

What is Amateur Radio?

Anyone you know could be an Amateur Radio operator or “ham” - no matter what age, gender or physical ability. From ages 8 to 80, people in many countries of the world have fun as radio amateurs. If you’ve had fun with CB radio or trying new things with your computer, wait until you can see what you can do with ham radio!

Ham radio operators use two-way radio stations from their homes, cars, boats and in the outdoors to make hundreds of friends across the globe. They communicate with each other using voice, computers and Morse code. Some hams bounce their signals off the upper regions of the atmosphere so they can talk with hams on the other side of the world. Other hams use satellites. Many use handheld radios that fit in their pockets.

Although the main purpose of the hobby is fun, it is called the “Amateur Radio Service” because it also has a serious side. The FCC created the “Service” to fill the need for a pool of experts who could provide backup emergency communications in times of need like Hurricane Katrina to 9/11. In addition, the FCC acknowledged the ability of the hobby to advance communications and technical knowledge, and enhance international good will.

Getting started in Amateur Radio has never been easier. *The Morse Code is no longer required.* First, contact a local amateur radio club. Some radio clubs offer ham radio licensing classes, or they can find a club volunteer to answer your questions.



Amateur Radio is:

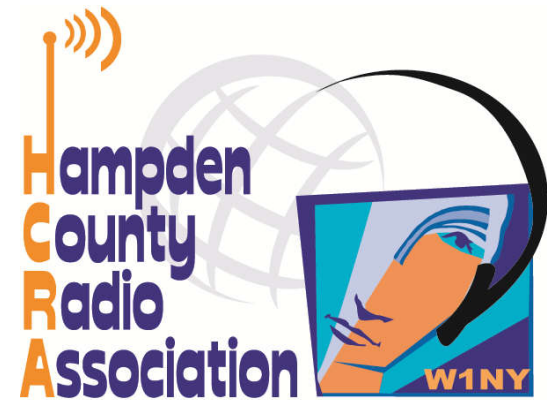
- ◇ Important in times of emergency
- ◇ Youth oriented
- ◇ A way to make friends all over the world
- ◇ **Fun and exciting!**

Some of the things you can do with Amateur Radio:

- ◇ Talk to the Space Station
- ◇ Bounce signals off the moon
- ◇ Talk through satellites
- ◇ Talk thru a computer (digital modes)
- ◇ Use frequencies from near the shortwave to the microwave
- ◇ Communicate with your voice, morse code or computer (digital)
- ◇ Provide emergency communications
- ◇ Make new friends
- ◇ Talk to people worldwide
- ◇ Work events like Field Day, VHF, etc.
- ◇ Restore vintage equipment
- ◇ Build your own—the sky is the limit!
- ◇ Set up a portable station in a state park, on top of a mountain, at beach, anywhere

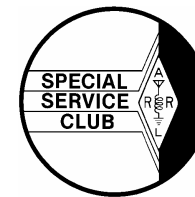
Famous hams include:

- ◇ Tim Allen (actor)
- ◇ Joe Walsh (musician, The Eagles)
- ◇ Walter Cronkite (news reporter, SK)
- ◇ Lance Bass (pop singer)
- ◇ John Sculley (Apple computer, SK)
- ◇ Stu Cook (guitar player, CCR)
- ◇ Garry Shandling (comedian)
- ◇ Mike Foale (astronaut)
- ◇ Trisha Yearwood (country singer)
- ◇ Juan Carlos (King of Spain)
- ◇ Bob Moog (synthesizer inventor, SK)



**The Pioneer Valley’s Oldest
Amateur Radio Club**

**Supporting all aspects
Of Ham Radio, from LF to
UHF, Traffic Nets
To the Internet**



**An ARRL
Affiliated and
Special
Service Club**



**Meetings are held September to June
on the first Friday of each month
@ 7:30pm
Holyoke Medical Center
Auxiliary Conference Center
575 Beech Street**

HCRA

**P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001**

www.hcra.org

Look No Further...



Picture yourself doing this!

The Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) is made up of men and women of all ages who share an interest in Amateur Radio. Since 1946, the HCRA has been a focal point for Amateur Radio operators who live in Hampden County and the surrounding area. The HCRA is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) affiliated club.

We hold our monthly meetings the first Friday of each month at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts. No meetings are held in July or August. All Amateurs, their guests and interested parties are welcome to attend our meetings.

The HCRA maintains a website which is kept current on an almost daily basis at www.hcra.org. Members receive the newsletter, ZeroBeat, delivered by email or by downloading it off the club's website.

...The HCRA's got it...



A key component of our success is the quality of our monthly speakers. Attend our monthly meeting and expect a presentation that will teach and excite you.

Our activities include a club Field Day and picnic in June, a tailgate party, NEQP, VHF, ARRL 10M and other contests, fox hunting, an annual Show & Tell, POTA & SOTA, Special Event Stations, a December Social and most importantly classes to get people started in our exciting hobby.

The HCRA is always looking for new and exciting ways to integrate Ham Radio into our communities and personal lives. You are invited to visit us at our meetings and see if this is the club to help you get more enjoyment out of your hobby.

Stop by our website at www.hcra.org to learn more.

...The Best of Ham Radio!

