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## Who Are Amateur Radio Operators?

An **amateur radio operator** is someone who uses communications equipment in two-way personal communications with other amateur operators. Amateur radio operators in Canada must pass examinations on applicable regulations, electronics, radio theory, safety, and radio operation. Once certified, they are assigned a Call Sign to identify themselves during communication. There are about three million amateur radio operators worldwide and an estimated 70,000 Amateur Radio Operators in Canada.

Amateur radio operators are also known as **hams**. The term "ham" is a nickname for amateur radio operators that dates back to the days of wired telegraphy and Telegrams.

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For more information on Amateur Radio Scan the QR code below, or call 1 (877) 273-8304



## Radio Amateurs of Canada

(RAC) is the national association for Amateur Radio in Canada. It is a not-for-profit membership association with its headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, representing the interests of Amateur Radio across Canada.



Prepared by Advanced Certificate holder Rod Wilson  
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## What's going on here?

These are portable Amateur Radio Stations participating in an international communications contest event called Field Day. This setup simulates emergency conditions where traditional forms of communications and power utilities have failed.

Amateur Radio uses radio apparatus and computers for experimentation, self-training, community service and technical investigation by individual Operators authorised by Government of Canada, Industry, Science Economic Development (ISED). The setup here is with permission and support from Scouts Canada



## Amateur Radio Service

This activity uses Radio Frequencies assigned by the Government of Canada to authorized, qualified, Radio Operators.

The **"amateur radio service"** is international. Other countries have similar regulations that allow their amateur radio operators to work with Canadian operators.

More than just voice communications, modern Amateur Radio Stations use advanced technologies, state-of-the-art software defined radios, computers, data packets and digital signal processing. It is often described as a hobby with 1000 hobbies.



Amateur Radio Base Station VE3RXN

## What do Radio Amateurs do?

### They Communicate!

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It's fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need. Amateur Radio is growing due to youth interest in STEM.



Radio Scouting on the air from a winter camp

**Amateur Radio Operators Provide Emergency Communications expertise** during natural disasters and when other modern systems fail. We provide certified communications operators to supplement communications for local emergency management groups and non-government organizations to provide backup radio operators whenever, wherever required.



**Ottawa** The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club and the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club is where Amateur Radio enthusiasts share technical knowledge and contribute hundreds of hours community service for events like the Ski Marathon, Ride for CHEO, Search & Rescue support and Race Day. There are many Amateur Radio Clubs across Ontario and Western Quebec.



Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) **Youth Education Program** provides youth and their leaders innovative ways of learning through the wonderful world of Amateur Radio.

The Program provides financial and personal support to Teachers in schools and Leaders in community youth groups in all regions of the country.

"Amateur Radio has been an amazing resource for me in high school, as it presents many real-life applications to the topics presented in my Physics, Electronics, Geography and Computer Science classes.

– Nikolaus Reichert, VE4NJR