

ELMER 9-1-1

One of the unique features of the Bella Vista Radio Club, is our ELMER 9-1-1 program. With such a large membership, BVRC is able to offer this invaluable resource to its members, especially newcomers to the hobby.

BVRC has a team of Elmer's (which is the ham radio term for mentor) in place to help you in just about any area of the hobby!

The process is simple – whenever you have a question, problem, or issue that you need assistance with or that is baffling you, you can get help! Simply go to the BVRC website and click the ELMER 9-1-1 tab. This will take you to a form that you simply fill-out and submit.



The screenshot shows the website for the Bella Vista Radio Club (N5BVA). The page is titled "Elmer 911" and contains a form for submitting questions. The form includes fields for "Your Name (required)", "Amateur Radio Call Sign", and "Your Email (required)". There is also a dropdown menu for "Choose your area of interest" with "Antennas" selected. The text on the page reads: "We've all been there. 'I want to try this new J55 Call mode', or 'Which logging program do I need?' Whatever it is, you have a vast resource of experienced Hams (Elmers) at your fingertips. If you can't make the next BVRC monthly meeting, or Saturday morning breakfast, you can just ask your question here. This is the beginnings of our new 'Elmer-911' program. Whatever it is, just ask and you will be put in touch with the best Elmer for your needs."

Your submission will be e-mailed to our ELMER 9-1-1 Coordinator, who will then have an Elmer with expertise in the area you're having a problem with to contact you and aid you in finding the solution to your dilemma.

The ELMER 9-1-1 program is one of the exclusive features and benefits of being a BVRC member.

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur radio – or ham radio – is a fun and exciting hobby that offers a vast array of activities!

- Talking around the world without wires
- Talking locally through repeaters
- Emergency Communications
- Contests and awards
- Contacting amateur radio satellites in space, including the International Space Station
- Using classic communication modes like Morse code and radioteletype (RTTY)
- Using new communications modes such as Automatic Position Reporting (APRS), spread spectrum, FT8, and JT65
- Foxhunting (using radio direction finding techniques to find a hidden transmitter)
- Moonbounce (contacting other amateur operators by bouncing radio waves off the moon)
- And much, much, more!



Welcome!

About Us

Our club was founded in 1993 as the Bella Vista Repeater Group. The club's name was changed to the Bella Vista Radio Club in 2014. It is the largest and fastest growing amateur radio club in the state of Arkansas. Our club is dedicated to promoting amateur (or ham) radio, different club operating activities, and to educate and provide emergency communications assistance as needed, here in Northwest Arkansas.

We provide or assist in the following:

- Mentoring of new ham licensees by experienced club members.
- VE testing for FCC licenses on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our club has accredited VEs (Volunteer Examiners) who provide testing services for new and upgrading hams.

There are two testing locations:

- Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
118 W. Johnson Ave.
Springdale, AR
10 am
 - Bella Vista Fire Station #1
103 Towncenter
Bella Vista, AR
2 pm
- We provide and maintain an open FM linked repeater system located near Bella Vista and Springdale. (See BVRC website)
 - Lots of fun and rewarding operating activities such as Field Day, Special Event Stations, contesting, etc.

Club Membership

Club dues are \$15 per year. Club membership includes all the rights and privileges of Club membership, and subscription to our outstanding newsletter, *The Signal*. Also, if you have licensed family members living at your home domicile you can enroll as a 'family membership' at no additional charge. In addition, club members who are 73 years of age and older receive a BVRC Lifetime membership, where payment of annual dues is no longer required. Visit our website for more information, and where you can also download an Application for Membership:

<https://bellavistaradioclub.org/membership/>

Local Club Radio Nets

BVRC LEGACY NET WEDNESDAYS, 8pm

On the BVRC linked repeater system:

- Bella Vista:
147.255, +0.600 offset, 162.2 PL tone
- Springdale:
444.100, +5 MHz offset, 162.2 PL tone

NW ARKANSAS WIDE AREA NET TUESDAYS, 8 pm

On the NW Arkansas Skywarn linked repeater system:

- Bentonville – 146.865, -offset, PL 103.5
- Fayetteville – 147.315, +offset, PL 97.4
- Huntsville – 443.625, +offset, PL 97.4
- Green Forest -146.310, -offset, pl103.5

SUNDAY AFTERNOON 75-METER ROUNDTABLE

Sundays at 4pm local time, 3.830 KHz

(Rev. 11/12/22)

Meetings

The Bella Vista Radio Club meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at [Northwest Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, 3424 S. Downum Road., Springdale AR 72764](#). Start time for each meeting is 7:00 pm. There is a special "HAM 101" meeting/Q&A session for new hams at 6:00 pm, preceding the regular meeting. All are invited to attend.

Licensing Requirements

To operate an amateur radio, you must pass a written examination and be assigned a callsign by the FCC (i.e. AB5CDE).

The FCC issues three license classes: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. The examination for the Technician license is fairly easy, covering basic amateur radio regulations, safety, and operating practices, and simple electronic theory. The exam has 35 questions, and you must score 75% or higher to pass.

It takes about 10 hours of study depending on your background and memorization ability, to prepare for the Technician exam. The Technician license is primarily useful for talking around town using repeaters but allows very limited access to the longer distance frequency bands.

The General and Amateur Extra class licenses allow access to high frequency (HF) bands for long distance and/or global communications. The higher the license you acquire, the more frequencies you are allowed to operate.

IMPORTANT: When attending a VE testing session, you **MUST** have already acquired an FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN).

You can apply for and obtain an FRN by going to the FCC website:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>