

What is ham radio?

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Amateur (ham) radio is a way to communicate world-wide using a radio.

How do I become a licensed amateur radio operator (a ham)?

To get a license, you must pass a written test containing basic radio knowledge and FCC rules and regulations. Your license is good for 10 years and can be renewed.

Do I need to be an electronics "whiz" to get this license?

No. If you are an average person who can learn, that is all you need to get started. Many families (parents and children) enjoy ham radio too.

Can I talk to anybody in the world?

You can only talk to other licensed hams. Almost all nations have licensed hams.

Can I talk about anything?

You are limited to personal, non-business conversations. No codes or obscure messages are allowed. Broadcasting music is not allowed.

How much does it cost for the equipment?

It depends on your budget and ingenuity. It can cost less than \$100.00 up to thousands of dollars. You can spend as little or much as you want.

How many hams are there in Hawaii?

Over 3,000 hams live in Hawaii, many of them women. Hams come in all ages - from under 10 to over 90 years old. There are blind hams and physically handicapped hams.

What can ham radio do for me other than as a hobby?

Ham radio provides training in electronics, computers, communications and perseverance. Many people have advanced their careers from the knowledge gained from ham radio.

How can ham radio benefit me and my family?

Ham radio is essential to providing emergency communications to our local, state and national government in cases of emergencies. Ham radio can operate even when the telephones, TV and other communications fail. Amateur radio was vital in Hurricane Iniki when the only communication with Kauai was by ham radio.

How can I find out more about ham radio?

There are several ham radio clubs on Oahu. You are welcome to contact them for more information and to attend their meetings.

Visit these sites:

<http://www.earchi.org/> (EARC)

<http://karc.net/> (KARC)

<http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/races.htm> (RACES)

<http://aditl.com/ham/>

<http://ronhashiro.htohanenet.com/am-radio/in-hawaii.html>