

# AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Presentation at SBARA

Feb. 14, 2014

# Background

- **The Volunteer Examiner (VE) Program: A Brief History**
  - **Prior to 1982**, the FCC conducted the testing at its field offices around the country on specified schedules. FCC examiners also traveled to remote locations to provide exams periodically.
  - In late 1982, a bill, known as Public Law 97-259, amended the Communications Act of 1934, permitting the FCC to accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of licensed radio amateurs to serve in preparing and administering examinations.

# Background (more)

- Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) were formed in early 1984 to oversee the work of their certified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and serve as a liaison between the VEs and the FCC.
- A **Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC)** is an organization that has entered into an agreement with the FCC to coordinate the efforts of individual Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in preparing and administering examinations for Amateur Radio licenses.
- Currently there are 14 VECs in the United States.
- The ARRL/VEC began coordinating exams in September 1984. With our first exam session held on September 2 at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in California.

# Presently

- The ARRL/VEC has accredited more than 50,000 VEs, who have administered more than 1,250,000 exam elements at more than 90,000 test sessions!
- In it's present form the Tri-City VE Group began in 2009.
- The Tri-City VE Group reports to the ARRL/VEC.
  - Exam materials and support from the VEC.
  - Exam results to the VEC for submission to the FCC.

- Tri-City VE exam sessions
  - Odd months on second Saturday morning
  - Even months on second Tuesday evening
  - Special sessions
    - “ON THE ROAD” – for groups such as TSA & LDS
    - On an individual basis for special-needs candidates
  
- Each session requires at least three qualified VEs for the exam levels being taken:
  - A General class licensed VE may grade Technician exams
  - An Extra class licensed VE may grade all exam levels
  - A VE may become a Field Examiner for grading the EC-001 exam

- Other session support positions:
  - Forms - Assists candidates with filling out the application forms
  - Registration – Checks candidate’s photo id, checks paperwork for completeness
  - Money – Collects exam fee, stamps paperwork with “PAID”
  - Exam – Selects appropriate exam, codes exam serials and grading key number on candidate’s answer sheet
  - Runner – Brings candidates to the exam room
  - Proctor – Monitors and assists the candidates (pencils, scratch paper, calculators)

- Other session support positions:
  - Runner – Brings candidates from the exam room area after grading and gives them their exam results
  - GOTA – Get ‘em on the air right away!
- All are welcome to help!

For information about becoming a VE:

