

# Imagine...

*Celebrating 100 Years of Voice over Radio Worldwide*

**Imagine sitting in your room talking to people in distant lands,  
Senators and car mechanics, astronauts and farmers**

**Imagine hearing world events as they happen  
Listening to far off places with strange names**

**Imagine hearing a voice crackle through the air calling you  
Come, Talk. Be a friend. It's your world out there...**

**Say...**

# “Hello”...

Bonjour Hallo Hi! Guten Tag Howdy Merhaba Chao  
Kaixo Ei Je Zdraveite Ni hao Nazdar God dag Goedendag  
Hello Päivää Bonjour Guten Tag Kalimera Aloha Shalom  
Nyobzoo Szia Selamat pagi Buon giorno Konichiwa  
Annyong ha shimnikka Sekoh Dzien dobry Bom dia  
Buna ziuja Zdravstvuite Hola Jambo God dag  
Magandang tanghali po Merhaba Chao ong Hello  
Bore da Hello Hi! Bonjour Hallo Sekoh...

**As we celebrate 100 years of voice over Radio, we invite you to  
discover what Amateur Radio offers in the 21st century.**

**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**



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## The First Voices

As a ten year old in 1876, Reginald Fessenden heard his uncle describe Alexander Graham Bell's miraculous accomplishment of sending the human voice over wires. With childlike wonder, Fessenden thought, "Why do they need wires?"...

Early attempts at sending voices over the air were unintelligible, but on December 23, 1900 Fessenden made the first true voice contact by radio. He then began more experiments in voice transmissions and in 1906 Fessenden planned a surprise. On Christmas Eve, instead of using the usual dit-dah Morse code, he was going to *talk* to people on the radio!



At the appointed hour, radio operators all across the North Atlantic were shocked to hear a voice coming out from their radios.

Fessenden's historic feat caused thousands of inquisitive hobbyists to join the ranks of those experimenting with this newfangled technology called Radio. They were, and are still, called "amateur" radio operators.

*"Why do they need wires?"*



Commercial broadcasting didn't begin for another 14 years after Fessenden's historic Christmas Eve broadcast. Meanwhile, amateurs labored in attics, barns, garages and cellars to perfect what we now call radio. Amateur Radio operators, also called hams, have continued to be at the forefront of developing technologies years in advance of when they are rolled out to the public.



FM, television, mobile telephones, VoIP technologies — these were all used by Amateur Radio operators years ahead of the public. And you should see what the hams are doing today!

www.Hello-Radio.org

## Who's the Typical Ham Radio Person Today?



Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life — movie stars, missionaries, doctors, students, politicians, truck drivers and just plain folks. They are all ages, genders, income levels and nationalities. They say Hello to the world in many languages and many ways. But whether they prefer Morse code on an old brass telegraph key, voice communication on a handheld radio or computerized messages transmitted through

satellites, they all have an interest in what's happening in the world, and they use radio to reach out across towns or continents.



## What's the Appeal of Ham Radio?

Some hams are attracted by the ability to communicate across the country, around the globe, or even with astronauts on space missions.

Others like to build and experiment with electronics.

Computer hobbyists enjoy using Amateur Radio's digital communications opportunities.

Those with a competitive streak enjoy "DX contests," where the object is to see how many hams in distant locations they can contact.

Some like the convenience of a technology that gives them portable communication.

Mostly, we use it to open the door to new worldwide relationships over the airwaves with people we may never meet, but come to call **friends**.



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## What is Amateur Radio?

A housewife in North Carolina makes friends over the radio with another ham in Lithuania.



A teenager in Ohio uses his computer to upload a digital chess move to an orbiting space satellite, where it's retrieved by a fellow chess enthusiast in Japan.



An aircraft engineer in Florida participating in a "DX contest" swaps his call sign and talks to hams in 100 different countries during a single weekend.

In Louisiana, volunteers save lives as part of their involvement in an emergency response.

And from his room in Chicago, a ham's pocket-sized handheld radio allows him to talk to friends in the Carolinas.



This unique mix of fun, public service and convenience is the distinguishing characteristic of Amateur Radio. Although hams get involved in the hobby for many reasons, they all have in common a curiosity to see how they can say Hello to other people over the airwaves.

Amateur Radio is the last place where an average person can, using just his or her own gear, talk freely across town or around the world to others.

## Do I Have to Learn Morse Code?



Not any more. While many hams *like* to use Morse code with its history and traditions, it is not required for your entry level license.

## How Much Does it Cost?

Basic study materials for passing the FCC test and getting your initial license usually cost less than \$40. There are also classes held by many local groups for people who want more interaction. If possible, taking part in one of these classes is the best way to go, but there's even an online course you can take if you prefer.

*Group or online courses are available!*

Once you have your first license, you may find it best to start with simple equipment and grow over time. It usually costs less than \$200 to get your own first license and radio and start saying Hello!



## What is the ARRL?



Founded in 1914, the 150,000-member American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. Other countries also have their own national associations. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in the ham radio world. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special operating events, all sorts of continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.



*Being a member of the ARRL is important for hams!*

# Imagine...

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**For 100 years the magic of the human voice over Radio has brought imaginations to life. It opened a whole new era of human communication.**

**It's YOUR world...  
Get on the Radio and say, "Hello"...  
To learn how, go to...**

## [www.Hello-Radio.org](http://www.Hello-Radio.org)

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