

# Reasons to Consider Using a HAM Radio



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

## The Basics (How are HAM radios different)

- 1) HAMS use FM technology, CBs use AM technology (Think AM vs. FM radio)
- 2) Users must be licensed to purchase or use a HAM radio (This is a GOOD thing)
- 3) Since HAMS use different frequencies, they use a different antenna

## Top 10 Benefits of using a HAM

- 1) **Clarity** - FM provides a clearer, more understandable signal than AM (CBs)
- 2) **Less Interference** - CB is subject to severe interference from lightning, vehicle electrical noise and other natural and manmade interference
- 3) **Greater Distance** - One consequence of greater power is greater distance of communication. In addition hams can use repeaters, which are special receive-retransmit stations placed in high places (buildings, towers, mountains).
- 4) **Repeaters** - Hams can use repeaters, which are special receive retransmit stations placed high on towers and buildings that greatly extend your range, there are dozens of these along the front range and thousands across the country. In fact, it's possible to communicate across the entire State of Colorado using linked repeaters.
- 5) **Courteous Operators** - Since HAM radio operators must be licensed, they are usually more courteous; 'trash talk' is virtually non-existent on HAM.
- 6) **Emergency Communications** - If disaster strikes, HAM is usually the only form of communication that remains in operation.
- 7) **IRLP / EchoLink** - A HAM can connect to a local repeater that makes a connection over the Internet to a repeater in another state or country.
- 8) **AutoPatch** - A HAM can use an "AutoPatch" feature on a repeater that allows them to make a phone call where cell service isn't available.
- 9) **Listen Weather Channels** - Like many CB's, HAM radios can tune in multiple weather channels.
- 10) **APRS** - this technology allows your HAM radio to transmit your GPS position to other HAMS or over the Internet so your family can see where you are in the backcountry.

## Community Involvement with ARES / RACES / SKYWARN

These are several groups of HAM operators that offer various emergency and weather information support to local emergency agencies.

# HAM Radio Resources



QRZ was founded in 1992 by Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ as a spinoff of what was once called the "Callsign Project", a cooperative effort designed to obtain and distribute FCC database tapes. The "Callsign Project" was born on the internet newsgroup rec.ham-radio (later rec.radio.amateur.misc), and it's initial sponsor was Rusty, Carruth, N7IKQ, who eventually turned it over to Fred when he became unable to continue the effort. Excellent source for beginners



[ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org)

ARRL is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators.

The seed for Amateur Radio was planted in the 1890s, when Guglielmo Marconi began his experiments in wireless telegraphy. Soon he was joined by dozens, then hundreds, of others who were enthusiastic about sending and receiving messages through the air--some with a commercial interest, but others solely out of a love for this new communications medium. The United States government began licensing Amateur Radio operators in 1912.



[ARES.org](http://ARES.org)

The **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)** consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

**HAM tests online:** Study for your HAM test online and free <http://www.HamTestOnline.com>  
**eHam:** Excellent ham radio resource <http://www.eHam.net>