

# The ADVENTURES OF ZACK & MAX

VOLUME 1

The Odyssey  
Begins



\$4.95 U.S.

COMIC BOOK 1  
COMIC BOOK 1 Ham Radio Comic  
(irc) 731797113366



 ICOM<sup>®</sup>  
www.icomamerica.com



## Welcome to the World of Ham Radio!

Thank you for your interest in *The Adventures of Zack and Max - The Odyssey Begins*. This is your first step in discovering the excitement of amateur radio (also known as ham radio).. This story is designed to provide you with basic information about ham radio – its history, its applications, and its relevance in the world today.

We hope you have fun reading this story. We had fun creating it, and encourage you to get involved in this wonderful hobby. Whether you're a student or an adult, we feel this book tells the story of ham radio well enough for you to read it again and again. And, if you do find it interesting and informative, please pass it on to a friend! For information on how to become a ham, see the inside back cover of this book. Enjoy!

## About ICOM, Inc.

ICOM, Inc., founded by Tokuzo Inoue, JA3FA, is a worldwide leading manufacturer of Amateur and other radio equipment. Headquartered in Osaka, Japan, ICOM entered the radio business over 45 years ago, creating some of the first transistorized amateur radio transceivers. Today, ICOM is proud to continue its advancement of the hobby by offering a wide range of amateur radios – from cutting-edge, digital technology, base transceivers to innovative handheld radios. ICOM is always working to improve its products by employing the latest technology, listening to customer suggestions, and drawing from experience in the radio industry.

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Illustrated by Kayoko Nakajima

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Zack, his dad, and Max went out for a long hike in the country one sunny day in June.

What a beautiful day!

Yeah, look at that blue sky!

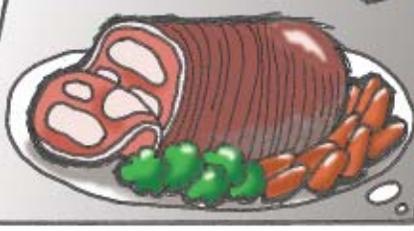


Look over there. What's that?

Those are Ham radio operators.

Ham?...

...That's ME!



What's **HAM** radio, Dad?

Ham radio is a hobby that allows people to talk on a radio. They can talk as close as within a building or as far away as the other side of the world. There are more than **2.8 million Hams** all over the world!

Why do they call it Ham radio?



No one really knows for sure...





Ham radio is also called **AMATEUR** radio. It's by government law that Ham radio cannot be used for profit. And you can't play music over Ham radio.



Really. But I hear music on my radio all the time.

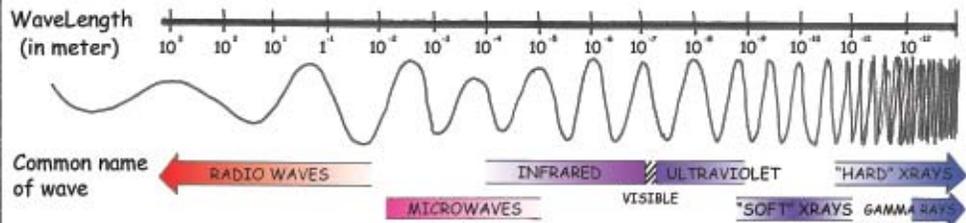


That's not Ham radio.

That's **COMMERCIAL** broadcast radio. People play those songs to make profits by selling advertising. There's no advertising on Ham radio. And your radio does not pick up Ham frequencies.

## Frequencies?

### The Electromagnetic Spectrum



Radio is part of the electromagnetic spectrum, just like x-rays and light. All electromagnetic energy travels in waves at the speed of light. In radio, the **bigger** the wave, the **lower** the frequency and the **further** on earth you can talk.

So are Ham radio waves bigger or smaller than one's from my home radio?

Both. There are **BANDS** of frequencies set aside for Ham radio use. Some bands use low frequency waves - these are big waves, bigger than a house - and some use high frequency waves. Some Ham waves are so small they are called '*microwaves*'.





Microwaves!?  
Like our microwave oven?

Uh-huh.

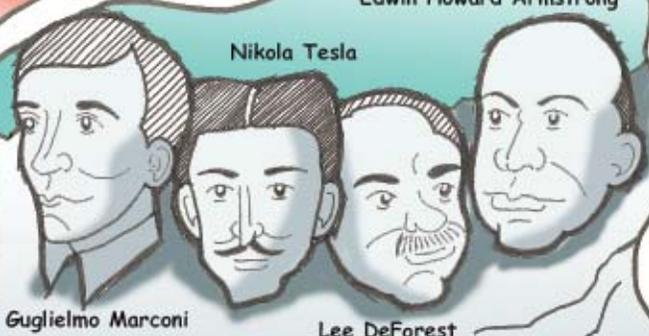
Get out!

INFRARED

MICROWAVES

RADIO WAVES

It's true! Our microwave oven cooks by using radio waves. That's why it's so important that Ham radio operators take precautions to send - or **TRANSMIT** - their radio signals in a way that no one gets hurt.



Edwin Howard Armstrong

Nikola Tesla

Guglielmo Marconi

Lee DeForest

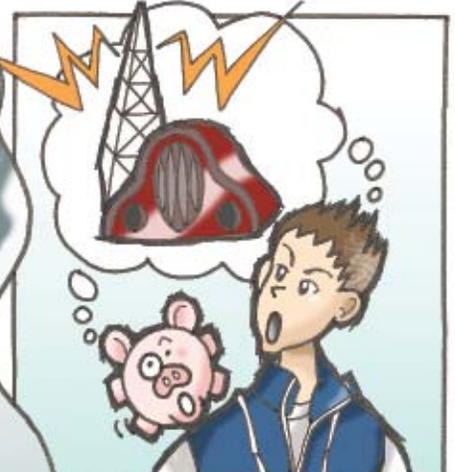
### Early Giants of Radio

Ham radio's been around a long time and people have had years to make it safe.

How long?

Ham radio got its real start just after the year 1900...

...There were many inventors who contributed to the development of radio- **Armstrong, Tesla, and DeForest** are a few of the giants. But most people credit **Marconi** as the father of radio.

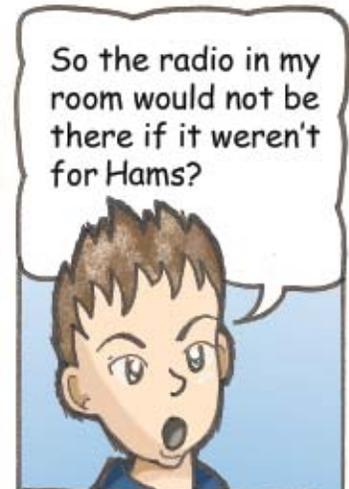


In the early days radios were primitive. There were no rules about who could broadcast. It was chaos.

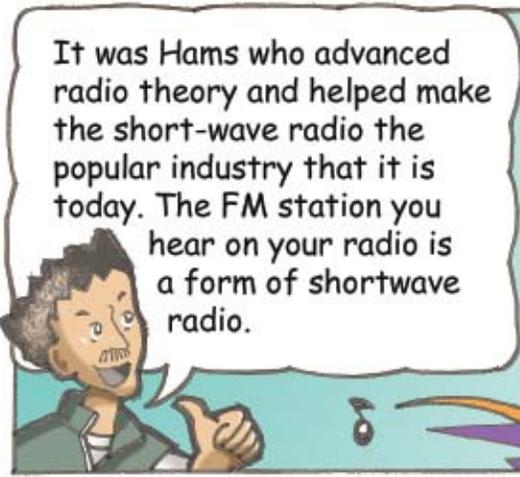




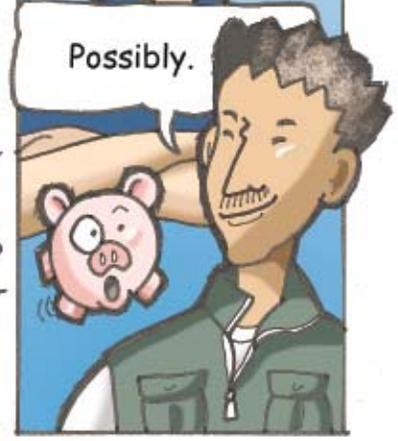
Finally, in 1912 the military stepped in and claimed the best airwaves for "at-sea" use. Hams were left with the **shortwaves**.



