

Dear Instructors and Teachers,

I've received lots of good suggestions and questions from instructors and teachers since my April newsletter. Thank you! And I am aware that our newsletter didn't reach a significant number of you last month. I hope we have a better success rate this time. (We're using a different bulk mail tool this time and I'm attaching the April newsletter again for those of you who didn't receive it earlier.)

### ***The Ham Radio License Manual***

Though many of you have recognized the improvement in the presentation of the content for the licensing exam in ARRL's new Technician licensing manual, many of you have also shared frustration and pointed out deficiencies with the new *Ham Radio License Manual* released last June. I think we owe you an explanation for the different approach we took in the complete re-write of the Technician manual last year.

But before I get into those explanations I'd like to offer our apologies for the lack of communication that surrounded the release of the new manual. It would have been courteous for us to advise you ahead of time of the new approach being taken so you would have been better prepared to integrate the changes into your instruction plans. Needless to say we have been out of touch over the past few years as organizational changes and personnel changes left voids in some areas of our field support. Since the Education Services Department has been re-established we hope to renew an active relationship with you and avert the unnecessary complications caused by this recent situation in the future.

With the June 2006 revisions of the Technician licensing manual we adopted a new philosophy for presenting the content the student needs to understand the framework for the licensing exam questions. Rather than presenting the material attempting to follow the order of the question pool, which inherently has little instructional framework, as in the past, we created a course syllabus that approaches the presentation of the content areas the exam addresses in a building block approach. This is a

sounder instructional strategy and provides a better logic for understanding the content.

This new strategy threw a curve to those of you who are used to instructing following question pool sequence. For those of you who use a more subject focused approach it was less of a sea change. And when the first printing of the new manual failed to include a cross-reference to the question pool questions, many of you wondered just what we were thinking! Well the truth is, we just ran out of time getting the book to press in advance of release of the new question pool. Many of you expressed frustration with other errors too. We do apologize. We received the final revised question pool in January and had to meet an end of March press deadline in order to have the book available for sale in mid-May. As you can imagine, a complete revision of the entire manual in 2 ½ months is quite a challenge!

In spite of the editorial lapses we're very pleased with what Ward Silver, N0AX was able to do to make the content accessible and engaging for students. With the second printing of the manual late last year we were able to fix most of the significant oversights.

### ***Web support page for Technician license manual***

I also want to make you aware of a very valuable supplemental resource on our website that is specifically designed to support the *Ham Radio License Manual*. Again we are guilty of poor communication. On the first preface page at the beginning of the manual you will find a URL listed that is the supporting Web page for the manual and for students who are using the manual. This is a Web page where we are posting corrections and updates to the manual for instructors and students, but it is also a location where students will find supplemental information that will reinforce and assist with license study. I encourage you to check out this information and to direct your students to it. You can find it at: [www.arrl.org/hrlm](http://www.arrl.org/hrlm)

Since I've been in communication with you this past month, I've also learned that instructors and students would benefit from a study guide that would provide the

question pool questions in sequence and correlated to the manual content. Some instructors have developed such a tool for their own use. Because of the requests we've received we have developed this as well. You will find the new Study Guide posted on the Web page at [www.arrl.org/hrlm](http://www.arrl.org/hrlm).

### ***New General Class licensing materials to be released in June***

Finally, and of equal importance, I noted in the April newsletter that we are working on a new publication of a licensing manual for the General Class. This new manual is in response to the new question pool released in January that will become effective for FCC exams July 1 of this year. As with the Technician level manual, we have commissioned Ward Silver to edit this manual following the curriculum approach rather than the question pool sequence used in previous manuals. As you prepare for instruction after July of this year you will want to take this into account. This manual is being printed and will be available for sale in early June. The *General Class Q&A* will follow later in the month. Ward has also developed material for a supplemental Web page providing extra resources for students using this manual which will be posted on our website in June. As we have done for the Technician manual, a Study Guide for students providing the question pool in sequence to the material in the manual is being prepared and will be posted on the Web support page which will have the following URL: <http://www.arrl.org/gclm/>

### ***General Class instructor manual in development***

Mark Spencer, WA8SME, is preparing a new Instructors' Manual that will include instructional aids for General Class instruction planned for release this fall. Those of you who have developed your own tools for instruction of General Class material are invited to share them with Mark as he compiles ideas and tools for inclusion in this new manual. You can send your ideas and materials to him ([mspencer@arrl.org](mailto:mspencer@arrl.org)) or to me ([djohnson@arrl.org](mailto:djohnson@arrl.org)).

73,

-Debra K1DMJ

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### **Rose-Anne Lawrence is Now Education Services Assistant**

Many of you have already been in contact with Rose-Anne in her former role in the Publications Dept. when ordering instructional materials or recruiting materials. Her role has changed since she has moved into the Education



Services Department and she will now be devoting most of her time to instructor support and helping to identify and develop resources to support instruction. She will continue to take care of instructor and teacher registration and she is available to answer questions you have about our resources and education programs.

Going forward, your routine publication orders will be handled most efficiently if you direct them to our publications department at our toll free number, 888-277-5289. Please mention your eligibility for the Instructor/Teacher discount when you place your order for instructional materials. To receive your 25% discount you must order by phone.

### **Welcome Jennie Davis to Education Services!**



Jennie is our part-time Continuing Education Program Administrator. She provides support for our on-line courses. Her responsibilities include setting up our courses and registering students, linking mentors

to courses, dealing with password and login issues and answering other questions that arise from students and mentors. ARRL offers a selection of courses, including a Technician licensing course, in an on-line format. If you are not familiar with the courses ARRL offers on-line you can investigate at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>

### **Basic Electronics Course and Kit Available**

You may already have read about this instructional resource in *QST* or on our website, but in case you missed it, you may want to check it out. Since acquiring the parts for the demonstration kit can be difficult, we've assembled some ready-made kits to accompany the course instruction (the lessons are included with the kit on a CD). These kits are available from ARRL at \$45 plus shipping. Your instructor/teacher discount can be applied to the purchase. Click on the following link to read more about the course content.

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/articles/2005/0209/>