



Community Service Through Ham Radio

# Northeast Radio Club

## What is Ham Radio ?

Radio, in one form or another has been part of our world since the beginning of recorded history. Whether it's Homer's Iliad (1200B.C.) which describes a chain of beacon fires used for signaling. Or its the Persian army use of smoke signals and mirrors over great distances. As we developed as a people, so did radio. What follows is a brief timeline of the mingling of our culture, history and that of radio.



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**1837** Samuel F.B. Morse demonstrates Morse code using "lightning wires".

**1861** The two coasts of the United States are linked by telegraph. Putting the Pony Express out of business once and for all.

**1898** The U.S. Navy establishes coastal stations and begins to outfit its fleet with wireless communication.

**1899** Marconi sends a signal over the English Channel.

**1901** Marconi sends a signal across the Atlantic which inspires thousands of the potential of radio.

**1906** Human speech is sent via radio for the first time.

**1912** The RMS Titanic sinks. The tragic loss of life causes a change in international radio laws.

**1912** The first licenses were issued.

**1914** The ARRL, the (national association for United States amateurs) is organized.

**1919** President Woodrow Wilson gives the first Presidential radio address to American Troops in Europe.

**1925** The (IARU) International Amateur Radio Union is formed.

**1933** First Field Day Contest is conducted.

**1933** F.D.R. gives the first Presidential radio broadcast.

**1934** The (FCC) Federal Communications Commission is created.

**1941** All Amateur activity is ordered to cease. Many hams are recruited into the Technical Corps to help repair and maintain and operate British radar equipment. Over 15,000 Amateurs fight in the U.S. army.

**1942** Germany's Field Marshall Romell's Africa Corps communications are intercepted by American radio Amateurs on the East coast and turned over to the U.S. government.

**1957** Sputnik is launched by the U.S.S.R. and amateurs are among the first to hear its beacon.

**1964** Barry Goldwater call sign K3UIG is the Republican nomination for the presidency.

**1964** Herbert Hoover Jr. call sign W6ZH is elected president of the ARRL.

**1983** Owen Gabriel W5LFL becomes the first amateur to operate his ham equipment aboard the Space Shuttle.



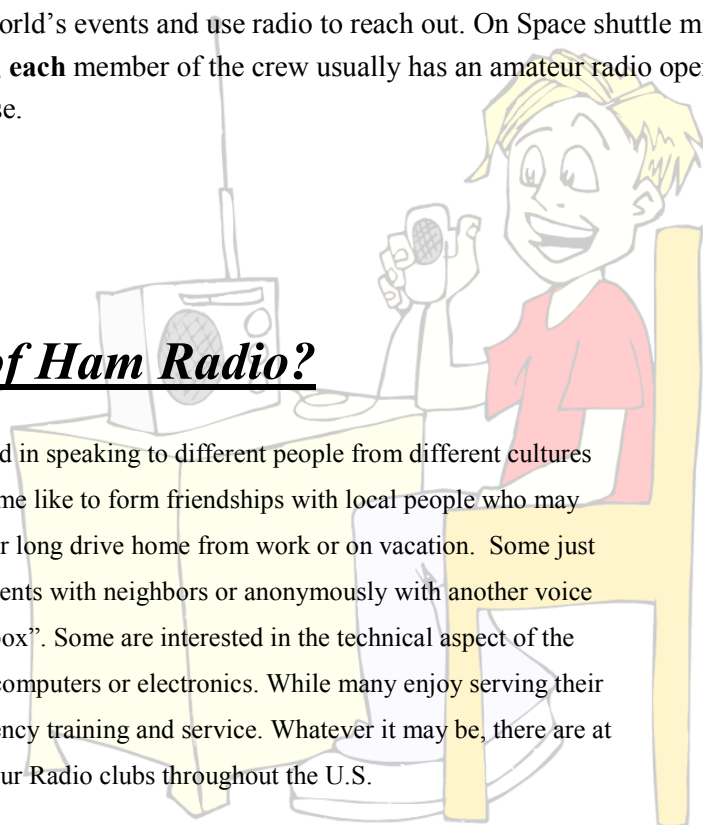
## *Who is the Typical Ham?*



Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life. Politicians, movie stars, students, doctors, truck drivers etc. They represent all ages and ethnic groups, and all levels of income. They speak many languages or prefer not to speak at all, using Morse code. They use computers, satellite, or handheld walkie talkies. They have interest in the world's events and use radio to reach out. On Space shuttle missions, **each** member of the crew usually has an amateur radio operator license.

## *What is the Appeal of Ham Radio?*

Some are interested in speaking to different people from different cultures from around the world. Some like to form friendships with local people who may keep them company on their long drive home from work or on vacation. Some just like to discuss everyday events with neighbors or anonymously with another voice emanating from that "tiny box". Some are interested in the technical aspect of the hobby and have careers in computers or electronics. While many enjoy serving their community through emergency training and service. Whatever it may be, there are at last count over 2000 Amateur Radio clubs throughout the U.S.



## *Why do we need A License and what is the ARRL?*

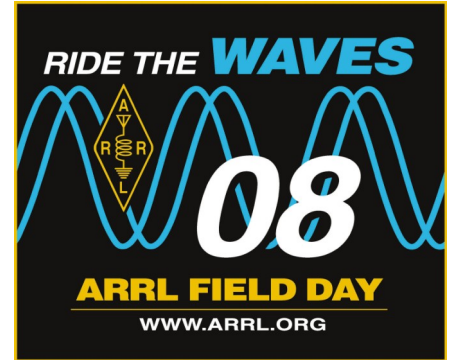


Although the main purpose of Amateur Radio is fun, it is called the "Amateur Radio Service". The F.C.C. created this "service" to fill the need for a pool of experts who could provide backup in cases of emergency and advance the technical skills of radio.