So the radio in my room would not be there if it weren't for Hams?



It was Hams who advanced radio theory and helped make the short-wave radio the popular industry that it is today. The FM station you hear on your radio is a form of shortwave radio.



Possibly.



Ham radio has other uses too, Zack. The biggest use is for **emergency communications**. If there were an earthquake or tornado or hurricane, often the only way people can communicate and organize help is by Ham radio.

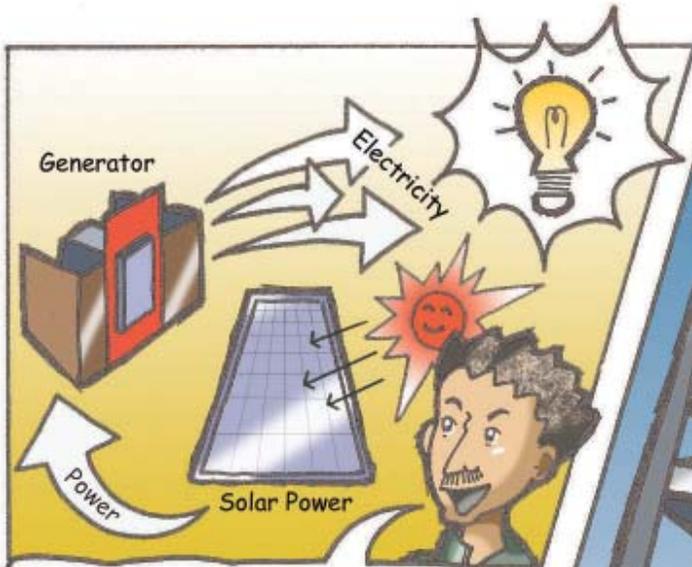


Hams helps out during emergencies. Hear that, Max?

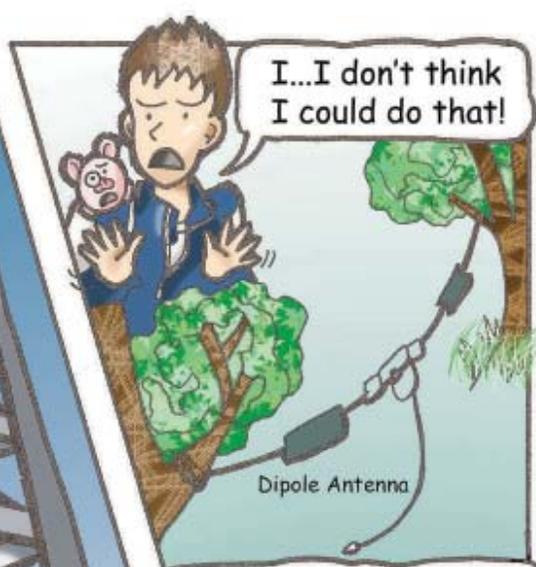


But why are these people out here in the woods?

These people are taking part in 'Field Day'. In June, Hams practice their emergency communications preparedness.

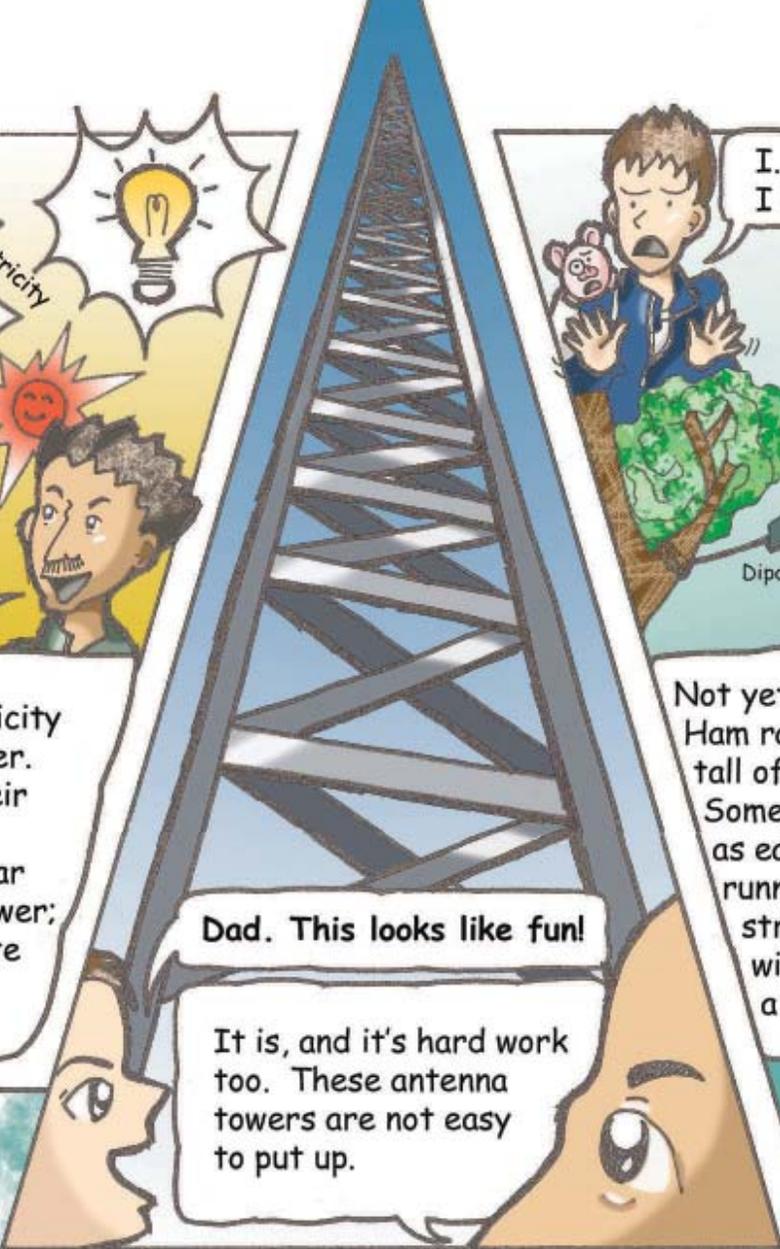


There is often no electricity available during a disaster. Hams have to create their own power. They use portable generators, solar panels, water or wind power; and batteries to generate their own electricity.



I...I don't think I could do that!

Not yet, Zack. Not all Ham radios need that tall of an antenna. Some antennas are as easy to set up as running a long straight wire to a tree.

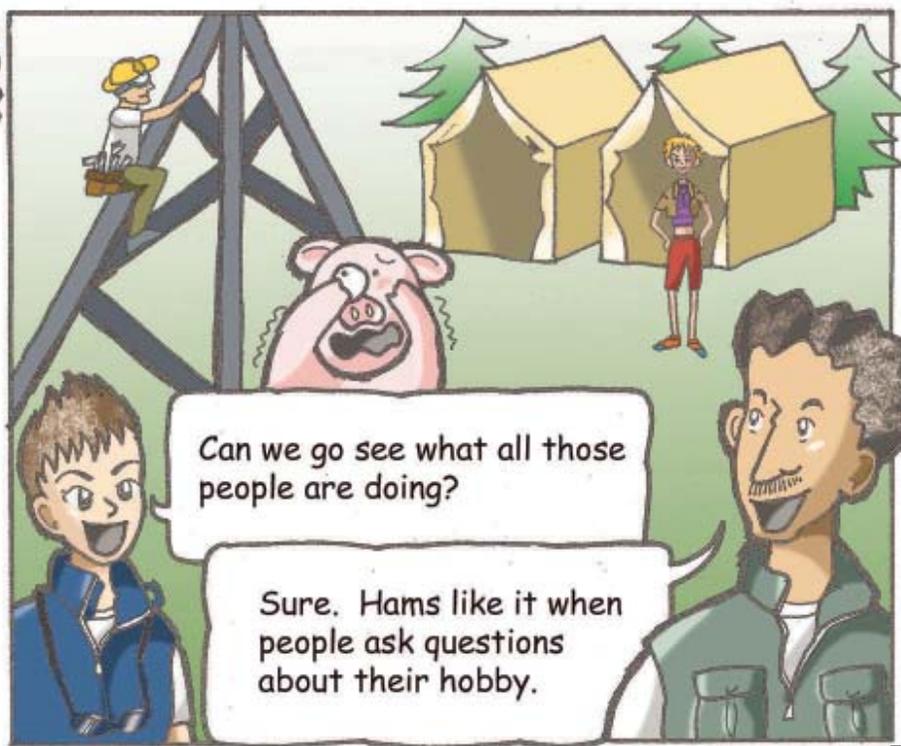


Dad. This looks like fun!

