

## Are there Amateur Radio events during the year?

Most Amateur Radio clubs meet weekly or monthly. Hamfests are popular events that often feature the sale of new and used equipment and parts. Various radio contests are held throughout the year. Most important is Field Day. This contest, with emphasis on emergency conditions, is held on the last full weekend of June. Operation, using temporary antennas and generator or battery power, adds to the realism and simulates emergency conditions during a disaster.

## How can I learn about Amateur Radio?

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) publishes study guides and The RAC Operating Manual, available on-line from the RAC web site and some radio stores. Best of all, talk to an Amateur.

## How can I become a Member of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club?

The Surrey Amateur Radio Club welcomes new members, both experienced and beginner. The Club will assist persons who have an interest in learning about amateur radio, becoming licensed and participating in this exciting hobby and public service.

Please contact any of the Club executive listed on the back page of this brochure for more information, or simply come out to one of our meetings.

### 2014/2015 Executive

President: John Brodie VA7XB

Vice-President: Brett Garrett VE7GM

Secretary: Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV

Treasurer: Scott Hawrelak VE7CNR

Information in this brochure has been adapted (with permission) from the Radio Amateurs of Canada website:  
[www.rac.ca/regulatory/faqham.htm](http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/faqham.htm)



Surrey Amateur Radio Club  
[www.ve7sar.net](http://www.ve7sar.net)

Meets at 7:00 pm on the  
second Wednesday of the month at:

Provincial Regional Emergency Operation  
Center (PREOC)  
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey



# SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



... SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
THROUGH HAM RADIO

# WHAT IS AMATEUR (HAM) RADIO?

## **Amateur radio is ...**

a form of communication; a hobby; a community service. It could be a school teacher in British Columbia making friends over the radio with another Radio Amateur in New Zealand; an Alberta teenager using her computer to upload a chess move through her radio which is retrieved by a fellow chess fan in Florida via an amateur radio space satellite; or a truck driver in Manitoba contacting Radio Amateurs in a hundred countries during a single weekend contest. Radio Amateurs also save lives as part of an emergency communications network.

## **What is Involved?**

This unique mix of fun, convenience and public service is what distinguishes Amateur Radio. People get involved in Amateur Radio for many reasons, but they all have in common a basic knowledge of radio technology, regulations and operating principles. All have passed an examination leading to an authorization to operate on the "Amateur Bands." These frequency bands are reserved for use by Radio Amateurs at intervals from just above the AM broadcast band all the way up through the microwave frequencies. Even though Amateur Radio conversations may be heard around the world by anyone with a suitable radio receiver, given the right frequency and propagation conditions, Amateur Radio is basically two-way communication between Radio Amateurs.

## **The appeal of Amateur Radio ...**

is the ability to communicate across the country, around the globe, and even with astronauts on space missions. Some Radio Amateurs build and experiment with radio. Computer hobbyists find digital modes to be a low-cost way to expand their ability to communicate. Those with a competitive streak enjoy "DX contests" where the object is to see how many distant Radio Amateurs they can contact. Some like the convenience of a technology giving them portable communication. Others use it to open the door to new friendships over the air, or through participation in an Amateur Radio club. Many combine Amateur Radio with the internet in various ways.

## **Typical Radio Amateurs ...**

come from all walks of life – dentists, engineers, entertainers, missionaries, truck drivers, ministers, politicians, students, workers, shut-ins and retired folks - all ages, sexes, income levels and nationalities. Some like voice communication on a hand-held radio. Others prefer Morse code through a low-power transmitter. Many transmit computer messages through amateur radio satellites. They all use radio to communicate with their fellow Radio Amateurs.

## **How does Amateur Radio differ from CB or Family Radio Service?**

These unlicensed services are legally limited to voice operation over low powered equipment on a single frequency band. Amateur Radio may involve voice, Morse code, computer data, or television modes on any of a number of bands, either direct or via repeater stations or earth-orbiting satellites, and may use considerable power and directional antenna systems.

## Why must Radio Amateurs pass an examination?

Although a major purpose of Amateur Radio is recreation, it is called the "Amateur Radio Service" because it also has a serious face. The government created this "Service" partly to fill the need for a pool of experts who could provide communications in times of emergency or war. Countless lives have been saved when these skilled hobbyists acted as emergency communicators to render aid during or following a hurricane, tornado, ice storm, earthquake or other disaster. In addition, the government has acknowledged the ability of Amateur Radio to advance communication and technical skills, and to enhance international goodwill.

## How are Amateur Radio operators "authorized" in Canada?

There is only one authorization to transmit – an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with the Basic Qualification and Call Sign.

**The Basic Qualification** - is the entry-level and does not require any Morse code test. To earn the Basic Qualification requires passing an examination of 100 questions on basic radio theory, regulations and operating practices. The Basic Qualification with call sign gives authority to transmit on all Amateur Radio bands above 30 megahertz, in all modes.

**The Advanced Qualification** - To earn this requires passing a 50 question examination on radio theory. Added to the Basic Qualification this permits the holder to build transmitting equipment, use high-powered transmitters, operate on the Amateur Bands below 30 Mhz, and to sponsor a voice repeater or club station.