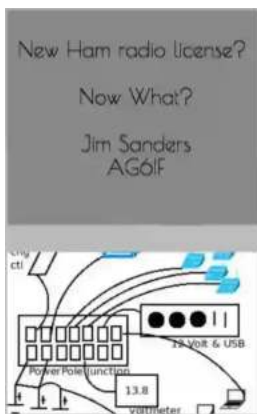


New Ham Radio License: Now What? - Jim Sanders AG6IF



Congratulations! You have just earned your new ham radio license. You are now officially a licensed amateur radio operator. But what's next? How can you make the most out of your license?

In this article, we will delve into the exciting world of ham radio and provide you with guidance on how to kickstart your journey as a ham radio operator. We will also introduce you to Jim Sanders, an experienced ham radio operator with the callsign AG6IF, who will share his valuable insights and experiences throughout the article.



New Ham radio license, Now What? Jim Sanders AG6IF: Jim Sanders AG6IF

by James Sanders(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2805 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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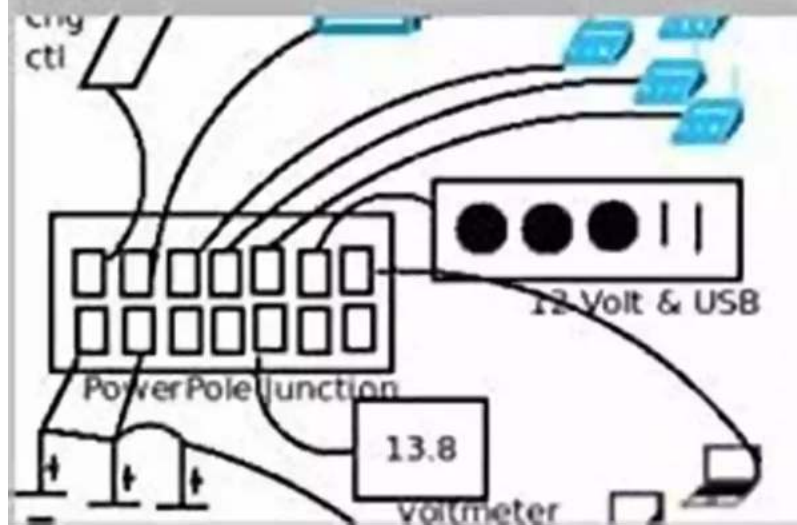
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New Ham radio license?

Now What?

Jim Sanders
AG6IF



Setting Up Your Ham Radio Station

Before you start experimenting with your new license, you need to set up your ham radio station. This will be your command center for all your ham radio operations. Jim Sanders, a knowledgeable operator with decades of experience, advises new license holders to start with the following essentials:

- Get a reliable transceiver: The transceiver is the heart of your station. Invest in a quality transceiver that suits your needs.
- Choose an appropriate antenna: Antennas come in various types and designs. Depending on your operating preferences and limitations, select an antenna that provides optimal performance.
- Power supply and accessories: Ensure your station has a reliable power source to avoid interruptions during your communication. Invest in necessary accessories like a microphone, headphones, and cables.
- Construct a comfortable operating space: Set up a dedicated area where you can comfortably operate your station without distractions.



Getting Started with Operation Modes

Now that your station is ready, it's time to dive into the operation modes available to ham radio operators. Jim Sanders highlights some popular modes and their applications:

- **Single Sideband (SSB):** SSB is the most common voice communication mode. It allows long-distance transmissions and is widely used in amateur radio contests.
- **FM (Frequency Modulation):** FM is primarily used for local communications. It's ideal for chatting with nearby hams and participating in local nets and emergency communications.
- **Digital Modes:** Digital modes like PSK31 and RTTY enable text-based communication. These modes are known for their efficiency and resilience in poor signal conditions.



“Jim Sanders advises new license holders to experiment with different modes to discover the ones that align with their interests and goals.”