It is, and it's hard work too. These antenna towers are not easy to put up.



There are small portable antennas that you can hold in your hand, too.



Can we go see what all those people are doing?

Sure. Hams like it when people ask questions about their hobby.

Hi! Are you here for Field Day?

Yes. Are you Madison Bailey?

How did you know that?

I know your dad. Where is he now?

The What!?

Over there, in Station 6, the 20 meter CW tent.

Madison, this is my son, Zack. Zack, why don't you talk with Madison about Ham radio while I go speak with her dad?

Hi. You can call me Mady.

Aw, Dad, I wanna go with you, to learn more about Ham radio.

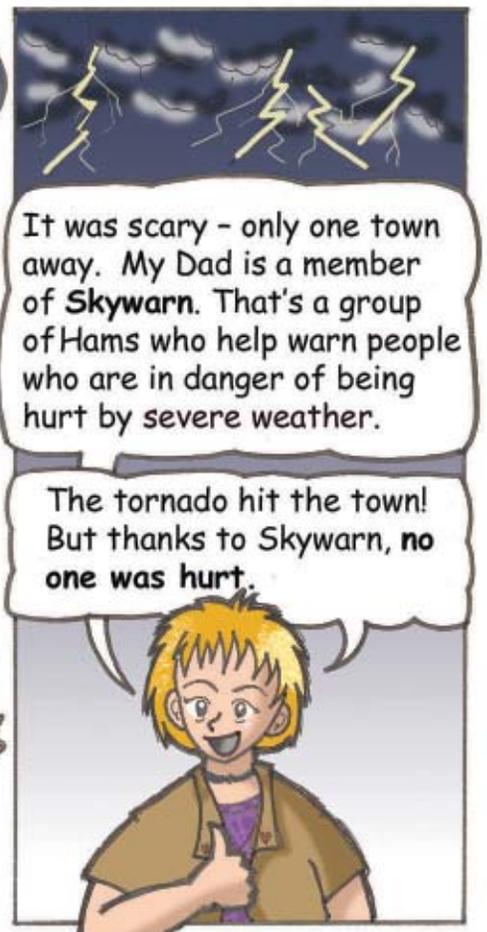
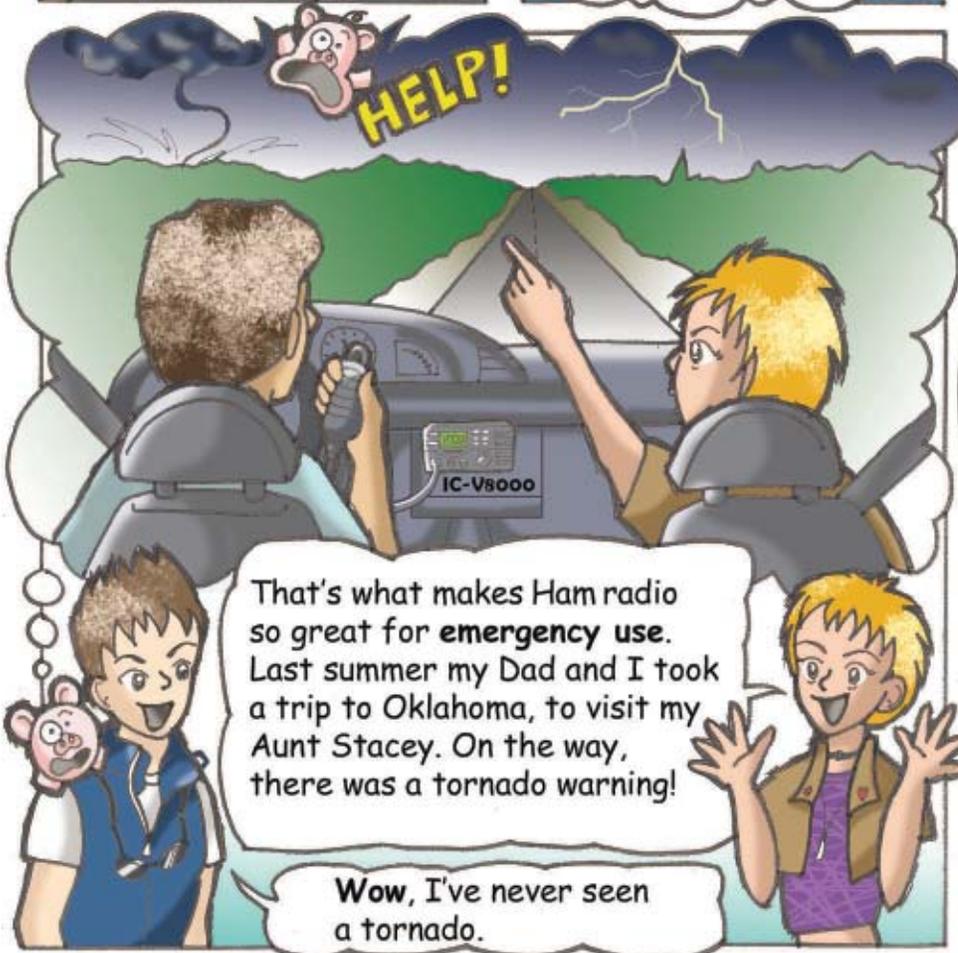
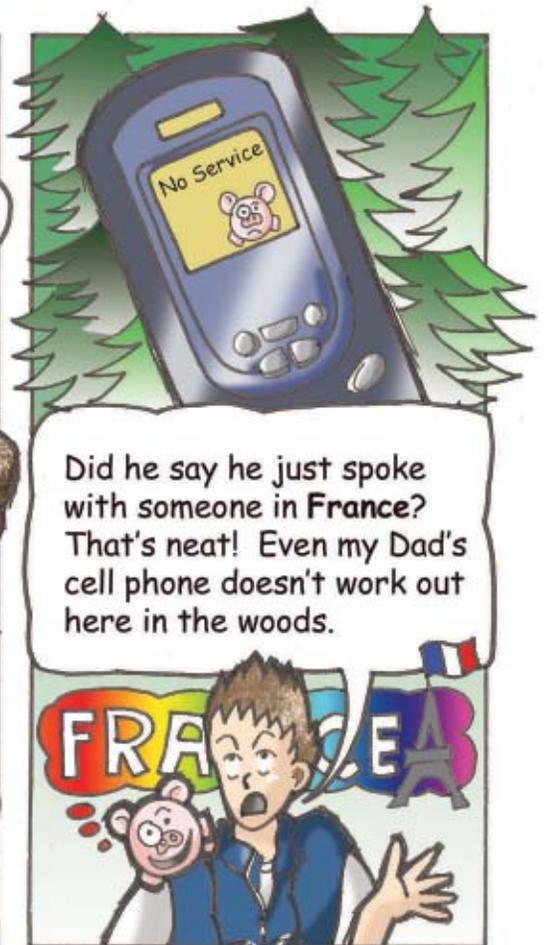
I'm sure Mady can answer some questions for you. You're a Ham, right Mady?

**KC7JPA**  
That's my call sign.

You bet! **KC7JPA**, general class.

KC -what?

IC-V8



Ham radio helps in other ways too, Mady.

Hi Bill!

Bill is a member of our radio club.

