

Amateur Radio FAQ

Presented by: The Pen Bay Amateur Radio Club (ARC)

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio is made up of organizations, groups and individuals who like the magic of talking to other Amateurs around the world via radio waves. Amateurs also strive to further the art of radio communications with development of new communication modes and methods.

Many amateur radio operators also participate in public service by providing communications support for events like the Dempsey Challenge which benefits cancer awareness programs, the Trek Across Maine which benefits the American Lung Association & the MS Walk which benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. These are just three examples of many annual events here in Maine.

Amateur radio operators worldwide also provide emergency communications support in the event of natural or manmade disasters. Whenever the telephone and internet infrastructure fails, amateur radio is ready, willing and capable of stepping in and providing a helping hand.

Why are we called Amateurs?

All amateur radio operators are licensed by the FCC. In order to receive an amateur license, individuals must study and then pass a FCC exam. The reason we are called Amateurs is because under FCC rules as Amateur radio operators we are not allowed to receive compensation for any services we provide. All services provided by Amateur radio are on a voluntary basis only. To that end, we provide our own equipment at the individual and organization level.

Where can I get more information on Amateur Radio?

The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is an excellent source of Amateur Radio information. Perspective Amateurs can find articles, reference material, license study guides and much, much more. Please go to the following website:

<http://www.arrl.org/>

Also, the Pen Bay Amateur Radio Club (PEN BAY ARC) meets the second Saturday of every month at 11:00 AM in the Knox County EMA Office, 301 Park St., Rockland, ME. (Press buzzer for the door on the right side to get buzzed in) These meetings are open to anyone. Please stop by. You are more than welcome.



Please visit the following website for more club information, events, and schedules:

<http://www.penbayarc.org/>