

What is amateur radio?

Amateur Radio interests people of all ages, particularly those who are curious about "how things work". This exciting hobby provides a unique opportunity to use our own designated radio frequencies for non-commercial transmission of messages, experimentation, self-training, and emergency communications – as well as just for fun.

Activities like Radio Direction Finding (similar to orienteering but with a high-tech "spin"), Field Days, Summits on the Air, and IOTA (Islands On The Air), allow the rest of our family and friends to enjoy our amateur radio activities as well!

Amateur Radio is the original high technology "social network". On air you will meet Kings, celebrities, public figures, those at work or unemployed; and all ages from youngsters to old timers. Using call signs as identifiers, there is no status on the air, and you talk, equal to equal, to everyone you contact.

Radio amateurs enjoy their hobby in a number of ways:

- Simply having fun contacting people by radio all over the world, as well as just round the corner - which often leads to developing lasting local and international friendships.
- Taking part in local, national, and international competitions to test how effective their equipment is, and how good they are as an operator.
- Technical experimentation including building their own equipment from kits or from their own designs - many of the advances in radio technology have been developed, and used first, by radio amateurs.
- Communicating through amateur space satellites, with the International Space Station, by moon bounce, and the latest integrated internet, digital, and GPS technologies.
- Providing communications at times of emergencies, and keeping in practice by undertaking exercises and providing communications at local and national community events such as marathons and sponsored walks and bike rides.

There is no better way to explore the fascinating "state of the art" world of voice, television, and data communications involving: radio, computers, GPS, internet and satellites, than by becoming a radio amateur. Getting started need not cost the earth there is plenty of inexpensive and second hand equipment available on the internet and at local Rallies.

Whatever your interest in radio communications, you will find others sharing that interest - from "geeky" experimenters to those just interested in chatting on the airwaves.

For some the hobby proves a gateway to an exciting career.

ALEX discovers Amateur Radio Project – stored in the cloud always up to date

An interactive guide aimed at introducing youngsters to the hobby, but most oldies like it too! To find out what Amateur Radio has to offer all age groups get this FREE 31 page handy reference and introductory guide booklet in pdf format to read with the free Adobe Reader. To download a quick copy optimised for smartphones and tablets scan the QR code on the right.

"What an exceptional resource", "Even as an adult, it was entertaining to read"

"Ideal to go out to prospective enthusiasts both young and old"

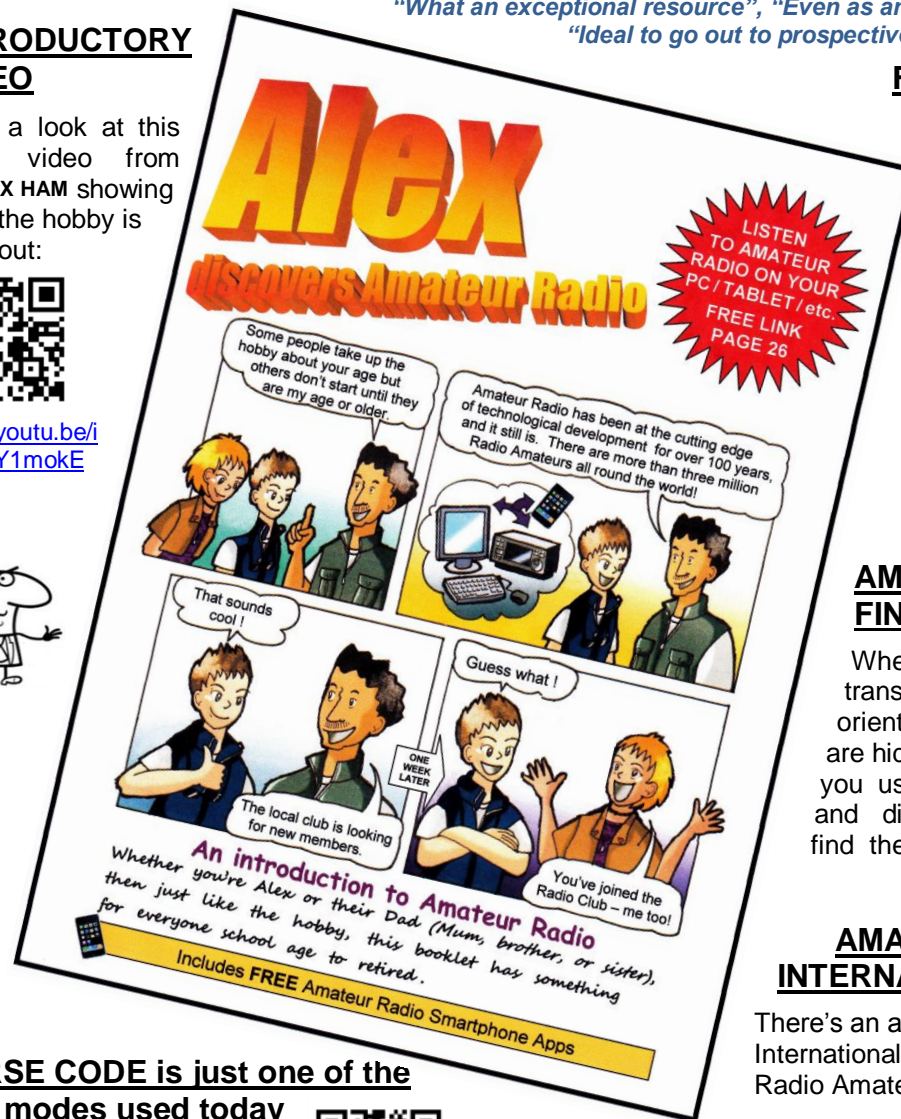


INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Take a look at this short video from **ESSEX HAM** showing what the hobby is all about:



<http://youtu.be/eM0nY1m0kE>



FOR A PRINTED BOOKLET

To download a higher resolution version to print out or view on a PC, or to find out more about the "Alex discovers Amateur Radio Project" visit:

<http://arbooklet.wordpress.com>

There are versions to view on smartphone, tablet, laptop, or PC; or follow the instructions to print out as a booklet.

AMATEUR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING – hi-tec orienteering

Where you have to find hidden transmitters. It's a sort of radio orienteering when there are hidden transmitters and you use portable receivers and directional aerials to find them.



AMATEUR RADIO ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

There's an amateur radio station on the International Space Station and Radio Amateurs talk to it regularly.

We also have lots of satellites in orbit



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3XeXt7F-Ul>

MORSE CODE is just one of the data modes used today

Scan this QR code to listen to "the rhythm of the code"