I use Ham radio for our local Search and Rescue team. In fact, in many places, we couldn't communicate without Ham radio. Last year we saved over 40 people who got lost in these woods.

Gee. Ham radio is important!

Yeah, and pretty soon, I'll get to go out on searches.

Oh? Are you going to be a firefighter, too?

No. I'm gonna be an astronaut, like Kathy Sullivan, N5YV. She even used Ham radio on the Space Shuttle!

There's a Ham radio on the Space Shuttle?

Yeah! Hams talk to the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station all the time.

Wow! That's neat!



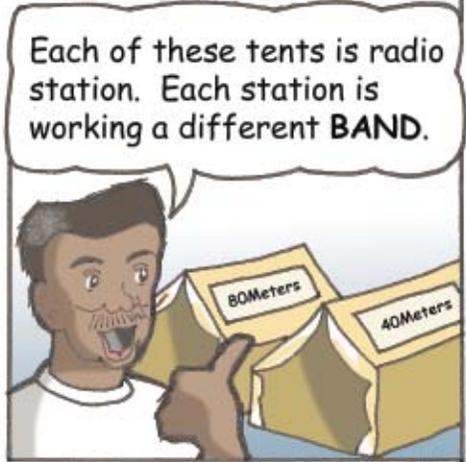
What's going on over there?



You mean the **spectrum**.

That's right!

Hey, I thought you weren't a Ham.



Each of these tents is radio station. Each station is working a different **BAND**.



My Dad was telling me about the spectrum.



Your Dad was right. That tent over there is working the 80 meters band. Let's go check it out.



"CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, November, 7, India, Hotel."

"CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, November, 7, India, Hotel."



Did he say **Indian Hotel**???

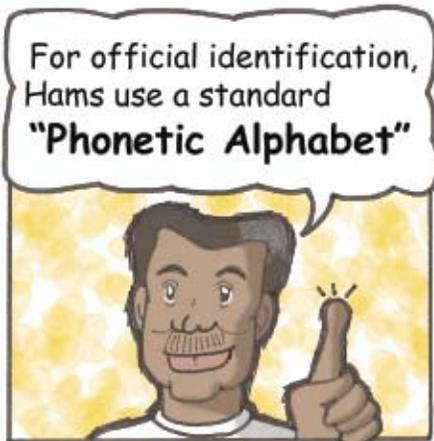
**India, Hotel**. That means the letters **I** and **H**. Using words can be easier to understand than letters.

November, 7, India, Hotel is **N7IH**, which is our club callsign.



Ha ha ha

Hams have a lot of fun with their callsigns. My friend's callsign is **KB9PBJ**. We call him Kilo, Bravo, 9, Peanut Butter and Jelly.



For official identification, Hams use a standard "**Phonetic Alphabet**"

Is that a radio they're using?  
It doesn't look like any radio  
I've ever seen.



IC-756PROII



DJ is working to get as many contacts as possible and Sharon is entering call signs into a computer for future contact verification. These competitions can get very intense. Let's listen.



That's a radio all right. We call it a **BASE STATION**.

Ham radio isn't just for emergencies or search and rescues. Many people use Ham radio just for fun, too. It's pretty neat knowing you can talk to some other Ham in a country 6,000 miles away with nothing but air between the two of you.

Ham radio is a hobby, and Hams hold **contests** to see **how far** and **how often** they can make a "QSO" or two-way contact.

Then, Hams may exchange **QSL** cards by mail or by the Internet to acknowledge the contact.



N7IH  
November  
5A W  
5 Alpha

CQ...brzap...Whisky 1 albbbaa weeee...  
bchhh...five nine...Field...go ahead  
sierra fox...ccchhh...diditdidid...

Whisky 1 station.  
This is N7IH.  
Please repeat.



That doesn't sound like anything to me...

Just Wait. There's a lot of **TRAFFIC** on the airwaves today.



CQ...brzap...Whisky 1 Alpha  
Whisky bchhh...eigh...conne...  
cut.....Field...go ahead

W1AW. This is N7IH.

N7IH. This is W1AW.  
We are 8A CT. QSL?



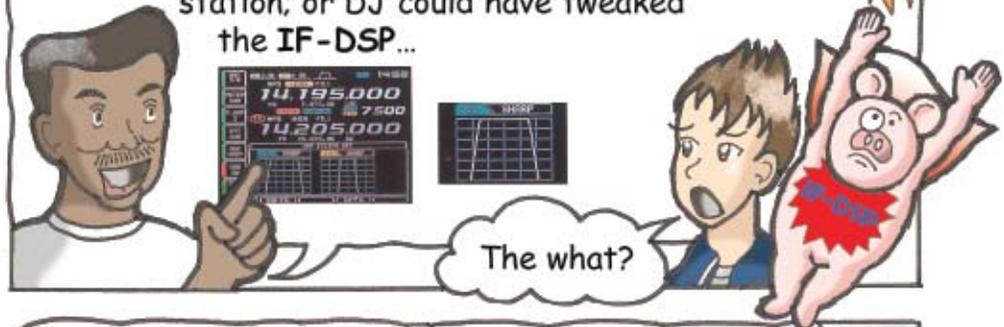
Roger, you are 8, Alpha, Connecticut. We are 5 Alpha, Western Washington. W1AW, thanks for the contact and good luck with your contest.



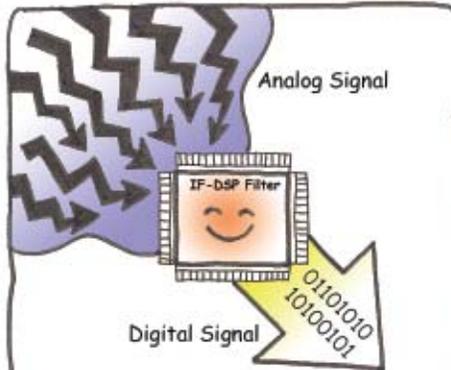
Hey how did he do that? That person came in really clear.

### IF-DSP Filter

There are a number of reasons why the call could have come in so strong: the station could be close by; or the other operator could be using a very powerful station; or DJ could have tweaked the IF-DSP...



The what?



**IF-DSP.** It is like the sound card that you have in your computer.

Yeah, it's like having the hottest chip inside your radio!



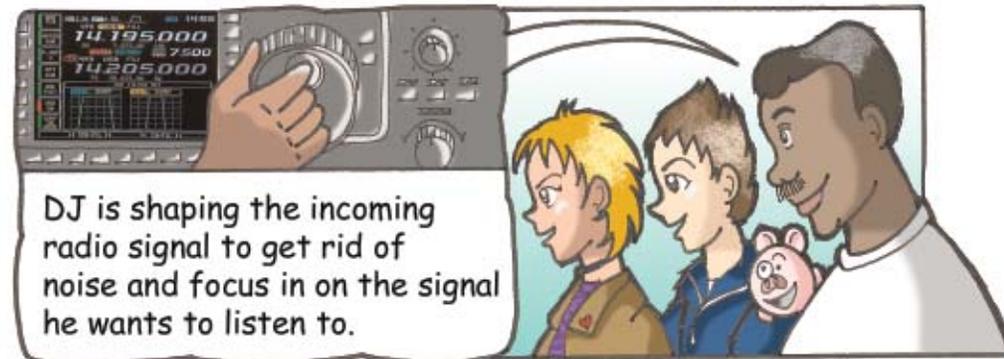
Wow! Just like my computer!

And, MP3's are a type of IF-DSP processing.

I listen to MP3's on my Mpeg player all the time. IF-DSP must be really powerful!



You're right! That radio has a powerful processor inside that helps us receive super clear signals.



DJ is shaping the incoming radio signal to get rid of noise and focus in on the signal he wants to listen to.



IF-DSP is changing the way amateur radio is used. It makes it easy to pull in really far away stations or to isolate a single signal, like you're hearing today.



It's still a new technology - this kind of radio performance was not available until just last year.



Bill, what was the other way you were gonna say that can help us hear signals clearly?

