

*Presented at  
PART meeting  
1-15-13 in Westford, MA*

# Ham Radio 1953

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# License Test

- The test for the all ham licenses was done at the FCC offices (in New York City for me)
- In 1953 I passed my novice and technician license.
- The tests required a 5 wpm code test, a written test for novice and the general class written test.

# Novice License

- The novice license was valid for one year and could not be renewed
- The privileges were:
- 2 meter phone operation on a portion of the band
- CW operation on 3.700-3.750, 40 meters and later 15 meters
- The restrictions were:
- Transmitters must use crystal control
- Plate power input less than 75 watts

# Technician license

Technician license was the general class test, and the novice code speed 5 wpm.

The license was permanent and renewable after 5 years

The license could be upgraded to general by just passing the 13 wpm code

# Operating a 1953 Novice Station

- In 1953 I used a home made transmitter and an ARC-5 surplus receiver BC453 modified to run on 110vac.
- The transmitter was a 2 tube job employing a 6AG7 oscillator driving a 6L6 amplifier.
- The transmitter ran about 25-30 watts input power. I would guess about 12-15 watts out would be generous.
- I built the transmitter from an article in the ARRL handbook.
- Log books were required in 1953, I have all of my paper log books which I continue to use.



**This is me Bill Churchill  
in 1953**

