

Amateur Radio, also known as short wave or ham radio, is two-way communication that can endure earthquakes, hurricanes, and most any other disaster. Ham radio operators (hams) can make their wireless signal reach any corner of the world. By the way, it is “Amateur” because operators are not permitted to accept or solicit any kind of payment for what they do.



Amateur Radio has been modernized over the past hundred years. Today connecting a radio to a computer and even operating through satellites allows many new possibilities.

Look for the hams helping out and serving their communities at local events. Get to know the amateur radio operators who may be your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. If you have questions, ask them, and be prepared to chat for a while.

Or

Go to:

[www.sussexamateurradio.com](http://www.sussexamateurradio.com)

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

<https://sussexcountyraces.com>

[facebook.com/LARSHamRadio](https://facebook.com/LARSHamRadio)

<https://nanticokearc.org>

Email:

[SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com](mailto:SussexAmateurRadio@gmail.com)

[ws3eoc@gmail.com](mailto:ws3eoc@gmail.com)

To learn about becoming an amateur radio operator, visit:

<http://arrl.org/getting-licensed>

## WHY HAM RADIO ?



There are more than 773,000 FCC licensed amateur radio operators, referred to as ‘hams’ in the United States and its territories. Approximately 1,825 of those reside in Delaware. And nearly half are in Sussex County.

Ham radio is often considered old fashioned or kind of geeky. Dig deeper and you will find that there are some very good reasons that it is still useful and going strong.

## News and Local Emergencies

News reports can be glacially slow and selective in their reporting of events, and social media can be a muddle of hoaxes and misinformation.

You can generally depend on Amateur Radio, as it's often coming from people at the scene who have radios installed in their vehicle or from the County Emergency Operations Center.

Ham Radio is the original social media. During the recent pandemic, many ham operators could be heard chatting via radio about where food and supplies could be found, how to get vaccinated, who was well and who was not, and general discussion of what was going on locally and in the world.

## Staying Connected during Disasters

Hurricane Sandy caused catastrophic damage when it struck the Eastern seaboard. Homes were without power for weeks, and cell towers were severely damaged. Radio operators served a vital role

in keeping people safe and connected during the worst of the storm.

It is normal for hams to operate on battery power, and many have solar power re-charging capability. Any time the weather threatens to get bad, radio operators across the region turn on their equipment to monitor the situation in case they are called upon to assist.

## Public Service



The number one reason we still need Ham Radio is for public service. When cell phones, internet, and/or power are not working; Ham Radio operators provide critical communication.

These volunteers help to keep

hospitals and first responders in contact with each other. They also use their skills to communicate around the world to help family members get in touch with loved ones affected by a disaster. They set up shop with shelters and provide communication to other emergency services.

Ham Radio operators have been on the scene helping in disasters from the earthquakes in Nepal to the recent flooding in Kentucky.

## International Friendship

Without having to know any phone numbers, an Amateur Radio operator can easily talk to people around the world. Most operators in every country speak English.

During the pandemic, hams from around the world spent time sharing information about the situation in their countries.

One of the coolest things about these conversations with fellow hams from other countries is that they all have something in common to talk about; their station and why they enjoy ham radio.