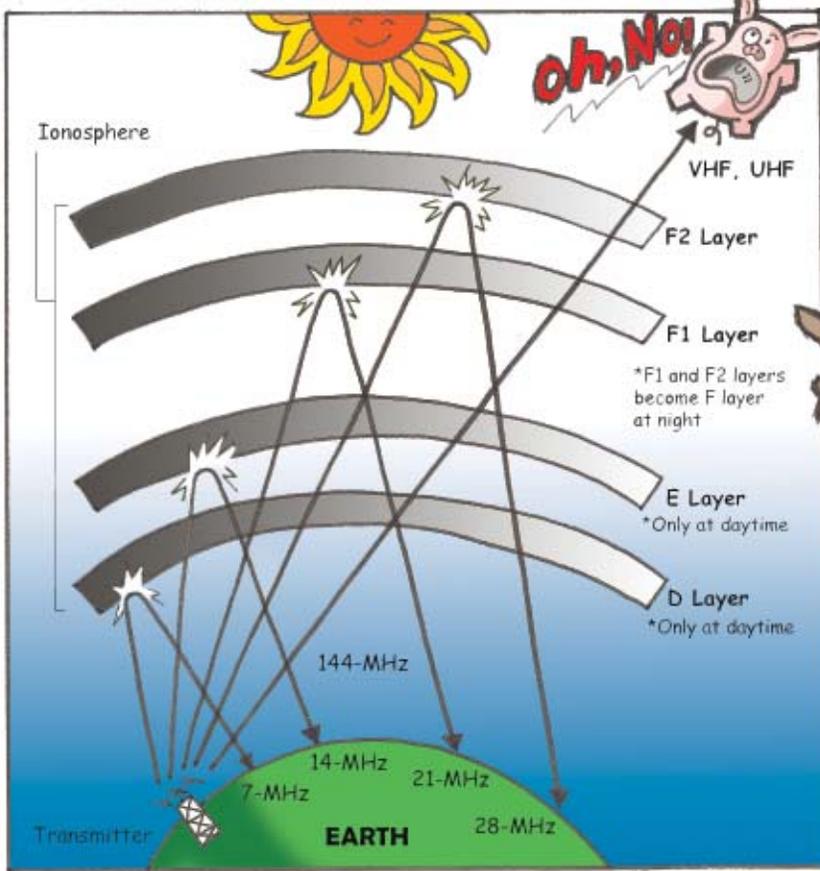


It could have been favorable atmospheric conditions.

More than you think. A good hailstorm will bounce and scatter radio signals. Even rain clouds can affect signals.



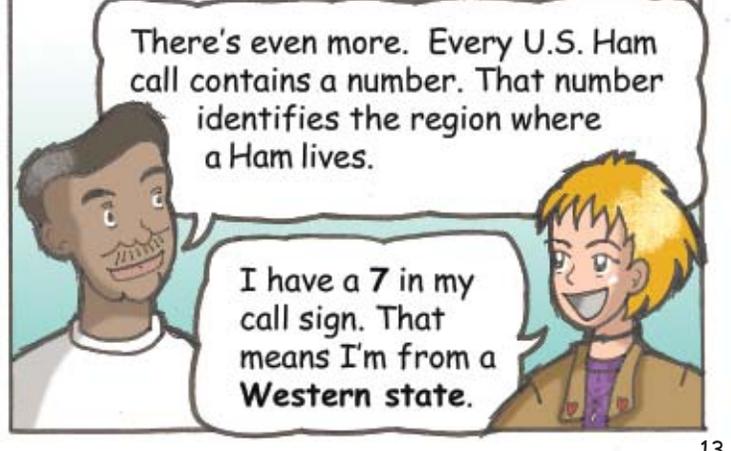
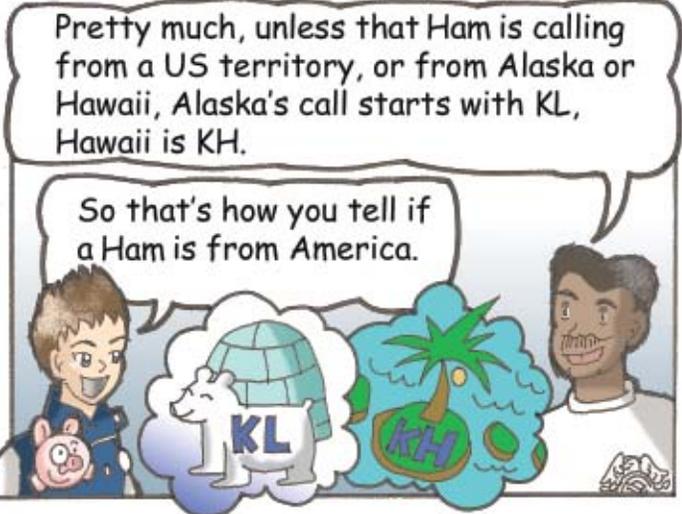
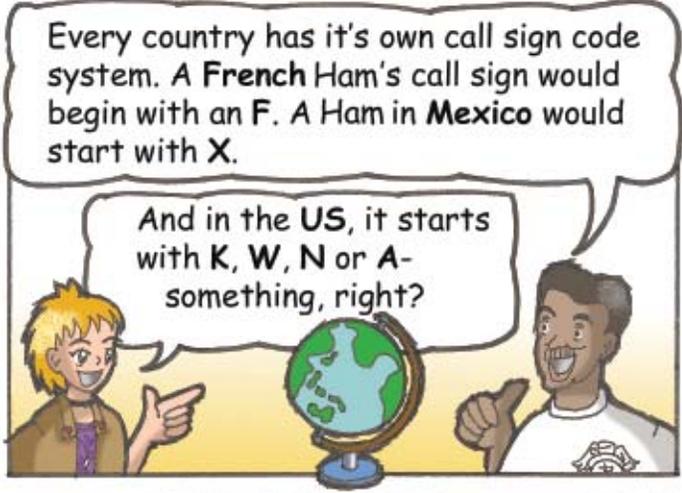
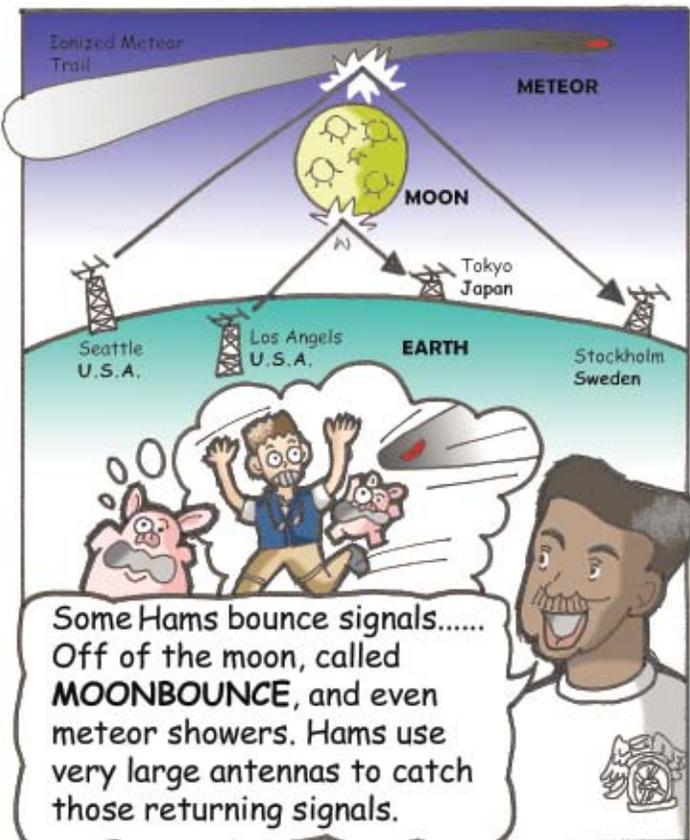
What does the atmosphere have to do with radio signals?

