

First HF QSO

By NOUC

for

SEMARC/WOCGM

Hey, I got my license -- what's next?

- So many things to know. Where do I start?
- Join the ARRL and use their online services
- Read publications like QST, On the Air, QEX, NCJ, CQ, etc.
- Join a local club in your area.
- Talk with other Hams. You might just find a mentor to help guide you.
- Learn and use [ITU phonetics](#) and to tell time in GMT/UTC/ZULU
- Learn about signal reporting [\(RST\)](#) and [Q signals](#).
- Know your rules, regulations and restrictions for your license class.

What does a contact sound like?

- Best way to learn what a QSO sounds like is by listening.
- We've studied our list so now we know what to listen for.
- In today's world you don't need your own radio to listen.
- The internet gives us access to SDR's ([Software Defined Radio](#))
- Get a [logbook](#) or bound notebook so you can log your SWL
- Listen to on air bulletins WWV, CHU, W1AW
- Listen to on-air QSO's and Nets. Listen for procedures and protocols
- Listen for good and bad operators. Emulate the good ones.

Almost ready to key the microphone switch

- The easiest way is to visit one of SEMARC's operating events.
- Come early and watch or help set up the radios and equipment needed for the event. Hands on learning is enjoyable with friends.
- You may want to start by helping log QSO's before grabbing the mic. This gives a chance to learn the lingo of the event and be ready to make that first call. Don't worry, you've prepared for this.
- Take your turn at the microphone and have fun. This is Ham radio.

Building your own Amateur Radio station

- You don't need to start with the world's best! Have a budget you can afford for the hobby. It is easy to over spend just starting out.
- Number one on the list is picking a location for your antenna because your station will not work without one and it's the hardest part.
- Maybe you will want to start with a portable station.
- Building or picking an antenna that will fit your situation and budget.
- Find a location for the radio and associated equipment.
- How does the equipment get powered and where does it come from?
- How do the signals from the antenna get to the radio?

Building a Station continues

- Remember that building a station is an ongoing process. Start simple. You can always add or modify in the future. The object is to get on the air so you can learn and enjoy the hobby. You don't have to buy new.
- Links <http://www.websdr.org/>
- <https://skywavelinux.com/best-sdrservers.html?frequency=14250&mode=usb>
- [https://hamwaves.com/propagation/en/index.html#:~:text=The%20maximum%20usable%20frequency%20\(MUF, via%20refraction%20by%20the%20ionosphere.](https://hamwaves.com/propagation/en/index.html#:~:text=The%20maximum%20usable%20frequency%20(MUF, via%20refraction%20by%20the%20ionosphere.)

Thanks for Attending

73

Dick Roberts N0UC

For

South East Metro Amateur Radio Club