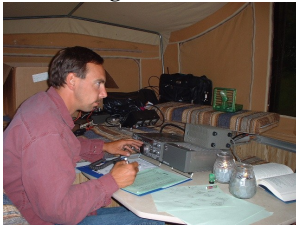


What's the Appeal of Ham Radio?

Some hams are attracted by the ability to communicate across the country, around the globe, or even with the astronauts on space missions. Others may like to build and experiment with electronics. Computer hobbyists enjoy using Amateur Radio's digital communications opportunities. Those with a competitive streak enjoy "DX Contests," where the object is to see how many hams in distant locations they can contact. Some like the convenience of a technology that gives them portable communication. Mostly we use it to open the door to new friendships over the air or through participation in one of more than 2000 Amateur Radio clubs throughout the country.



Why Do You Need a License?

Although the main purpose of Amateur Radio is fun, it is called the "Amateur Radio Service" because it also has a serious face. The FCC created this "Service" to fill the need for a pool of experts who could provide back up during emergencies. In addition, the FCC acknowledged the ability of the Hobby to advance the communication and technical skills of radio, and to enhance international goodwill. This philosophy has paid off. Countless lives have been saved where skilled hobbyists act as emergency communicators to render aid, whether it's during an earthquake in Italy or a hurricane in the U.S.

The 20/9 (Twenty over nine) Amateur Radio Club began in 1952 with a small group of enthusiasts. It has grown to more than 100 members today. We are a very active, growing organization!

What Can 20/9 Offer You? The best ways to learn about Amateur Radio is to talk to hams face-to-face. Hams take pride in their ability to "Elmer" (teach) newcomers the ropes to get them started in the hobby. Before you attain your license, you may attend any of our meetings, meet the members who can answer your questions.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Every Friday evening we have the *Club Net*, where all Hams can check in at 9:20 P.M. To share information related to the Amateur Radio Community. Even non-Hams can listen in on their scanner on 145.835 MHz, PL 110.9. You must be a licensed Ham to participate.

Field Day: The last full weekend in June, Hams from all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico, spend 24-continuous hours reaching out to other Hams. Logging all contacts for points, and to see who can log the station farthest away. The object of Field Day is to get practice in setting up an emergency communication station using only emergency power, and to contact other Hams doing the same. This helps to hone our communication skills, so when the "real thing" occurs, we are prepared.

Fox Hunting: The search for a hidden transmitter using wireless technology. Learn how its done. **Antenna Building Classes:** Learn how to build your own antenna. **Other fun Workshops and Interesting Speakers** at our meetings. **Skywarn storm watching and reporting** and **Collecting vintage Radios.** These are areas of special interest that we enjoy together and use to reach more involved skills related to Amateur Radio. **Canfield Fair:** You can find us, and our Communications Trailer, at the Canfield Fair where we have a Special Event Station going on each day. We bring Amateur Radio out to the fair, to introduce the public to our important service and hobby. Stop by and say HI!

We have many Social Club functions and fund raisers in which you and your family may participate. January is the **Winterfest**, a winter celebration and dinner, featuring good food, fun and fellowship. The **Annual Picnic**, held in July and the **Corn Roast** held in August, are both family oriented pot lucks. We have some fantastic cooks in this group and



food always seems to fit in our fun times together. We also have fundraisers for special projects. Money earned help fund our activities, and allow us to purchase equipment and materials for our work with Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, and other organizations. Our Communications Trailer was on of those purchases.



As a member of 20/9, you are encouraged to participate in any or all of these activities. They're great fun and a wonderful way to get acquainted with some of the best friends you will ever find.

Interested in Becoming a Ham? You can study on your own, or take advantage of our free classes which are open to anyone. Age is not a consideration. 20/9 offers Amateur Radio Classes two times a year, in the fall and in late winter, where you can earn either the Technician or General class licenses. The short five-week sessions will get you started in the very rewarding service/hobby. Our highly motivated and knowledgeable instructors are 20/9 Club Members, who will teach you everything you need to know to obtain your license or upgrade. These same members will also conduct your FCC required license exam at the end of your class.

Do I have to Learn Morse Code? Not any more! While many hams LIKE to use Morse code, it is not required.

What is the Cost? Basic study materials for passing the FCC test and getting your initial license from the FCC usually costs less than \$40. Once you have your first license, most hams find it best to start with simple equipment and grow over time. It usually costs less than \$200 to get your own first radio and start saying Hello. Many ham radio flea markets are held all over the country that sell good used equipment for even less.

What is Ham Radio? A housewife in North Carolina makes friends over the radio with another ham in Lithuania. An Ohio teenager uses his computer to upload a digital chess move to an orbiting space satellite, where it's retrieved by a fellow chess enthusiast in Japan. An aircraft engineer in Florida participating in a "DX Contest" swaps his call sign and talks to hams in 100 different countries during a single weekend. In California, volunteers save lives as part of their involvement in an emergency response. And from his room in Chicago, a ham's pocket sized hand-held radio allows him to talk to friends in the Carolina's.



This unique mix of fun, public service and convenience is the distinguishing characteristic of Amateur Radio. Although hams get involved for many reasons, they all have in common a basic knowledge of radio technology and operating principles, and pass an examination for the FCC license to operate on radio frequencies known as the "Amateur Bands." These bands are radio frequencies reserved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by hams at intervals from just above the AM broadcast band all the way up into extremely high microwave frequencies.

Who is the Typical Ham? Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life—movie stars, missionaries, doctors, students, politicians, truck drivers, and just plain folks. They are all ages, sexes, income levels and nationalities. They say Hello to the the world in many languages and in many ways. But whether they prefer Morse Code and old brass telegraph key, voice communication on a hand-held radio, or computerized messages transmitted via satellite, they all have an interest in what's happening in the world, and they use radio to reach out.

*** Some information taken from articles on [www. ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org) all rights of their information reserved to ARRL.***

WHO IS ABLE TO JOIN 20/9? Anyone holding any class of license or anyone who interested in supporting and promoting Amateur Radio.

**We meet the Second Tuesday
7:00 P.M. at the
Mahoning County EMA
700 Industrial Rd Youngstown, Ohio**

**** Subject to Change: Visit our web page for up-to date location****

20/9 Officers:

President:	Rich Hamaker KB8YHC 330-792-4019
Vice President:	George Meleski KC8RJS 330-651-3833
Secretary:	Jan Hamaker KC8PUO 330-792-4019
Treasurer:	John Douglass, KB8JWV 330-799-4250
Trustees:	Dotti O'Neil-Meleski KC8SYF Paul Resch N8GKE Dave Bresko KA8PSH
Testing and Classes:	John Douglass KB8JWV
Social Events:	Jan Hamaker



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