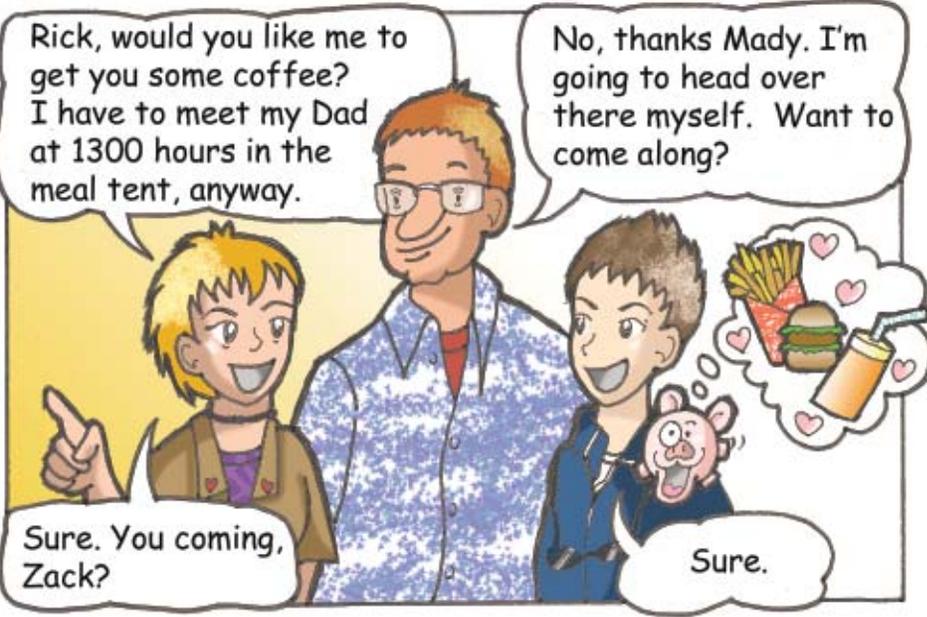
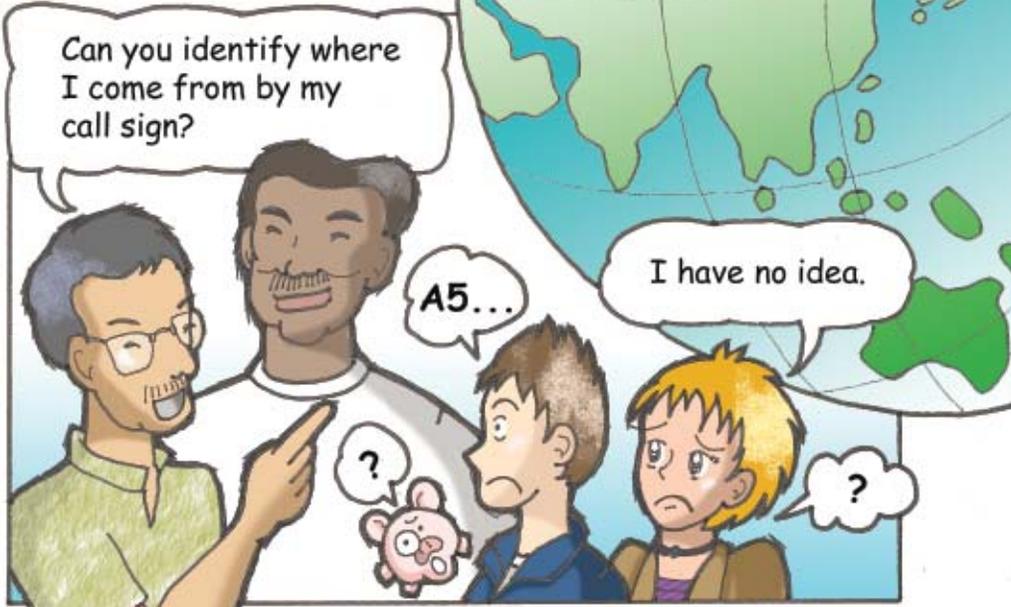
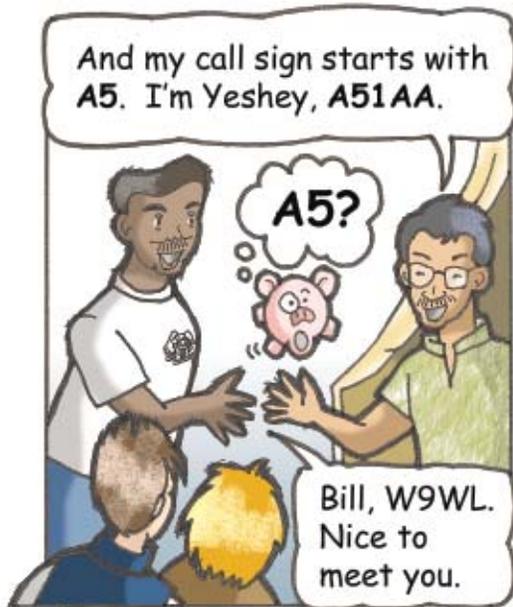


But the biggest way the atmosphere affects radio signals isn't by weather but by the different reflective properties of the layers in the sky.



There are transition zones in the sky, so the closer to earth you are, the thicker the atmosphere—usually. Each area affects radio signals differently. And radio signals travel in a straight line. On Very High Frequencies the signals usually travel directly into space.





Man, what-a-great-day!

Guess what I like the most about Ham radio?

You can talk to astronauts???

Helping others in an emergency?

Yeshey from Bhutan

Hiroshi from Japan

Maria from Peru

What I like the most about being a Ham is **making friends with people from all over the world!**

You met Yeshey from Bhutan. He is a good friend of mine I met thru Ham radio. I also have a friend from Japan, his name is Hiroshi, and I have another friend from Peru. Her name is Maria.

That's neat! I always wanted to make Japanese friends. I want to find out about hot new video games in Japan!

What is that sound?

DITDIT-DIT  
BA OO  
AHDII-L  
DH  
BA DH  
AHDII DITDI  
AHDII-DHA

That's CW. Morse Code.

Morse code Keyer

Morse Code is a digital language. Patterned signals replace the letters of the alphabet.

Do I have to know Morse Code to become a Ham?

Not to get your **Basic License**, but you need to know Morse code to upgrade to the **top licenses**.

Whew!

## Digital Communications



There are other, more modern means of **digital**, or **DATA**, communications today. **RTTY** has been around for years. The **IC-756PROII** has a feature that decodes RTTY and let's you read text messages right on its screen!



You don't have to build huge antenna towers anymore. You can use a sensitive data mode -- **PSK31** to tie your radio to your computer.



It combines 2 hobbies together!

**APRS™** or Automatic Position Reporting System is popular now, too. It's based on **GPS**, or Global Positioning System. This digital mode uses **space satellite data** to pinpoint and track Hams as they move.



Here I am!



YooHoo, Look over here



Hey, I'm Over here

So you know where your friends are while you're talking with them.

Ham radio is **always moving forward and expanding**, using new technologies and exploring new ways to communicate. Like **ATV**, or Amateur TV.



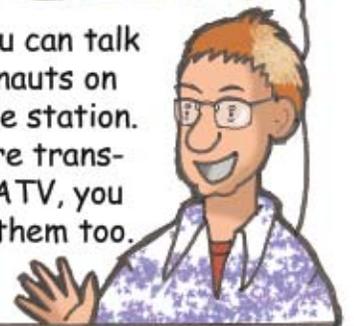
TV! Wow!



Like I said before, they've got a Ham radio on the International Space Station... Can I see who I'm talking to?



Yeah, you can talk to astronauts on the space station. If they're transmitting **ATV**, you can see them too.





You can even hook your IC-R3 up to a TV or computer monitor to see images bigger.

Wow, whoever that guy is, his CW is **FAST**.

That sounds like someone who knows what they're doing. Probably about **45 words per minute**. Let's go see who it is.

Or **GIRL!!**



Cool! I've got a new flat screen that would work great!

**Dad!!**

Hi Zack.

WOW, your Dad is really good!

DADIDA DDIDHA DDIDAHDA DADI

How did you...

...I've been a Ham since I was your age, but I haven't been active in the hobby since we moved here.



I was hoping you and I could get involved with Ham radio - me for the second time, you for the first.

**Cool!** Can we talk to Hams in France? And astronauts on the Space Shuttle? and Moonbounce? and Search and Rescue... APRS™.



