

When all else fails, there's
Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio or HAM Radio is fun and exciting hobby including a vast array of activities:

- Talking around the world without wires
 - Talking locally through repeaters
 - Emergency communications
 - Public service communications
 - Contests and awards
 - Legacy communication modes like Morse code and Radioteletype (RTTY)
 - New communication modes like Digital Packet, Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), and Spread Spectrum
 - Amateur radio Satellites in space
 - Foxhunting (using "radio direction finding" techniques to find a hidden transmitter)
 - Moon-bounce (talking by bouncing radio waves off the moon)
- And much, much more...

Ham Radio is not CB

HAM Radio is different from Citizens Band (CB), Family Radio Service (FRS), and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), which only allow local communications using strictly limited modes and frequencies. By comparison HAM radio operators are allowed to use to every mode of communication: AM, FM, CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, ATV, Packet, and a hundred others you've probably never heard of. We have privileges all across the radio spectrum, from shortwave to microwave. We routinely talk to other HAMS across the globe, from Antarctica to Greenland, from London to Zimbabwe, *all without breaking a single law.*

Licensing requirements

To use HAM radio;

- You must pass a mandatory Learners period unless you have a technical degree related to Communication.
 - Security Clearance by the authorities.
 - A Written examination and be assigned a call sign from the PTA
- The PTA currently issues two different classes of amateur radio license:
- Beginners/ Novice (Age 16-18)
 - General (Age 18+)

What can I do with it?

Ham radio is basically a social hobby – whether you're talking around town, around the world, at club meetings or conventions, you'll be getting to know some nice people!



Some hams enjoy collecting QSL cards, postcards from other hams confirming contacts around the world. Some go for awards, like the DX Century Club (DXCC), which means you have confirmed contacts with hams in 100 different countries. Some go on DXpeditions, traveling and operating in remote locations

Some HAMS like to experiment, designing their own radios, or building them from a kit. Some experiment with radical new designs for antennas. When large crowds of people try to use their cell phones all at the same time, the cellular systems are swamped and unreliable, but ham radio gets the message through.

And most important of all, emergency communications: from October 2005 earthquake to fierce flooding of July 2010 in Pakistan, when at various locations the primary communications networks went out or saturated, trained amateur radio operators appeared equipped and ready to serve nation by providing emergency communication.

Step into an amazing hobby by joining us on www.pakhams.com