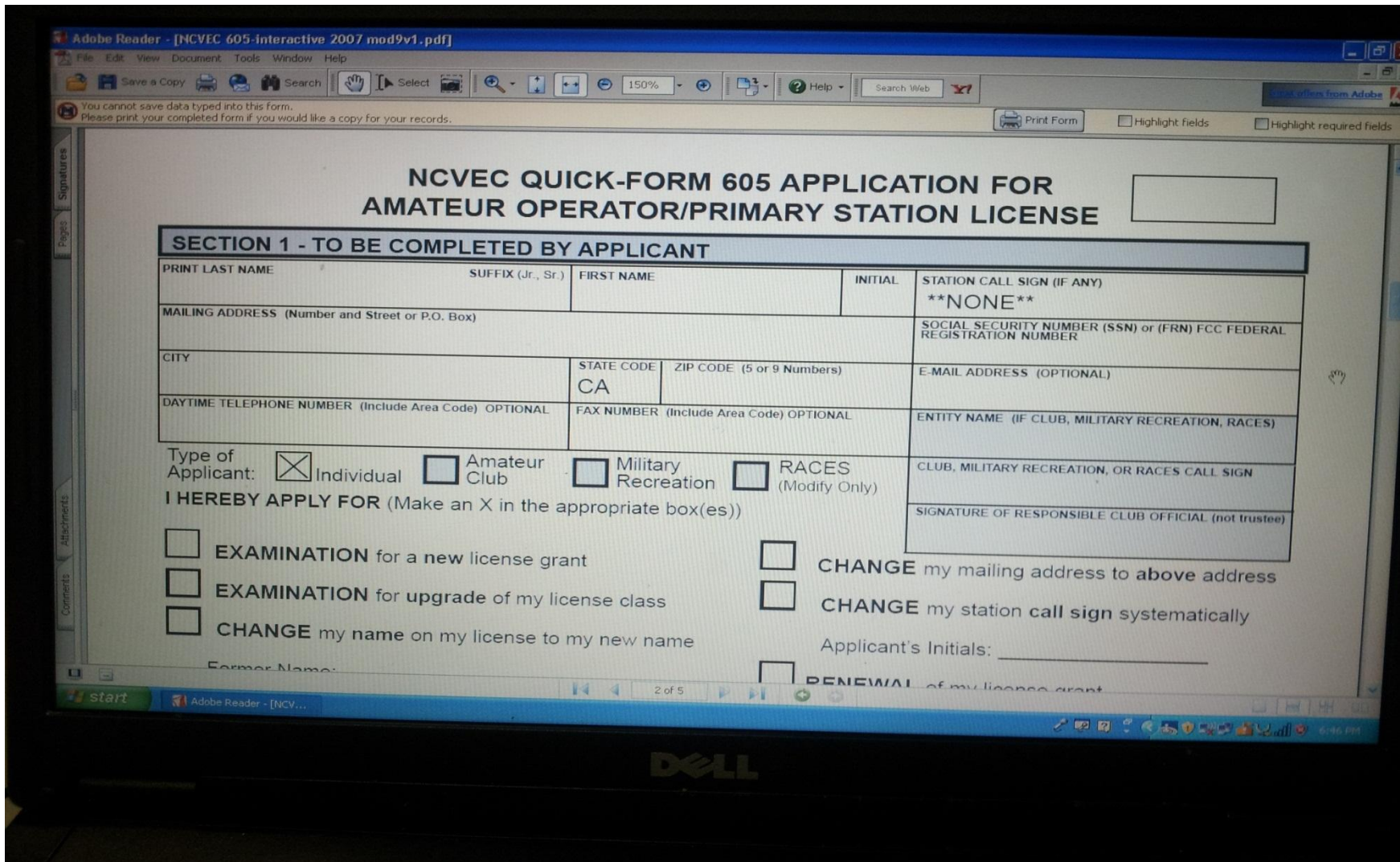
- <http://www.arri.org/become-an-arri-ve>

# Slideshow!



The Registration stations





Fill in the form on the screen – makes it easier to read!



Forms and Registration czars



Examination room - QUIET PLEASE



Proctors/Graders

# Quiz

**When is the transmission of codes or ciphers allowed to hide the meaning of a message transmitted by an amateur station?**

- A. Only during contests
- B. Only when operating mobile
- C. Only when transmitting control commands to space stations or radio control craft
- D. Only when frequencies above 1280 MHz are used

**Which of the following must be true before amateur stations may provide communications to broadcasters for dissemination to the public?**

- A. The communications must directly relate to the immediate safety of human life or protection of property and there must be no other means of communication reasonably available before or at the time of the event
- B. The communications must be approved by a local emergency preparedness official and conducted on officially designated frequencies
- C. The FCC must have declared a state of emergency
- D. All of these choices are correct

**What is a telecommand station in the amateur satellite service?**

- A. An amateur station located on the Earth's surface for communications with other Earth stations by means of Earth satellites
- B. An amateur station that transmits communications to initiate, modify or terminate functions of a space station
- C. An amateur station located more than 50 km above the Earth's surface
- D. An amateur station that transmits telemetry consisting of measurements of upper atmosphere data from space

**If equipment causes harmful interference to radio or television reception, which of these is NOT a good way to resolve the issue?**

- A. Dynamite
- B. Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- C. Consult the dealer
- D. Connect equipment to a different circuit than that to which the receiver is connected

# Links:

For information about becoming a VE:

- <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

Tri-City VE Group information:

- <http://www.sbara.org/> 'License Exams'
- <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/tri-city-ve-group>