Well, maybe not everything all at once, but sure, you bet we can get going.

The computer is a necessary tool for Amateur radio operations. You are the computer expert, you can teach me some of the things you know. **We can teach each other.**



Okay, Dad.

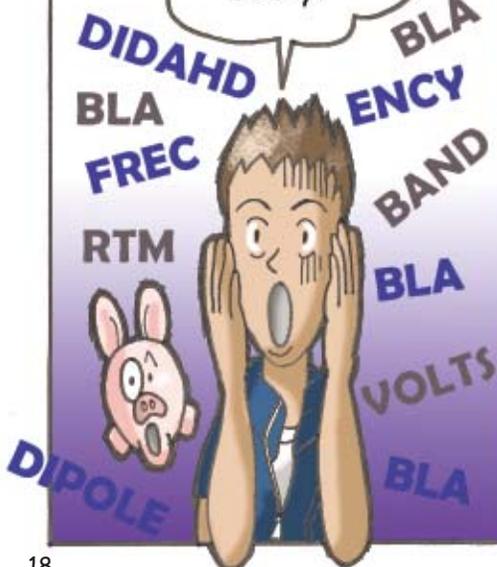
Okay, I'm ready!

Of course, you'll have to get your amateur license.

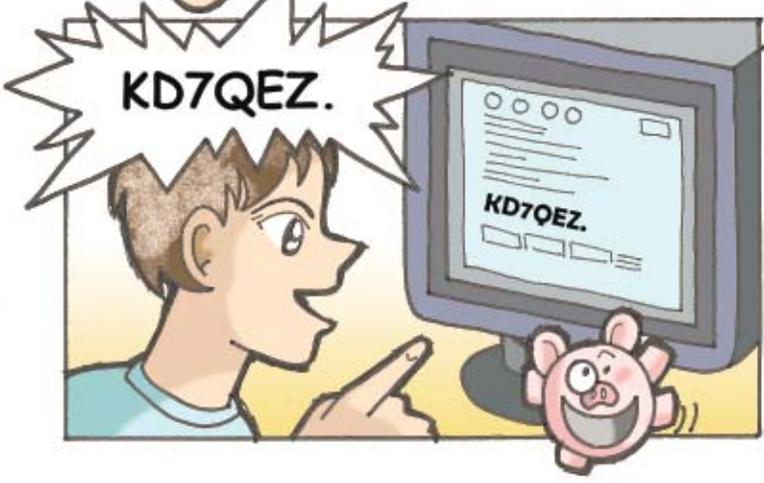
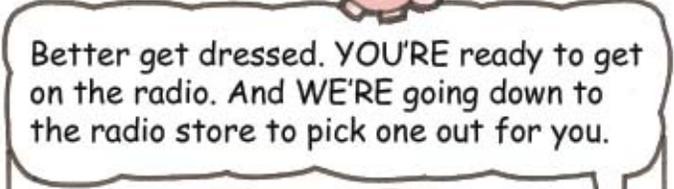
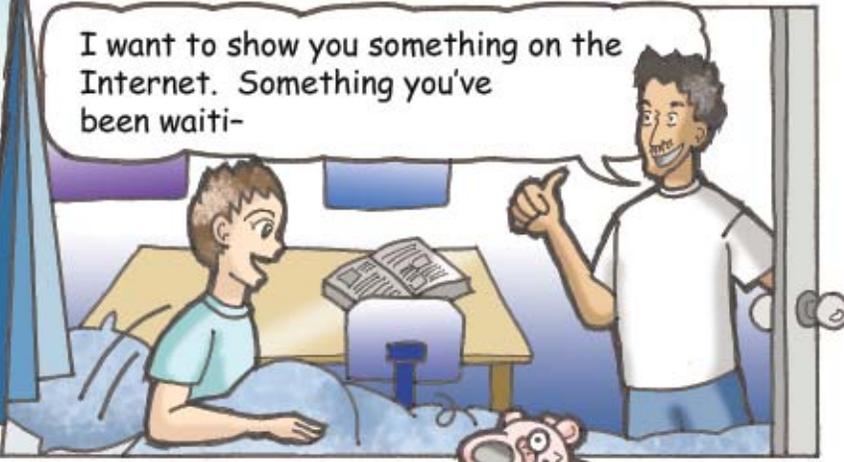
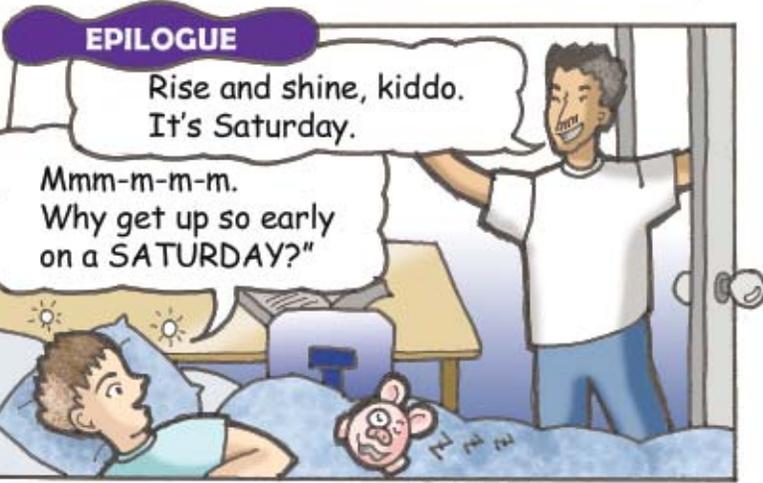
No, you're not. You've got to study.

Study?

The test is not hard, but you will have to study and learn about Ham radio before you can get on the air. Remember our talk about the microwave oven?



Oh, yeah. Wouldn't want to cook Max!



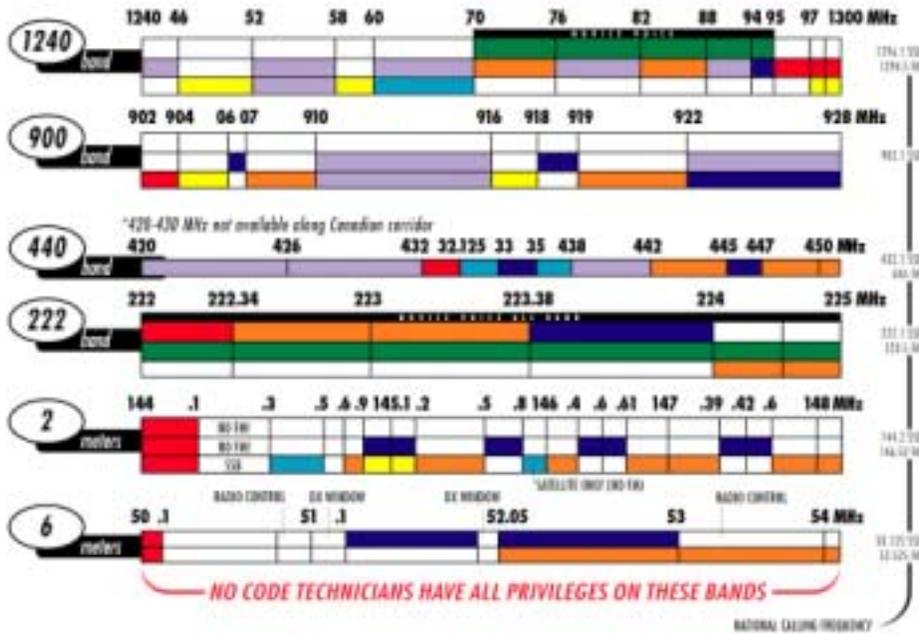
# AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN

Under restructuring all HF classes retain band privileges as indicated. *General Class now 5 WPM!*

## UHF/VHF

- VOICE (VOCAL AND DATA)
- AMATEUR TELEVISION (FAST SCAN)
- SATELLITE (NO FM)
- SECOND HARMONIC (NO FM)
- DATA
- FM SIMPLEX
- SSB
- FM REPEATER

\*Grandfathered  
All old & new license classes retain their operating privileges after April 15, 2000.



