

## Getting started transmitting

Many people get started transmitting with an inexpensive handheld available on ebay or from a number of established Amateur Radio Suppliers.

Sophisticated digital models can cost several hundred pounds but excellent dual band starter models are available from as little as £25 to £40.



They are many times more powerful than the licence free walkie talkies available from high-street stores and are linked to repeaters extending the range of handheld, in-car, and other low power equipment dramatically. Some repeaters are linked to the internet and as well as local contacts this enables us to talk all over the world via transmitters at the other end of the internet link.

There is a simple 26 question multiple choice and practical test to get a free licence and make sure you are safe and don't cause interference. There are no age limits and youngsters and old timers alike take it in their stride.

To find out more about the hobby take a look at the Radio Society of Great Britain "Get Started" pages:



<http://www.getontheair.co.uk/>



## 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 (SOTA), and Islands On The Air (IOTA), 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". Using call signs as identifiers, there is no status on the air, and you talk, equal to equal, to everyone you contact.

### We enjoy our 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 our equipment is, and how good we are as an operator.
- Technical experimentation - many of the advances in radio technology have been developed, and used first, by radio amateurs. Others just enjoy making simple add-ons or experimenting with different aerial designs.
- Communicating through amateur satellites, with the International Space Station, and using the latest integrated internet, digital, and GPS technologies.
- Providing support communications at times of emergencies, and 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.

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 provides a gateway to an exciting career.

This leaflet presented by:

... looking forward to meeting you on air – best 73s

# DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO

A FUN  
EXCITING STATE OF THE ART HOBBY

offering something for everyone  
school age to retired



There are so many aspects to the hobby from "geeky" experimenting to just chatting on the airwaves that it can provide a lifetime of interest and discovery.

## The Magic of Amateur Radio

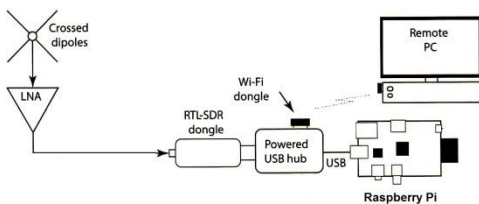
Amateur Radio is a unique and fascinating leisure pursuit that captivates the interest of millions of people around the World. It encompasses a huge range of activities, and attracts people from a diverse range of backgrounds.



Some Radio Amateurs build their own equipment from kits or from their own designs. There is also plenty of inexpensive ready-made equipment on ebay and elsewhere, including local Rallies.



Some people still enjoy restoring and using old valve equipment whilst others now program their own state of the art software defined radios transmitting and receiving directly through the airwaves or via the internet.



## Start listening straight away

If you already have a computer or smartphone you can get started in the hobby straight away at no cost as a shortwave listener (SWL) listening to Radio Amateurs all over the world. An up to date list of Software Defined Radio Portals (webSDRs) located all round the world can always be found at: <http://www.websdr.org/>

For a bit more of a challenge try decoding data transmissions. Listen on a webSDR that will tune to 14070KHz and run the free Fldigi program simultaneously on your PC.



## 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”*

To find out more about the “Alex discovers Amateur Radio Project” visit: <http://arbooklet.wordpress.com>

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEOS

Take a look at these short videos showing what the hobby is all about:



<http://youtu.be/ieM0nY1mokE>

[https://youtu.be/8x6x\\_6mDVIQ](https://youtu.be/8x6x_6mDVIQ)



**RadCom** is the magazine of the Radio Society of Great Britain - sent free every month to Members of the Society.

It has the largest amateur radio readership in the UK.

Read a sample edition here:

<https://thersgb.org/publications/radcom/sample-radcom/>



## RADIO SPORT - CONTESTING

Amateur Radio offers a range of local and international contests often involving contacting the most stations in a set period of time. Many involve the outdoors - transmitting from, or receiving, remote locations such as mountain tops, islands, or specific locations. ARDF is a great sport - a type of high-tech orienteering:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl4HztSY8Mo>



## 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”

