

Amateur Radio is not your grandfather's hobby

Amateur Radio is not your grandfather's hobby with morse code keys in a dusty dark basement and refrigerator size transmitters. Nowadays, Amateur Radio is an exciting dynamic hobby that brings both radio and computers together. Today's operator combines computers, satellite operation, and state of the art digital signal processing to communicate for fun and even in emergency conditions when cell phones do not work.

Imagine, being able to see exactly where stations are located simply through the tie in of computers and radio and GPS. The Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) is used today by civilian volunteers in Search and Rescue missions, the Civilian Air Search and Rescue (<http://www.casara.ca>) use APRS today, to help find downed aircraft using Amateur Radio. (<http://www.aprs.org>)

Amateurs communicate on a daily basis via Amateur Radio built communication satellites. Using simple equipment, anyone can talk via a satellite (<http://www.amsat.org>) Amateurs as young as 10 can do it, you can too! Amateurs also communicate with the crew of the International Space Station (ISS) (<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>) when their time permits.

During times of emergencies operators in this service are able to communicate when other communications systems fail. It takes time for the armed forces to mobilise and set up backup communication in an area struck by disaster, trained communicators are in your community already set up to supply badly needed outside communications. (<http://www.emrg.ca>)

Like everything else, the technology used by the modern Amateur Radio operator is nothing like you will see in the movies. Today's radios are amazingly small compared to the equipment used even 10 years ago. This is not your grandfather's hobby.

For further information see <http://www.rac.ca>, <http://www.oarc.net>

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