



I have earned my amateur license....what's the next step?

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I will use the analogy "The Car". I have my license. What kind of car should I buy? (radio) Should I join a "club"..car, truck, hot rod..? (SCIRA, ARRL, church, civic) Where should i go ? (ERC, contesting, base station DX, etc) Talk to an experienced "driver" (Elmer)

How many need to purchase a radio ?

The Radio (car): Perhaps start with a hand held (HT) DUAL BAND, manufactures, models and prices vary from \$40 to \$350 +

Baofeng Chinese radio Amazon \$40 UV-5R series, **with larger battery**

[https://www.amazon.com/Baofeng-Transceiver-Upgrade-Version-Earpiece/dp/B00CWPAIBW/ref=sr_1_6?](https://www.amazon.com/Baofeng-Transceiver-Upgrade-Version-Earpiece/dp/B00CWPAIBW/ref=sr_1_6?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466959270&sr=1-6&keywords=BAOFENG+UV-5R)

[s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466959270&sr=1-6&keywords=BAOFENG+UV-5R](https://www.amazon.com/Baofeng-Transceiver-Upgrade-Version-Earpiece/dp/B00CWPAIBW/ref=sr_1_6?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466959270&sr=1-6&keywords=BAOFENG+UV-5R)

Pros: Cheap price. Good quality. "disposable"

Cons: Need CHIRP program and programming cable to program frequencies into memories. Rubber duck antenna provides no gain.

The better antenna (better tires): will provide gain in your signal 2.15 dBi

Amazon Nagoya NA 771 \$17 Do not buy the cheap Chinese rip offs.

https://www.amazon.com/Authentic-NA-771-15-6-Inch-SMA-Female-BaoFeng/dp/B00KC4PWQQ/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466959670&sr=1-1-spons&keywords=NAGoya+NA+771&psc=1

Programming Cable. PC03 FTDI \$21 "Authentic Genuine USB programming cable for Baofeng, Kenwood, Wouxun, Anyone" HT radios. Sold by BAOFENG. Beware of cheap Chinese rip offs who send mini CD. Or who do not provide the drivers required.

[https://www.amazon.com/Authentic-Genuine-Programming-Cable-BaoFeng/dp/B00HUB0ONK/ref=sr_1_3?](https://www.amazon.com/Authentic-Genuine-Programming-Cable-BaoFeng/dp/B00HUB0ONK/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466961430&sr=1-3&keywords=BAOFENG+programming+cable)

[s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466961430&sr=1-3&keywords=BAOFENG+programming+cable](https://www.amazon.com/Authentic-Genuine-Programming-Cable-BaoFeng/dp/B00HUB0ONK/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466961430&sr=1-3&keywords=BAOFENG+programming+cable)

Pro: This cable works. Do not use cheap rip offs.

Con: Price. Buy one cable; share cost with others.

CHIRP program: Free of charge. Development of CHIRP is an all-volunteer effort and is offered as open-source software.

Pros: Free

Cons: Not professionally designed. Changes. I find it difficult to run on my MacBook

<http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Download>

Yaesu, Japanese radio Amazon \$170. FT-60R Sold at Ham Radio Outlet, other ham radio stores and on line.

https://www.amazon.com/Yaesu-FT-60R-Handheld-Amateur-Transceiver/dp/B00Q1UYR1G/ref=sr_1_1?

[s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466960389&sr=1-1&keywords=Yaseu](https://www.amazon.com/Yaesu-FT-60R-Handheld-Amateur-Transceiver/dp/B00Q1UYR1G/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1466960389&sr=1-1&keywords=Yaseu)

Pros: Good quality. Proven design. repairable. Ease of programming. Moderate price.

Cons: rubber duck antenna.

The better antenna: Diamond SRH77CA \$29 gain 2.1 dBi @440MHz. Do not use cheap Chinese rip offs. Always look for the specification on GAIN.

https://www.amazon.com/Diamond-Original-SRH77CA-Dual-Band-Handheld/dp/B00K1JJWFO/ref=pd_sim_107_2?

[ie=UTF8&dpID=11VXRTERKfL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR160%2C160 &psc=1&refRID=80YP9B8RT2W286DVSC78](https://www.amazon.com/Diamond-Original-SRH77CA-Dual-Band-Handheld/dp/B00K1JJWFO/ref=pd_sim_107_2?ie=UTF8&dpID=11VXRTERKfL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR160%2C160 &psc=1&refRID=80YP9B8RT2W286DVSC78)

How many would like the benefits of belonging to an organization ? (club)

The “Club”: Join your local church group, civic group, RACES, etc.

Join SCIRA, Inc. \$35 per year. Download the membership brochure:

<http://www.scirainc.org/join.php>

Use the repeaters and simplex frequencies. Attend a meeting for support, get details.

Join ARRL 160,000 members \$49 per year. Supports ham efforts. Technical books, QST magazine. <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

Roadside help: (AAA) Educate your family and neighbors on how to prepare for an emergency. “Keep the car in tip top shape”

Ready Foothills: by Rob KE6YGF <http://www.readyfoothills.com/>

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Produced by Orange County California LDS members. Great information. Helpful, professional videos, printed literature for you and your neighbors. Help teach your neighbors how to be prepared.

<http://www.nhnpreparedness.com/>

Emergency Training: Learn how to safely put out the fire in the “car” and move it off the roadway. “The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.” (As a ham operator you have an added skill, being able to communicate during an emergency.) Join a team or start a team in your neighborhood.

<http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/lacofd-cert-program/lacofd-cert-registration/>

<https://www.citizencorps.fema.gov/cc/listCert.do>

<https://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>

<https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-teams-cert>

Talk to experienced “drivers” (Elmer) Ask for help from the person who encouraged you get a license. Hams in your church unit, civic or city group. SCIRA Inc., ARRL, Community ham radio groups.