Amateur Radio is a worldwide network of people united by a common interest in wireless communications. There are nearly 700,000 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the United States and nearly three million people around the world who call themselves “hams.”

The most powerful and versatile communication service available to the private citizen anywhere on Earth—or even above it, is the Amateur Radio Service. The various activities available will surprise you. Some people have a basic interest in radio; others focus on the technology and the science of radio. Competitive events, contests and award programs attract others. And Amateur Radio operators provide vital emergency and public service communications, when all else fails.

“Amateur Radio is all about Magic! It’s magic to talk to a complete stranger on the other side of the world, to watch the eyes of a child light up when they talk to an astronaut on the International Space Station, to see the relief in a mother’s face because the Amateur Radio operators at the county fair found her lost child, to see the excitement on the face of my son after getting his license and making his first contact. And who said magic isn’t real?”

Kevin O’Dell, NØIRW
Ardmore, Oklahoma

Getting Started

In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission grants Amateur Radio licenses. Thousands of people from all walks of life earn their licenses each year by passing a basic exam. The 35-question, multiple choice exam covers:

• basic electricity and safety
• rules and regulations to operate your radio

As a Technician class licensee, you will have privileges on many exclusive Amateur Radio frequencies. These privileges include voice, digital and television modes or communicating through various satellites carrying Amateur Radio. Morse code is not required for a Technician class license.

Are you ready to begin?

See the back of this flyer for all you need to become an Amateur Radio Operator.
Take the next step to go wireless with HAM RADIO today!

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ARRL’s Tech Q&A
• The Quick and Easy path to your First Ham Radio License.
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