



## Now You're an Amateur Radio Operator!

*You've studied hard, and now you've passed your exam and are one of us.  
Congratulations and welcome to the fold! Here are some things you'll want to know:*

- 1. WAIT FOR YOUR CALLSIGN.** The people who administered your tests will now send all the paperwork to their Volunteer Examination Coordinator organization for review and submission to the Federal Communications Commission ([www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)), which will assign you your callsign. Once that new callsign appears on the FCC's online database, you can transmit. You will receive a paper copy in the mail several weeks after that, but you do not have to wait for it before beginning operations.
- 2. SAVE YOUR CSCE.** Until you're on the FCC's database, that CSCE you were given is your only proof of passing your exam.
- 2. JOIN THE ARRL.** In the USA, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for Amateur Radio (TM). Membership in the ARRL, or "the League," as it's sometimes referred to, provides you with powerful benefits that are well worth the cost: First, there's "QST" magazine, the monthly publication that provides up-to-date information about every facet of ham radio. Second, there is the "members only" section of the ARRL's website ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)), which has a wealth of technical information on hand for your use. Third and perhaps most important, the ARRL is there to represent Amateur Radio to government and other entities whose support we need if we're to keep our operating privileges. Without the League, there would be no ham radio!
- 3. JOIN YOUR LOCAL CLUB.** Your local Amateur Radio club or society is the place where you can make local ham friends, get advice on equipment, get hands-on assistance with that first station, support emergency communications locally, and generally have fun. Some clubs give a free year's membership to newly licensed hams. Contact them for further details. A listing of clubs in North Carolina can be found on the NC ARRL website ([www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org)).
- 4. GET ON THE AIR.** The first over-the-air conversation, what we call a QSO, is the hardest. They get easier from then on, especially as you begin making new friends.