Expand Your Knowledge: Join Clubs and Communities

Becoming part of the ham radio community can greatly enhance your experience and learning. Amateur radio clubs and online communities offer a wealth of knowledge, mentorship, and opportunities to connect with fellow operators. Jim Sanders recommends approaching these communities:

- **Local Amateur Radio Clubs:** Find a club near you and attend meetings and events. You can learn from experienced operators, get help with technical issues, and participate in contests and field exercises.

- **Online Forums and Social Media Groups:** Connect with the wider ham community by joining online forums and social media groups. These platforms enable you to ask questions, share experiences, and gain valuable insights.
- **Participate in Ham Radio Events:** Look out for Hamfests and conventions happening in your area or online. These events bring together hams from all walks of life and provide excellent networking opportunities.

Embrace Public Service: Emergency Communications and ARES

Amateur radio operators play a vital role in providing backup communication during emergencies and disasters. One organization that facilitates emergency communications is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Jim Sanders has been an active member of ARES and shares the importance of this service:



““Being part of ARES gives you the chance to contribute to your community, develop your skills further, and provide assistance when it matters the most,” says Jim Sanders.”

ARES provides communication support during natural disasters, severe weather events, and other emergencies. As a licensed amateur radio operator, you can join ARES and undergo specialized training to effectively assist in emergency situations.

Furthering Your License: Advancing to Higher Classes

As you gain experience in the world of ham radio, you may consider upgrading your license class. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) offers three license classes: Technician, General, and Extra. Each class opens up new

frequencies and privileges. Jim Sanders encourages operators to strive for higher license classes:



“Advancing to higher classes allows you to experiment with a wider range of frequencies, use more power, and access additional operating privileges. It adds more excitement and possibilities to your ham radio journey,” advises Jim Sanders.”

With your new ham radio license, you have embarked on an exciting adventure. Setting up your station, experimenting with different operation modes, joining communities, engaging in public service, and pursuing higher license classes will enrich your experience as an amateur radio operator.

Jim Sanders, AG6IF, has shown us that the world of ham radio is full of opportunities to learn, connect, and serve. So embrace this remarkable hobby, make those long-distance contacts, and continue exploring the ever-evolving world of ham radio!



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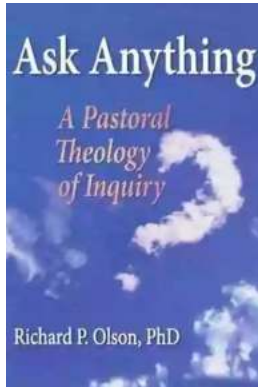
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This document is inspired by every ham radio operator who obtained their license and then never pushed a PTT because they didn't know what to do next, or who

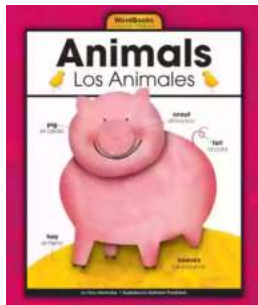
to talk to.

You will find help thinking through some of the decisions that you will be faced with as you begin your ham radio adventure.



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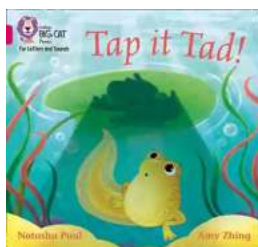
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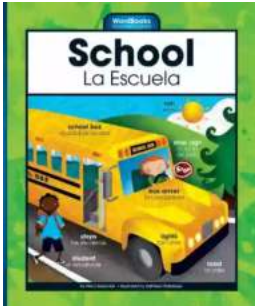
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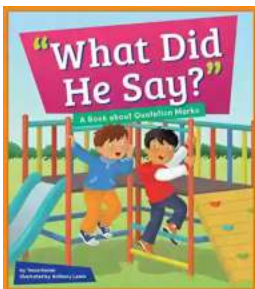
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