

## Press Release

Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier, Inc.  
Charlie Santi, Secretary  
Release date: 10/21/2011

### Technician Class Amateur Radio License Course

Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier, Inc. (ARAST) and the Science & Discovery Center (SDC) will be hosting a class in Amateur Radio starting November 2, 2011, at the Town and Country Fire Department in Horseheads, NY, for ages 9 to 18. The class will run for 6 weeks, and after completing the course, students that pass an FCC exam will earn an Amateur Radio Technician class license.

Classes will run from 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM each day. The class dates are Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, and Dec. 7, 14.

For more information, contact Charlie Santi at 607-481-0908 or Mark Schoonover at 607-734-8823.

The course will provide students with the basic information on the use and science of Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio has become the backbone of emergency communications in the United States; ham radio facilitates assistance in local disasters, as in the recent flooding that took place in our area.

Amateur Radio has come into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in several ways: training in Morse Code is no longer required, and communications with the International Space Station are possible.

The instructors for the course will be ARRL instructor Charlie Santi (KA2BED) and SDC educator Mark Schoonover (KD5KVI), and the class will feature both classroom and hands-on learning.

The course fee is \$30, which includes the cost of the textbook. To take the exam, there is a \$15 fee, due the morning of the exam. As incentives to take the course, ARAST will offer a free 1 year membership to ARAST upon passing the exam, and ARAST will reimburse the course fees to any student under 18 who earns their license by February 26, 2012. As well, for those under-18 students who earn their licenses, a drawing will be held for a new dual-band handheld radio.

Note to all print, audio, and video media: Charlie and Mark can be available for promotional assistance.

Both ARAST and the SDC are non-profit organizations.