

The 2021 Basic Ham Radio Course:

Once again the Annual Basic Ham Radio Course is a virtual event led by Tom Buchanan VE6ARG. It is time to make your intentions known to us so that we can set the course up. The course runs for approximately 12 weeks and is held for 2 hours +/- every week from Thursday October 28th, 2021 to January 13th, 2022 from 7:00 till 9:00 MST. The course is run on the Zoom platform so you will require a computer or tablet that can run it efficiently and with sufficient resolution to display graphics and video. You will also need a good webcam to use on Zoom and a microphone. Most laptops and tablets have these built in so that is sufficient. Most computers do not and you will need a webcam from Amazon. Use something with 1080P or better for this so we can all see each other clearly. We do not have time enough to troubleshoot your computer problems so make sure it all works before logging into the course. There is no cost to this course but there are some basic ground rules that have been adopted over the many years we have been running it. Here they are:

1. It is only reasonable that you arrive on time to the course. Being late disrupts the busy schedule we have adopted. Being late is disrespectful.
2. If you miss two lessons in the course in a row, you will be asked to either pickup the work or accept that you are not ready to take the course and withdraw.
3. You are given work to study every week and we ask that it be done. Not doing it will inconvenience the others because it means we have to review what you should have read.
4. The text we use is the **Canadian Amateur Radio Basic Qualification Study Guide 9th Edition by Coax Publications**. It is available through
- <https://www.gpscentral.ca/accessories/arrl/canadian-amateur-radio-study-guide.html>
5. Nearer the end of the course you will be asked to take sample exams frequently through the Government of Canada site
- http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/025.nsf/eng/h_00040.html These exams are ideal to gauge your progress towards a successful pass with honours. You will be asked to forward a screen capture of the results of each exam to the instructor so that he can evaluate your progress.
6. It will be your responsibility to study the Regulations and Acts available through the Government of Canada site. You will be expected to know them for the exam and make up 26% of the final exam mark so you can see how important they are. The documents you need to refer to are: RIC-3, RBR-3, RBR-4 and CPC-2-0-03. https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/h_sf06073.html

7. Depending on the state of the Covid-19 pandemic, you will be required to take the Basic Qualification Exam either directly or on-line with an examiner.

8. And finally if you have a question do not think that it is not something you want to ask. It is very likely that someone else has the same question and you will be helping everyone by asking it. There are no stupid questions. There are only stupid people who don't ask them when they need an answer. We are all here to help each other so ask questions.

If you wish to enrol in the Basic Qualification Course with Tom, send him a note via e-mail at ve6arg@shaw.ca with the subject "Basic Course". The deadline for enrolment is October 28th, 2021. I'm sorry no additional registrations will be accepted after that date. Please understand that additions after the course has started is very disruptive and that is why the rule has been adopted.

There will be a lot of information to review in order to successfully pass the exam. The Basic Study Guide is an excellent reference, but it doesn't answer everything and I will pass on some very valuable links on the subjects covered during the course. The advantage of taking the course with us is that you will be able to see an actual amateur radio station in operation and will gain the opportunity of seeing electronics in action with live demonstrations that shows you how it all works. This is not just a book learning course, but rather an interactive course that will prepare you completely to write the exam and pass it. However it is important to note that **You Are Taking the Course**, I'm not, so be prepared to work hard and get a good mark. The pass mark for the course is 70% which will give you only VHF and above privileges. If you achieve 80% you will have passed with Honours and will have the opportunity to operate on all bands including HF, VHF and above. So I strongly encourage you to adopt a goal of getting your Basic with Honours certification. 90% of my students over the last six years have achieved Honours.

I look forward to seeing you on Zoom so get your registrations into me asap.

73

Tom VE6ARG