**IC-2720H**  
AM, FM/2M, 440



**IC-T90A**  
AM, FM, WFM/2M, 6M, 440



**IC-V8000**  
FM/2M

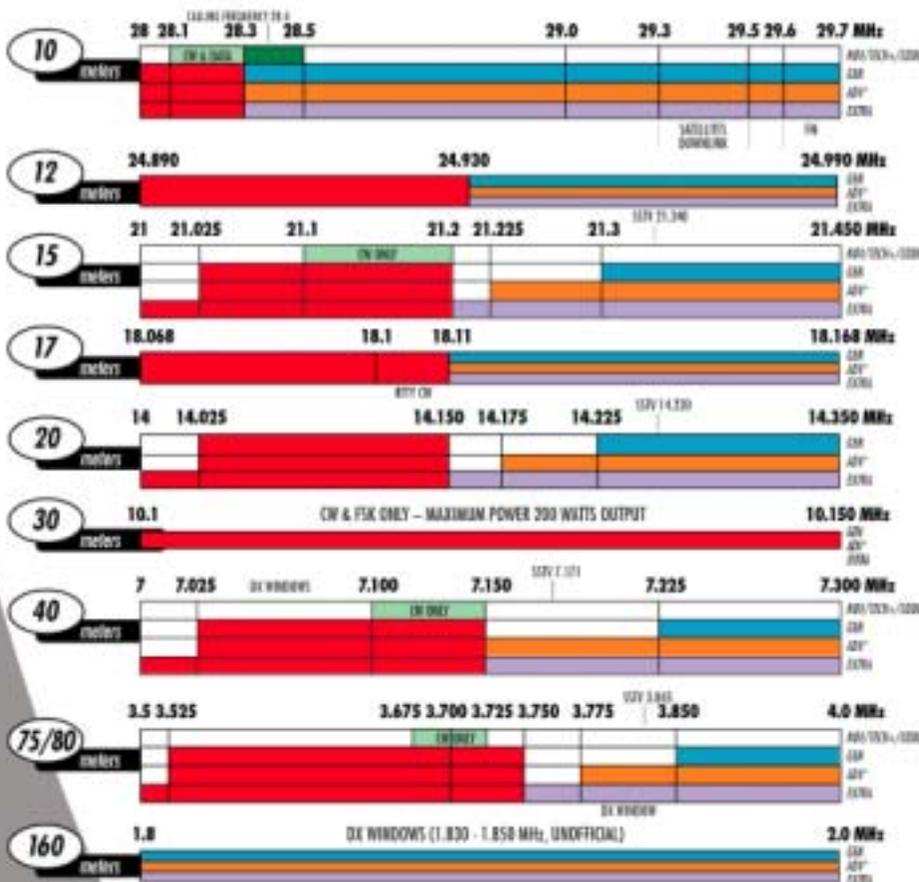


**IC-V8**  
FM/2M

## HF Bands

- EMERGENCY, COMMUNICATIONS, TELETYPE, CW
- NO PRIVILEGES

\*Grandfathered  
All old & new license classes retain their operating privileges after April 15, 2000.



**IC-756PROII**  
AM, FM, SSB, CW, RTTY/HF, 6M



**IC-746PRO**  
AM, FM, SSB, CW, RTTY/HF, 2M, 6M



**IC-706MKIIG**  
AM, FM, SSB, CW, RTTY/HF, 2M, 6M, 440



**IC-718**  
AM, SSB, CW, RTTY/HF

Here's where you can learn more about how to become a licensed ham radio operator:

## Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

1-800-32NEWHAM  
326-3942

The ARRL provides information for anyone interested in Amateur Radio. Through books, tapes, maps, and a list of ARRL-affiliated ham clubs, you will be able to find the answers to all your questions about Amateur Radio. To find out more about Amateur Radio and the ARRL check out [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org).

## Gordon West Radio School

1-714-549-5000

E-mail: [wb6noa@arrl.net](mailto:wb6noa@arrl.net)

Gordon West offers free classes for kids, plus free instructor training seminars. West has trained 8 out of 10 HAMS through his books, tapes and classes.

Or check with your school's science teacher, school librarian, or your local public library.

Here's where you can learn more about amateur radio and purchase Icom radios in the U.S.

### ALABAMA

GigaParts, Inc.  
Huntsville, AL • 256-535-4442

### ARIZONA

Ham Radio Outlet  
Phoenix, AZ • 602-242-3515

P.A.C.E.  
Tucson, AZ • 520-888-3333

### CALIFORNIA

Ham Radio Outlet  
Anaheim, CA • 714-533-7373

Ham Radio Outlet  
Burbank, CA • 818-842-1786

Ham Radio Outlet  
Oakland, CA • 510-534-5757

Ham Radio Outlet  
San Diego, CA • 858-560-4900

Ham Radio Outlet  
Sunnyvale, CA • 408-736-9496

Jun's Electronics  
Culver City, CA • 310-390-8003

### COLORADO

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### CONNECTICUT

Lentini Communications  
Newington, CT • 860-666-6227

### DELAWARE

Ham Radio Outlet  
Newcastle, DE • 302-322-7092

### FLORIDA

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Orlando, FL • 407-894-3238

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Miami, FL • 305-597-3090

Eli's Amateur Radio  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL • 954-525-0103

Mike's Electronics  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL • 954-491-7110

Portable Communication (Export)  
Hialeah, FL • 305-822-2258

RF Components (Export)  
Miami, FL • 305-597-9269

VV-5 Communications (Export)  
Miami, FL • 305-577-9960

### GEORGIA

Ham Radio Outlet  
Atlanta, GA • 770-263-0700

### IDAHO

Ross Distributing Co.  
Preston, ID • 208-852-0830

### ILLINOIS

Amateur Radio Toy Store, Inc.  
Wheaton, IL • 630-668-9577

### INDIANA

Ham Station  
Evansville, IN • 812-422-0231

### KANSAS

Associated Radio Communications  
Overland Park, KS • 913-381-5900

### MICHIGAN

ComDaC Radio  
St. Joseph, MI • 616-982-0404

### MINNESOTA

Radio City, Inc.  
Mounds View, MN • 763-786-4475

### MISSOURI

Gateway Electronics  
St. Louis, MO • 314-427-6116

### MONTANA

AmCom  
Lake Side, MT • 406-884-3052

### NORTH CAROLINA

Communications Headquarters  
Wilmington, NC • 910-791-8885

### NEVADA

A.E.S. Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV • 702-647-3114

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ham Radio Outlet  
Salem, NH • 603-898-3750

### NEW JERSEY

KJI Electronics  
Caldwell, NJ • 973-364-1930

### NEW YORK

Barry Electronics  
New York, NY • 212-420-0500

Ham Central  
Poughkeepsie, NY • 845-462-0415

### OHIO

Amateur Electronic Supply  
Wickliffe, OH • 440-585-7388

R & L Electronics  
Hamilton, OH • 513-868-6399

Universal Radio Inc.  
Reynoldsburg, OH • 614-866-4267

### OREGON

Ham Radio Outlet  
Portland, OR • 503-598-0555

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Burghardt Amateur Elect.  
Watertown, SD • 605-886-7314

### TENNESSEE

CT Morgan  
Chattanooga, TN • 423-629-7911

Memphis Amateur Electronics  
Memphis, TN • 901-683-9125

### TEXAS

Austin Amateur Radio Supply  
Austin, TX • 512-454-2994

Houston Amateur Radio Supply  
Spring, TX • 281-355-7373

KComm, Inc.  
San Antonio, TX • 210-344-3311

Rad-Com Radio  
Lubbock, TX • 806-792-3669

Texas Towers  
Plano, TX • 972-422-7306

### UTAH

Communication Products  
Midvale, UT • 801-567-9944

### VIRGINIA

Ham Radio Outlet  
Woodbridge, VA • 703-490-4664

### WASHINGTON

Alf Enterprises  
Arlington, WA • 360-403-4840

Radio Depot  
Seattle, WA • 206-763-2936

### WISCONSIN

A.E.S. Milwaukee  
Milwaukee, WI • 414-358-4088



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