



We mentioned in the last issue that a number of members are getting licenses. How do they do it? Here's a first hand account from Don and Ruellene Eaton, KN0TME, and KN0TEE, on the requirements and the process they used to get their licenses.

## License to Ham

It's kind of like driving - if you want to enjoy the privilege, you need to get a license. The difference is that in amateur radio, getting a "ticket" is a GOOD thing! In the last few years the FCC has changed some things for amateurs. There are now three basic licenses: Technician, General and Amateur Extra. The Morse code requirement is now 5 words per minute and only for those who want the General or Amateur Extra licenses. (A Technician who passes the code test is able to have limited code privileges on several high frequency bands.) That's it. Answer 27 questions correctly out of 35 and you can pass your Technician test and have all privileges on all the UHF and VHF bands. You're a ham!

To help you pass the test, the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio, has published several books to make the process quite painless. Trust me! For example, the first (and maybe only) book you will need says it all on the cover: "Now You're Talking! All You Need for Your First Amateur Radio License". The book takes you through each element on the Technician exam and includes ALL the questions in the pool from which 35 are drawn from for the exam - and answers to them. There is a companion book that contains just the questions and answers that is helpful for quick study sessions when you get the chance. There are similar books for the General and Amateur Extra class. To get you through the Morse code test, the ARRL has lessons and practice on CD's. Their web page at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) has everything you would want to know about amateur radio.

When you think you're ready, you can find practice tests at [e-ham.net](http://e-ham.net). I found these really useful. There is another study aid by Bellevue author Michael Crick called "Ham University" on CD. It will help you with both code and written exam practice.

Each fall for the last 30 years, I have been promising myself that I would get my license over the winter...and each spring I would find that other things (excuses) had gotten in the way. This year, I took the advice of an SYC amateur and made the commitment to do it. The center of that commitment was getting a radio and listening to

what I was missing! That was in January. In March, my lady Ruellene and I both passed the Technician exam. She believes that girls can do anything better than boys and proved it by beating me on the Technician test. To the FCC, and other amateurs she is: "KN0TEE." She wimped out though and didn't take the Morse code test, which I passed. Then in May I passed the General exam. Maybe next winter I'll work on the Amateur Extra license. I hope it doesn't take another 30 years!

## BC Amateur Radio Boating Pennant

Ron Drinkwater, VE7AIX (formerly VE7LEA), designed this marine Amateur Radio pennant. It is individually handmade by Ruth Reader, VE7BAG, and is now flown in 12 countries. If you would like

one - contact Ruth at (250) 746-5831, [rreader@shaw.ca](mailto:rreader@shaw.ca), or write to: 140 Campbell Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3G8.

W7SYC - For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee:

send an email to [radio@seattleyachtclub.org](mailto:radio@seattleyachtclub.org).  
The next meeting is scheduled for September 29th, Thursday, at Portage Bay Mainstation.



## Leukemia Cup

Congratulations to Brian Watkins, Chair of this years Leukemia Cup that helped raise over \$120,000 for the Society. SYC had over a dozen boats (sail and power) out there raising money. SYC and CYC are the two yacht clubs that are the official sponsors of this event. Thank you to all the SYCers who donated their time and money for this worthy cause. We are looking forward to a large SYC participation in 2006.