \$100,000 district-level awards will be announced in May 2008. All accredited, public and private nonprofit elementary, middle and secondary schools located within 50 miles of a U.S. Best Buy store are eligible. For more information, contact:

<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp>

## Education Services Dept. Contact Information

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