

*--BVARC February 2012 Meeting Presentation--*  
**“I Have My License.....Now What?”**  
**by Rick Hiller – W5RH**

With a newly licensed Amateur Radio Operator, trepidation is rampant. Hundreds of questions exist: What radio should I buy? What antenna should I use? Should I buy an HT? Can I get on HF? What if I interfere with the TV? And, on and on and on. Always remember, Ham Radio is a hobby and a “journey”, NOT a destination. All great things take time.

First order, of your new Ham agenda, is to grab onto an Elmer’s coattails and hang on. Elmer’s are very important in the beginning and throughout your Ham Radio journey. An Elmer is, simply, someone who helps you in the hobby. They can be young or old. They play a very important role for the new Ham. They can provide that needed guidance through the many technical and operational issues that you are presented with. Having a good Elmer makes the hobby of Amateur Radio just a whole lot more fun. Elmer’s received the moniker when Rod Newkirk wrote about “Elmer” in QST in 1971 in his ‘How’s DX’ column

Technician is, now, the entry level Ham Radio license. Although you are given only limited privileges on HF (1.8 MHz thru 30 MHz) you do have full use of the bands 50 MHz and higher. So, from 6 Meters all the way up to 300 MHz you can play to your hearts (and brains) content. Yes, most of the activity within the hobby is on HF, 6 and 2 Meters, but there is plenty to do on these upper VHF, and above, bands.

The way to attack this hobby is two-fold:

One – always be open to new knowledge on any aspect of the hobby. For example, you like to work 10 Meters SSB. But do not stray too far from information about EmComm work, or VHF Contesting. You will be able to garner much helpful information this way.

Two--pick one aspect of the Hobby and really dig into it. Make it a “Special Interest” for a few months or for a life time, but become an expert. This might be where the passion of one’s self takes over from the avocation side of the brain. As stated, you don’t have to stick with this one area forever....just, learn all you can about it, use it on the air and if you get tired of it, move on to your next Special Interest.

Within the presentation I referenced some articles. This reference list is copied below. All articles that were referenced (see the sheets below) were in QST magazine within the past 2 years. Why only 2 years? Well, they are easy to obtain, they use current language and they talk about current technology. Note: As we travel through this hobby over the decades, the terminology changes, the electronics changes and the materials that we use to implement the hobby has changed. So, for the beginning Ham, let’s limit the scope of study or the available references, anyway. The listed references cover all aspects of the hobby. 26 current QST magazines that are a great source of information.

A wide variety of subjects are covered each month within the pages of QST. There are contiguous monthly columns that focus on different aspects, i.e. ‘The World Above 50 MHz’ – a column on weak signal activity on 6 meters and up. A lot of electronics development is going on in that area of the hobby. Some other columns that are appropriate are : ‘How’s DX?’, or ‘Hands On Radio’, or ‘The Doctor is In’. These columns offer you a chance to delve into a specific area of the hobby or learn something new about another area of Ham Radio.

So, I will leave it with you. Go out and find that Elmer. Then have a good look around and find that area of the hobby to jump into in a big way. Partake of BVARC Club activities and, through that, you will slowly find out who does what and who is an expert in the area in which you are interested. 73.....Rick – W5RH

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## February 9, 2012 BVARC Presentation -- QST References

Jan 2010	*Magnetic Mount Antenna	46	Sep (cont'd)	Discovering D-STAR	72
Feb 2010	Why Not AM?	43		<u>How's DX – Beginner Tips</u>	83
	CW Keys	33	Oct 2010	70cm J-Pole	42
Mar 2010	*Grounds for Verticals	30		<u>The Amateur's Code</u>	98
	*Peak Reading Meter	41	Nov 2010	WSPR'ing Around the World	75
	*Remote Tuners for 43'ers	47	Dec 2010	Selecting VHF Handheld	40
	*Remote Antenna Tuners	64	Jan 2011	Moonbounce on a Budget	37
Apr 2010	*Real World Dipole	47		*Coax Entrance	46
	<u>When Not to Operate</u>	74		*Feeding Bal Ant w/Coax	61
May 2010	*Window Feed Thru	32		Tools for DIY	65
	<u>Why Can't Stns Hear Me?</u>	46		2011 ARRL Handbook	69
	Dual Lever Paddles – Part 1	47		<u>Life's 2 short, Do more Radio</u>	83
	*Diplexer/Duplexer	38		<u>6 Meters – Magic Band Pt1</u>	90
Jun 2010	ALE-400 ARQ FAE—Digital	34	Feb 2011	Get Ready for ARISSat1	30
	*Fan Dipole – 80 Thru 6	41		*Select the Best Coax	49
	<u>Receiver Sensitivity</u>	43		MicroHam DigiKeyerII	63
	Dual Lever Paddles Part 2	49		<u>LoTW—Modern tool</u>	70
	ISS	64		Solar Power School STN	76
	<u>Trade Secrets of Beg. DX'ers</u>	89		<u>6 Meters—Magic Band Pt2</u>	92
Jul 2010	*Simple /Effective Stn Gnds	40	Mar 2011	*First Commercial Ant	50
	Universal Snd Card Interf.	37		<u>Art of Conversation</u>	73
Aug 2010	Stn Pro Master Console	30		Program Your Local Rpter	74
	XCVR to Amplifier Interf.	39		HT Go Kit	81
	*Who R U calling Dummy?	46		Maintaining Ur Station	94
Sep 2010	DC Power Connector Pref.	37	Apr 2011	<u>Sounding Good on the Air</u>	41
	*Attic Ant. Experiments	42		JT-65 The Musical Mode	45

Apr (cont'd)	<u>Can U Read Me Now?</u>	68	Nov 2011	*How High HF Vertical?	51
May 2011	*Selecting The Right Ant.	44		Android/Apple Apps for HR	69
	Solar Power Backup	37		Insurance for Your	71
June 2011	*HF Ant. Optimum Height	33		<u>Splitting Up / Wrking Splits</u>	75
	*SWR, Refl Pwr ?	36		<u>Never ending Field Day</u>	78
	<u>Get Up and GOTA</u>	68	Dec 2011	*Dual Band Slim Jim V/UHF	41
	<u>Looney Tuners</u>	71		*HF Beam Holiday Gift	61
July 2011	<u>Solar Indicies Meaning?</u>	37	Jan 2012	Low Impact Mobile Install	45
	<u>After the 73's (sic)</u>	63		<u>DX'ing for Lil'Pistol</u>	65
	<u>Listening to the Top--DX</u>	85		<u>Sorry OM, Not in Log</u>	72
Aug 2011	*Antenna Tuners Do 4 Us	52	Feb 2012	*Avoiding Probs in RF Chain	30
	<u>To Log or Not</u>	61		*Double Ur Mobile Ant Use	41
Sep 2011	New Car RFI?	39		*Type N Plugs	51
Oct 2011	CW – The Old Twitter	71		<u>Beginners QRP Moonbounce73</u>	
	<u>LoTW QSL's to the Bank</u>	76		<u>ARRL DX – Success Lil Pistol</u>	83

Key -- \* ---Subject is Antenna Systems Underline – Subject is Operating

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Online References: [Hamuniverse.com](http://Hamuniverse.com) [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org) [AC6V.com](http://AC6V.com) [DXZone.com](http://DXZone.com) [eham.net/newham](http://eham.net/newham)

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