

Must I have a great array of wires all over our section?

No, not at all. A handheld has its antenna attached, and although this is quite small, it is sufficient for that type of radio.

A desktop or mobile will need something better. A simple whip antenna with mount, cable and connectors, starting around \$100 all up, is perfectly adequate. Or you can easily make your own, with help from members of your local radio club, for very little money.

As you progress, there are all sorts of possibilities with antennas. Most amateurs eventually build their own, in that never-ending search for the elusive 'better signal'. Antennas can be as big or as small as you want.

A low initial outlay is all you need to be an active Amateur Radio Operator. There are no large, hidden expenses year after year. It's true!

Modern equipment is so reliable that if properly looked after it should last for years and years with little or no attention.

So, is it more than you think?

When you became a radio amateur you join the ranks of some 4,800 New Zealand radio amateurs, and some seven million radio amateurs worldwide.

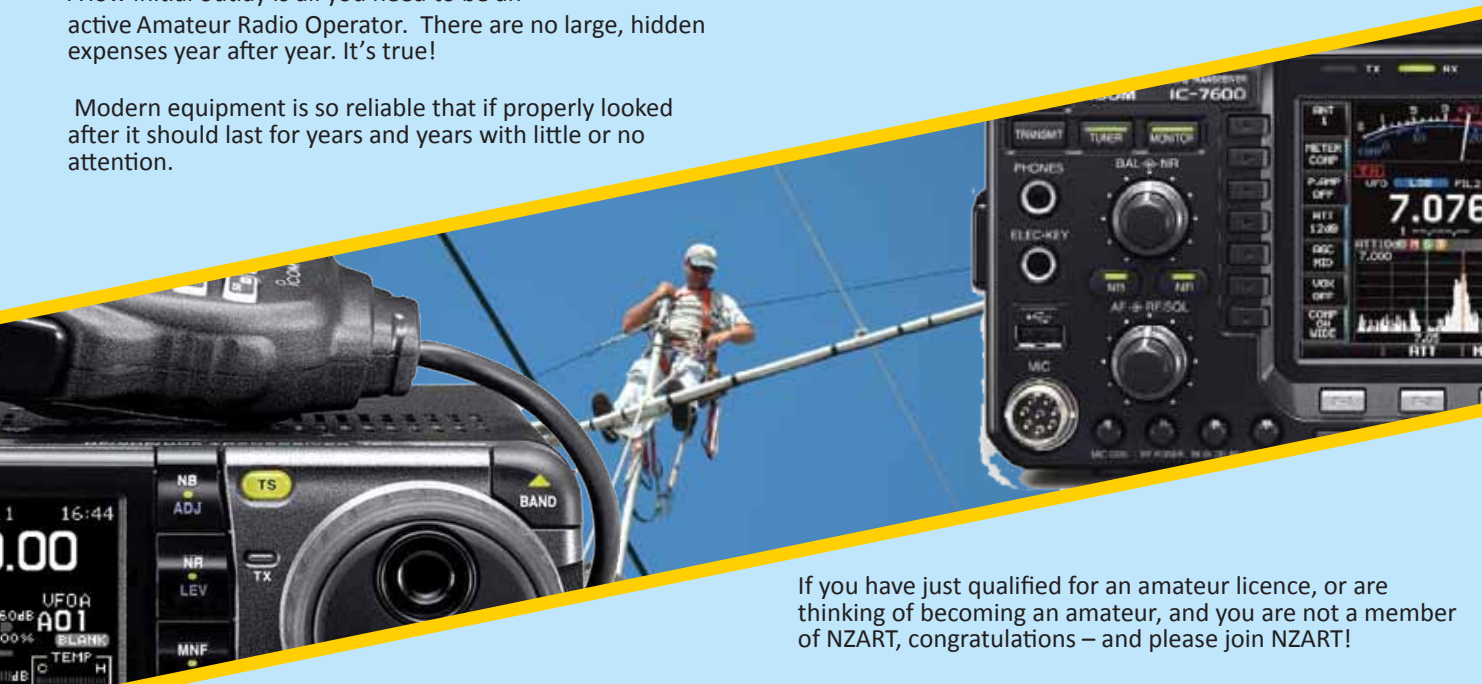
The privileges you will enjoy as a radio amateur are the result of decades of work by NZART, other national and international amateur radio organisations. This work continues daily and is now more important than ever.

The amateurs of New Zealand must speak with one voice. That voice is NZART. The more amateurs who are members of NZART, the more credibility NZART has when it speaks.

Amateur Radio needs NZART. NZART needs all radio amateurs to be members.



Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio offers something for everybody ...

Talk to the world by radio, via satellite, from the comfort of your home, your car, even by radio coupled to the internet ... it's all about communicating.

Help your local community with co-ordinated emergency response at events.

Talk to us about why you should become an amateur "ham" radio operator.

Your local branch:

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What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio encompasses a huge range of activities, including communication with other enthusiasts in the local area, building and maintaining radio equipment, using amateur satellites to relay messages over huge distances, and using short-wave radio to communicate worldwide, using as little power as a domestic light bulb.

Many Radio Amateurs are operating at the cutting edge of technology, and some have been responsible for the communications developments that we now all take for granted.

Amateur radio can be enjoyed by people of all ages, all of whom can make friends around the world, from their own home.

What does it cost to be a Radio Amateur?

Anything you care to get involved in these days has a cost. After completing a successful pass in your exam, and for a small fee, your Certificate of Competency is valid for life. The most popular radio for those new to the hobby is a small portable set which operates in the VHF band. It is ideal for cross-town talk and, as most amateurs have this type of gear, you can be pretty sure of finding someone to talk to – for as little as \$110.00, the cost of a cheap cellphone.

Also, with new Internet technologies together with radio you can talk to other countries using VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) through local VHF repeaters.

For \$3–400 you can buy a secondhand HF (High Frequency) transceiver with which you can talk to the world using the shortwave bands. Spend as much or as little as you want.

You can even build your own equipment and operate it on the air.

But I hate exams!

We all do, but this one is not difficult, and in the end it is all worthwhile.

The exam is multiple-choice. There are 60 questions to answer, and they are taken from a 600-question bank which you can download in advance from the NZART web site. Ten questions will be on rules and regulations, and 50 on radio theory and operation. You must get at least 40 questions right to pass the examination.

Most people pass first time, so it's not really all that difficult. You don't have to be a genius to become a ham!

Go to www.nzart.org.nz for more information relating to exams, questions, and for a study guide.

Printed copies of this information are available from NZART, PO Box 40 525, Upper Hutt.

What is an "Amateur Radio Operator" or "Ham"?

Hams are hobbyists who are licensed by their governments to use certain radio frequency bands to communicate with fellow-hams anywhere in the world.

By international agreement, the radio frequency spectrum is divided into 'bands' which are allocated to various kinds of use. There are bands for broadcast radio, bands for television, bands for emergency services (Fire, Ambulance, Police, etc.) – and bands for amateur radio.

Do I need to learn Morse code?

NO! Not any more. You can become a ham, and talk all around the world, without knowing a single letter of the Morse code. But you may decide after a few years that you want to join those hams who still use it – that will be your choice.

There is now only one grade of licence for Radio Amateurs in New Zealand, and it doesn't involve Morse code.

Any and every person can enjoy this hobby.

Something for everybody!

It doesn't really matter who or what you are – Amateur Radio is a world open to everybody, and has something to offer all tastes.

Amateurs take an active part in Search & Rescue operations, as well as providing communications for activities as car rallies, sports events, and for Civil Defence. Retirement, disability or age are no barrier.

