



Press Release

PR18 – 015

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LEARN TO BE A HAM RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES START FEBRUARY 21st

Chino Hills, CA – The first-ever series of Amateur Radio license classes offered in Chino Hills have been a great success! The Chino Hills Auxiliary Radio Team, also known as CHART, wanted to bring classes to the community. According to CHART member Ed Rau, they are thrilled with the turnout!

Ham radio operators must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Once licensed, ham radio operators can communicate with others even when there is no power or cell service. Six-week courses are conducted at the Chino Hills Community Center, 14250 Peyton Drive.

The Technician Class license is the entry level license for ham radio operators. The Technician course culminates with a 35-question test on radio theory, regulations, and operating practices. A Technician Class license allows a ham radio operator to communicate locally, and most often, within North America. The General Class license grants some additional radio operating privileges and opens the door to world-wide communications. General Class licensees must already hold a Technician Class license or have recently passed the Technician exam. The top level of amateur radio licenses is the Amateur Extra license. Course instructors include Ed Rau (General license), Chuck Sweeten (Amateur Extra license), and Marta Carrigan (General license).

Both the Technician Class and General Class will be offered concurrently on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m. starting on February 21st with the testing administered on March 28th. Currently, the February session only has openings in the General Class. The classes will be offered again starting Wednesday, April 4th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. with final testing on May 9th. Future sessions will be held July 11th to August 15th, August 29th to October 3rd, and October 10th to November 14th.

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Participants will be required to purchase their own course book: the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Ham Radio License Manual for the Technician Class; or, the ARRL General Class License Manual prior to the first class meeting. Each student will be charged \$20, in advance, which includes the testing fee and instructor charge. For additional information about the classes, please send an email to ChinoHillsHamTest@outlook.com and a member of the CHART team will respond.

The CHART team members are ham radio operators who have volunteered their time since 1994. They are official disaster service workers for the City of Chino Hills and provide emergency communications services during emergencies and other disasters. CHART welcomes new members. Their meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Chino Hills Community Center, 14250 Peyton Drive. Weekly nets are held every Thursday, except on the CHART meeting night, at 7 p.m. CHART's tactical frequency is 145.510 simplex. The City's 220 Mhz repeater frequency is 224.720 pl 127.3 - offset. For more information on CHART meetings or volunteering, please contact Richard Boltinghouse, the City's Emergency Services Coordinator, at (909) 364-2713.

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