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WHAT IS HAM RADIO?

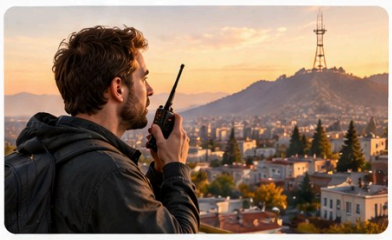


Radio you can talk back on

Ham radio, also called amateur radio, is a hobby where licensed people talk to each other by two-way radio.

1 Across town

A handheld radio reaches a few miles on its own. Through a repeater on a hill or tower, it can reach 30 miles or more.



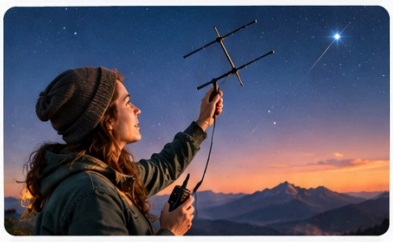
2 Around the world

On the long-distance HF bands, signals bounce off the sky and can cross oceans. Your first license includes a few slices of them.



3 Even to space

Ham satellites work like repeaters in orbit. The International Space Station carries a ham station too.



4 When phones go down

When storms knock out power and cell service, volunteer hams help pass messages for their communities.



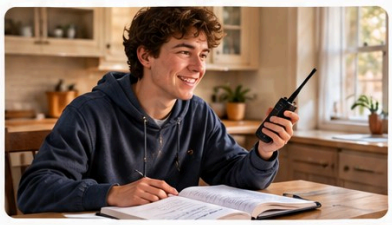
5 Just for fun

Hams take radios to parks, join weekly on-air meetings, learn Morse code and build their own antennas.



6 How to start

Anyone can listen, no license needed. To talk, pass one 35-question multiple-choice test. No Morse code and no minimum age.



Key terms

- **Repeater:** a radio relay on a hill or tower that helps handhelds reach much farther.
- **HF:** the long-distance bands, where signals bounce off the sky.
- **Net:** an on-air meeting at a set time.
- **Technician:** the first US ham license.

Good to know

- No cell towers needed.
- No internet needed.
- No monthly bill.
- Your license lasts 10 years.

IN SHORT

Ham radio lets licensed people talk by radio across town, around the world and even to space.

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