The (ARRL) American Radio Relay League is the National Association of amateurs in the U.S. It was created in 1914 and is 150,000 members strong. It is the primary source of information about the ham radio world; it provides education classes and other benefits for its members. It is the ham operator's voice in Washington D.C. and representative in International arena..

## *What is Field Day or Special Event Station?*

Field day or any “special Event” is a way for amateurs to practice their emergency preparedness skills. Since Amateurs operate without a central power source or structure, it is virtually impossible to prevent our communications from being received by the intended party. Phones, cell phones, Internet, trunk lines, satellite phones all go through vulnerable distribution “centers”. Even if working, these systems can become flooded and overwhelmed. Since the Ham station is fully independent their communications go direct. An infrastructure is not needed. In an emergency with lives at stake, which would you rely on? How well does Field Day or a Special Event day prepare us. Here is a brief list of major Amateur Radio operator’s recent participation



*Oklahoma City bombing-1995*

*Teacart—1996*

*Hurricane Fran-1996*

*Western US floods—1997*

*Hurricane Georges—1998*

*Flooding in Texas—1998*

*Hurricane Floyd—1999*

*Fires in Los Alamos New Mexico—2000*

*Tropical Storm Allison—2001*

*World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Western Pennsylvania Terrorist attacks---2001*

*Flooding in Kentucky—2002*

*Wildfires in Colorado—2002*

*Shuttle Columbia Recovery effort.—2003*

*Northeast Blackout—2003*

*Hurricane Isabel—2003 Earthquake in Central California—2003*

*Tsunami in Asia—2004*

*Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne—2004*

*Wildfires in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico—2005*

*Hurricane Katrina, Wilma and Rita—2005*

*Flooding in Northeast U.S. —2006*

*Earthquake in Hawaii—2006*

*Bridge collapse in Michigan-2007*

*California’s Forest fires—2007*

*Florida- Blackout--2008*

*Note: Most states have laws that prohibit conducting cell phone calls and talking on a C.B. radio while driving. Amateur Radio operators are specifically exempt from such laws and enjoy a strong relationship with Homeland security*





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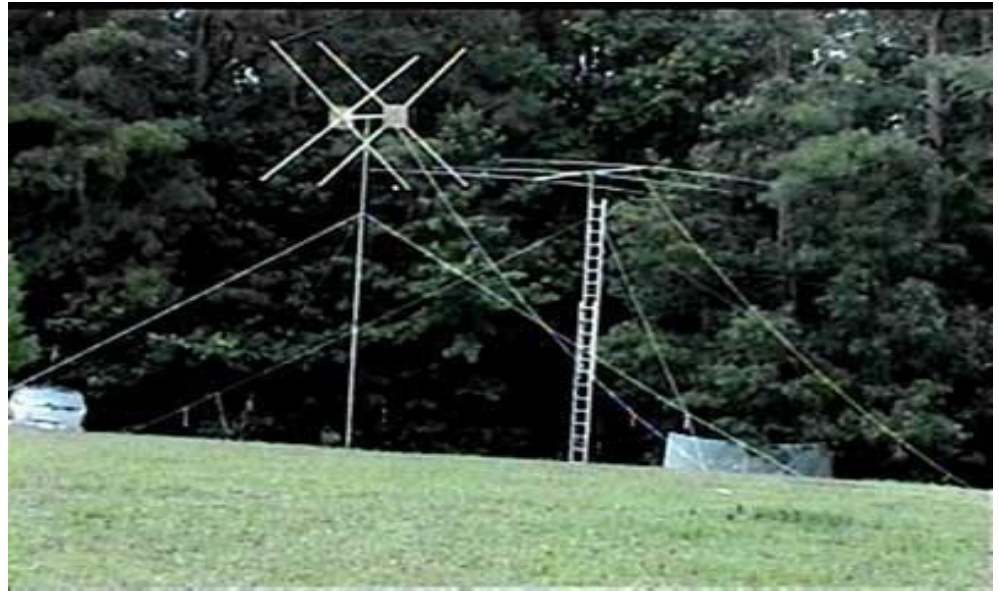


**OUR CLUB WAS ASSEMBLED FROM FORMER MEMBERS OF SEVERAL OTHER CLUBS. WE HAVE AN AVERAGE OF 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE PER MEMBER. MOST OF OUR MEMBERS HOLD THE HIGHEST CLASS LICENSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (FCC) WILL GRANT A CIVILIAN. OUR MEMBERS ARE LICENSED TO TRAIN AND TEST PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS. OUR BACKGROUNDS ARE DIVERSE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, COMPUTER TECHNICIANS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND RETIREES. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ASSISTED THE NYPD AND THE FDNY DURING 9/11. MOST OF ALL WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, WHOSE EVENTS FOR WHATEVER REASON REQUIRE LOGISTIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR SMOOTH OPERATION. WE OPERATE OUR OWN EQUIPMENT, ON OUR OWN TIME, AND AT OUR OWN EXPENSE. WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RADIO OPERATORS AND PROUD OF IT.**

**\*SOURCES**  
ARRL.ORG \ EMERGENCY-RADIO.ORG \ AC6V.COM







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**[www.northeastradioclub.com](http://www.northeastradioclub.com)**

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