

What is Amateur Radio?

As an Amateur Radio (ham) operator, you talk by two-way radio with other hams. Anyone can be a ham – no matter what age, sex, or physical ability. Ham radio doesn't have to cost much. Your radio station can be held in your hand or take up a corner in your bedroom. You even get your choice of ways to communicate – voice, Morse code or by computer.



About ARRL

The ARRL is an organization of Amateur Radio operators from all over the world. We publish many Amateur Radio books and we provide helpful services to our members. If you'd like more information about Amateur Radio, contact a local radio club or email ARRL at hq@arrl.org

Leap into amateur radio



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Leap Into Ham Radio!

Young people communicate in many ways--by cell phone, Internet, music, and even through sporting events and clothing styles. Here's another way you can communicate. You and your friends can make new friends across town and around the world. Young hams are active in Scouting, community radio clubs, and school radio clubs all over the US. Amateur Radio is an exciting hobby that lets you meet new people of all ages--and have a great time!



Microphone, Computer Keyboard and Telegraph Keys

Hams use microphones, telegraph keys, or computer keyboards as their "key" to open the door to talk to the world. Hams can use Morse code ...a special language that they telegraph to other hams who decode it...but you don't have to learn it to get your basic ham radio license. The license is pretty easy to study for and earn, and once you do, you have a special identity...plus a call sign...that says, "I'm an Amateur Radio operator!"



The Fun (and Serious) Sides of Amateur Radio

Hams do really neat things! Astronaut-hams have radios on the International Space Station to talk to thousands of hams on earth! Hams even relay their radio signals through Amateur Radio satellites! Ham friends can send and receive messages by attaching their radios to computers. Hams send messages when telephone poles are knocked down, but they also talk together just to enjoy themselves.



Ready, Set,



GO!

Getting Started

Getting started is easy! All you need to do is spend time with a beginner study guide. ARRL produces guides that contain all you need to pass the entry level license tests. The tests, given by volunteer hams in your area, cover basic electricity and on-the-air radio rules. ARRL has Morse code-learning tapes and CDs. If you like to study with a group, your local Amateur Radio club runs classes. You can even study online, by visiting dozens of Amateur Radio study sites. The #1 site to visit for these resource links is <http://www.arrl.org/hamradio.html>