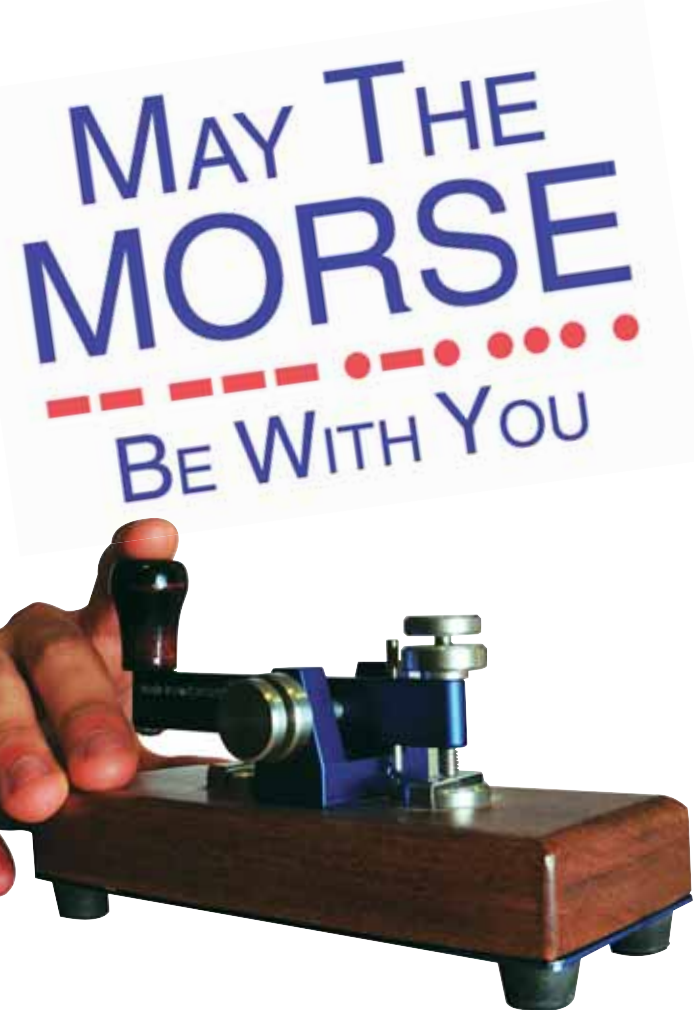


Today

Increasingly, modern digital and computer technology is used to extend the possibilities of amateur radio equipment. You can also use your computer as a radio, by linking it to the internet and a transmitter.

Further afield, radio amateurs continue to pioneer new applications of radio communications technology. They experiment with fascinating technologies like meteor burst communications, high altitude ballooning and bouncing signals off the moon. With amateur radio the opportunities to explore and experiment are limited only by your imagination.



Getting involved

By becoming a radio amateur you will be joining a community of over 80,000 enthusiasts in the UK. A good start is to join your local radio club – there is sure to be one near you. To be licensed to transmit, you will need to pass a simple practical and theory examination. When you get your licence you will be assigned a personal call sign. Over 500 clubs are part of the amateur radio community in the UK. They provide local support and run regular social activities, meetings and events – activities all age groups can enjoy.

To find your local club and get started...

Visit: www.clubfinder.co.uk

Call: **01234 832700**

You can also join us on:

 Twitter @RSGB_UK

 Facebook

 YouTube

Local Information

AMATEUR RADIO

Communicate
Experiment
Innovate



Radio Society of
Great Britain

Discover amateur radio

Radio amateurs explore and experiment with the absorbing world of radio and television communications. They transmit radio signals on a number of specifically-allocated frequency bands enabling them to contact radio amateurs in other cities, countries and even into space. Whether you are aged eight or 85, amateur radio can be a fun and challenging life-long hobby.

Amateur radio is the original high-tech social network. Using your own radio equipment and personal call sign you can communicate directly, equal to equal, with radio amateurs across the globe. It can lead to international friendships and you can compete in competitions to test your equipment and how good you are as an operator.



There are opportunities to communicate through amateur space satellites or with the amateur radio station on the International Space Station. There is also great scope for technical experimentation using electronics, antennas and computer software.

Radio amateurs can provide life-saving communications at times of emergencies when the fixed masts and cabling needed for mobile phones and the internet are disrupted by natural disasters.



WITH AMATEUR RADIO YOU CAN:

- **Talk through satellites, or with astronauts on the International Space Station**
- **Send messages via Morse code**
- **Hunt for hidden radio transmitters.**
- **Investigate the multiple new combined radio-internet communication techniques**
- **Try a modern sport – radiosport: compete on-air for awards and fun**
- **Send a message around the world using less electricity than a lightbulb!**
- **Talk to three million amateur radio enthusiasts worldwide. From all walks of life and age groups!**



RSGB and the network of local clubs

The Radio Society of Great Britain is the national membership organisation for amateur radio enthusiasts. RSGB membership is open to all who have an interest in radio communications. In conjunction with the UK radio clubs, the RSGB provides the examinations to enable you to become a radio amateur.

The RSGB publishes a range of books and provides on-line advice and guidance. Its monthly publication RadCom is a vital resource for radio amateurs and is respected throughout the world.



History of radio communications in the modern world

In 1887 Hertz first demonstrated the transmission of radio waves through free space, after which scientists worldwide began experimenting with this new technology. But it was Marconi who, in 1895, built the first radio communication system capable of transmitting signals at long distances.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, radio amateurs took on a new and essential role in the war effort. Stationed around the country, their ground-breaking work intercepted enemy radio communications and provided the code-breakers at Bletchley Park with the vital messages which shortened the war.



Guglielmo Marconi



The first satellite Sputnik was launched in 1957. Just four years later, in 1961, radio amateurs launched their own satellite Oscar-1.

National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park

The National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park is the showcase for radio communications and amateur radio. It demonstrates the history of radio communication with interactive displays, a future zone and its own amateur radio station where you can get hands-on experience of 'going on the air.'



www.nationalradiocentre.com

Amateur radio equipment

