

## **What is amateur radio?**

Amateur radio is an activity open to individuals who have passed at a minimum, the Technician Class license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. See below for more information on earning an FCC license.

Amateur radio operators are individuals from all walks of life who have an interest in radio communications and depending on their class of licenses, are permitted to operate on various frequencies and modes such as Morse code (CW), digital or voice. The FCC permits amateur radio operations because amateur radio involves advancing the art and science of radio communications, establishes and promotes international goodwill, provides public service and support to government and non-government organizations.

## **What do amateur radio operators do?**

Amateur radio is very much a “hands-on” hobby which includes individual and social activities. Activities include communicating with other amateurs at home, in the United States and around the world; experimenting with new ideas in radio construction, designing new antenna systems; building radios from scratch or kits or constructing their own antennas; competing with other amateurs around the world in contests and special operating events or even working every county in the United States; public service which includes support to local activities such as bike races, parades in addition to supporting hospitals, Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and local, regional and federal government agencies.

## **How to get started**

The first step is to pass the Technician Class examination. There are several methods of preparing for obtaining your amateur radio license: (1) take an on-line class available from the American Radio Relay League ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)); (2) buy a license manual and study by yourself. Study materials are available from the ARRL and Amazon; or (3) sign up for a class locally provided by Cochise Amateur Radio Association (CARA). Classes provided by CARA are listed on the CARA website ([www.k7rdg.org](http://www.k7rdg.org)) and cover the Technician and General Class licenses. Testing is also provided by CARA. There is no age limit for becoming licensed amateur radio operator. A number of individuals have earned their licenses when only 10 or 12 years old! For more information regarding and classes please contact Grant WB6OTS ([ghays@cis-broadband.com](mailto:ghays@cis-broadband.com))

## **What does CARA do?**

Amateur radio is not only a hobby but a hands-on social experience. So, one of the primary goals of CARA is to provide a venue for amateurs and those wishing to become licensed amateur radio operators, the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and passions. Being active means having fun while learning new aspects of amateur radio. This is done via programs presented at meetings, being a mentor (Elmer) or being mentored by a CARA member; seeking help solving a particular radio associated challenge; how to I operate my new radio?; using the CARA radio stations; borrowing CARA test equipment or receiving help installing your station and your antennas to name a few.

As a member of CARA, you will have the opportunity to participate in the ARES/RACES program. ARES provides communication support to various community activities such as bike races and parades while

RACES provides communications support to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue unit as well as providing communications to area hospitals.

There are several ways you can check out CARA:

- (1) General Membership meeting on the first Monday of the month which is held at 1900 hours (7 PM) at Green Acres (Address on Website).
- (2) On most Saturdays, CARA members also gather at Green Acres around 0900 hours to talk, exchange stories and provide help.
- (3) CARA weekly VHF net which is held every Thursday at 1900 hours (7 PM)) on the CARA 146.76 MHz (PL 162.5).

Please join us and become part of CARA which provides community service, personal education and great friendships.