8 REASONS

To Give Amateur Radio a Try

1

Make Global Connections

Meet great people all over the world, from every walk of life and every generation. Over 2 million smart and inspiring people are on the amateur airwaves eager to talk to you!

2

Get Involved - Public Service

Community events, such as parades and road races, require radio communications along their routes for logistic support, scoring, and first aid.

3

Explore Technology

Experiment with radio-internet communications Simple computers, like Raspberry Pi and Arduino, will let you explore a host of digital communication modes.

4

Compete & Win

From "fox" hunting for hidden radio signals to on-the-air DX contests for awards –radio offers many challenging & fun ways to compete.

5

Make a Difference

When cell phones, the Internet, and other systems are down, amateur radio still gets the message out. It is a vital service that can save lives when regular communication systems fail.

6

Expand Your World

Talk through satellites and with astronauts onboard the International Space Station.

7

Get Creative

Design, build and test your gear, whether from scratch or a kit-challenge yourself, to make a one-of-a-kind electronic project.

8

Develop New Skills

Don't be afraid to try new things and learn new skills. Through amateur radio, you can develop communication skills to improve your career, friendships, and life!

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. You can use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It's fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.

Who are Hams?

There's no one "type" of person who becomes a ham—from doctors to students to celebrities, all ages, and lifestyles linked by their interest in wireless communications and technology.

Get Started – Get Licensed?

There are three classes of amateur radio licenses in the U.S. –Technician, General & Extra, each with increasing airwave privileges. Technician class license is the entry-level license and requires only passing an exam with 35 questions on radio theory, regulations, and operating practices.

With this license, you can communicate locally and often throughout of North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "short wave") bands used for international communications.

Want to Learn More? Discover the ARRL Community

ARRL, the national association for amateur radio, offers many resources for people looking to get into ham radio. From free webinars and resources to the *On the Air magazine*, blog and podcast will help you get on the air and active in the ham community.

ARRL has over 100 years of experience supporting hams in pursuing their interest in amateur radio. Visit us today at **www.arrl.org/new-ham-resources** to learn more.

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