

100+ Things to do in Ham Radio
Don't say the hobby is boring -
Have fun with Ham Radio by doing some of these

Action or Activity	Comment
2M, 70cm SSB or CW	Working the "weak signal" bands can be fun!
6M - what a great band!	Operate the "magic" band on SSB or FM (watch for the many Es openings)
10M - This band can really jump	Join 10-10 international and KEEP THE BAND OPEN!
75 Meter Roundtables	Sometime called the groan and moan nets! Check in on the 3755 Ontario Phone Net
160M	The Gentleman's Band
AM - Operate this "old time" mode	Join one of the AM nets on 80 or 40m
AMSAT - Join and work outer space	Operate one of the amateur satellites like AO-51
APRS - find yourself	And let others know where you are! http://aprs.fi/
ARES	Be more active in your local ARES group.
ARES - Help your local group	Find your local ARES group and start having fun with them. Also strongly consider passing the various courses required to be a valuable asset and officially participate.
ARES nets	Check into ARES nets in your surrounding area
Aeronautical Mobile	Work from an airborne station
ALE – Automatic Link Establishment	Global HF network. http://hfink.com/
Antenna Party – you need a good one to work them	Friends don't let friends build and install HF antennas by themselves!
Antennas - Build'em and use'em	Wire antennas, Yagis, quads, hex beams, - then talk about'em
Astronomy - Radio version	Is E.T. at home. Surf the space waves.
Audio - make it better	Heil, Berringer, audio filters, all things audio. Make your AM signal sound like a broadcasting station.
Badge - tell everyone your callsign and club you belong to	Lots of places make these, some are really fancy
Balloon-atics – launch them, track them	Hams who put expensive equipment (transmitters, APRS, cameras etc.) in balloons and watch them fly away!
Bicycle Mobile	Talk while riding - look ma - no hands; look ma – no teeth!
Boat-anchors	Collect, fix and operate old radios (old broadcast receivers too)
Books - read one - write one	Hundreds of books - new – old - used – collectable. Write a ham radio adventure story to attract the kids to our hobby.
CW - Learn it! Use it!	You only know half the fun of ham radio without CW
CW - get your speed up to 20 wpm	The Farnsworth method works. Use one of the computer CW training programs like the Koch Trainer from G4FON.
CW club	Join a CW club such as FISTS. http://www.fists.org/
CISA	Canadian Islands Award program. http://www.qsl.net/ve3tpz/cisa/
Class - as in Ham Radio	Teach a ham class and help others enjoy the fun
Club – join/renew membership	Join a ham club, or join two!
Club – local	Attend club meetings, help run club functions
Club apparel – caps, shirts, jackets	Show your support for your club, advertise ham radio
Computer	Get a “new” computer for your shack, or upgrade your old one. Windows XP is needed as a minimum these days.
Computer Control	Computer control one or more rigs in your shack – Ham Radio Deluxe

Contesting	Make a lot of contacts and work on your operating skills too. http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php
CANWARN	Canadian Weather Amateur Radio Network – attend the free training and help Environment Canada warn Canadians in time.
Contesting with CW	Try one of the CW-only contests – they’re fun
County Hunting	Work 500, 1000 or all of them
County Hunting	Operate from some of the rare ones so others can hunt you
Crystal Radio - build one	Show others (maybe kids) how simple a radio can be
Call Sign plate for your car	Show your ham call on your mobile, less than \$35 in Ontario
DSTAR	Get on the digital bandwagon! It's everywhere!
DSTAR via laptop – Dongle world!	Use a laptop to access the Dstar network while you're traveling or anytime.
DX - Work other countries	DX The Ultimate Contact Sport - this can be tough if you already have 337 countries!
DXpedition	Be at the other end of the station pile-up! Operate from some rare country or Island.
Dayton Hamvention	Attend this once in your lifetime. Bet you can't just go once"!
Digital modes	Work one or many of the various digital modes using free software. There are so many to try!
Echolink - computers and ham radio	Work repeaters/other hams via your computer
EmComm- go-kit	Have a “grab-and-go” station ready to go
EmComm-ANTENNA	You never know when you'll need to go PORTABLE so build a portable antenna. J-pole from ladder line is a good one.
EmComm courses	Consider taking some courses, you can learn a lot.
Electronics	Brush up on your understanding of how circuit components work
Field Day	Operate this fun event with your friends
Field Day	Try alternative power – solar or wind or ?
Fox Hunting	Get outdoors in the fresh air – find the hidden transmitter
Friends	Lots of opportunity to meet interesting people and make new friends
GORC	The Great Outdoors Radio Club – enjoy ham radio in the great outdoors. http://www.wa3wsj.org/GORC.html
Grounding	Build a good station ground, find a water pipe, install a ground rod, lay some radials
Hamfest	Attend a hamfest - sell that old junk, buy more!
Handi- HAMS	Help a challenged person get their license
HF – get on it	Don’t just listen! If everyone just listens then the band is “dead”. Funny how some HF bands are only open when there is a contest.
IOTA	Islands on the Air - every group of islands has an ID number - work'em all! http://www.rsgbiota.org/
IOTA	Vacation on an island with an IOTA number – be the one worked
IRLP	Link your local repeater to another part of the world
JOTA	Scout Jamboree on the air. Show off ham radio to young boys and girls, and the Scout leaders.
Keys - Collect them	What a great way to enjoy ham radio - telegraph keys
Kit - Build some	At least an \$8 crystal oscillator or a QRP transceiver
Kites – go fly one!	Use it to support one end of your antenna. Balloons will work too
Learn to read	Schematic circuit diagrams that is! Learn to understand what the diagram is showing you.
Linear Amps	Don’t need em, but if YOU do – build one!
Linux - another computer world	Download a Linux operating system like Ubuntu and start playing with all the FREE software out there. Lots of stuff for hams too!

Lighthouses	Work someone operating at a lighthouse, lightship or navigational beacon - or travel to one and work others: http://wlol.arlhs.com/
Logging Software	Get one or more. I like N3FJP. N1MM logger and GenLog contest logger are FREE
Magazines - subscribe	Read, collect, give'em away – get on CDs; keep as reference
Marine Mobile	Work from a Marine station, boating, waterways nets
Meteor Scatter	World's shortest and longest QSOs at the same time
Mobile - radio in motion	Set up a mobile station - VHF or HF
Moonbounce	“EME” might be a bit ambitious for many
Motorcycle Mobile	Shoot the bull while ridin' the HOG!
Nets	Check in before you check out!!
Oscilloscope - Learn to use	Oscilloscopes are a blast. Watch that green trace go!
PSK-31 - Digital mode for all!	An easy digital mode, lots of free software, buy or build an interface. http://www.tigertronics.com/slusbmain.htm
Pedestrian mobile	Put your HF rig and antenna on your back! Make QSO's while you walk (no boat-anchors though). http://hfpack.com/
Parks – demonstrate ham radio	Get some friends together and set up in a city park for fun
POTA	Parks on the Air – activate a Provincial, State or Federal park on your next vacation. http://www.hamparks.org/
Public service activities	Work a public service event (I believe every ham should work at least one each year!)
Propagation of radio waves	Learn about it!
QRP - Try it!	Start trying QRP by turning down power to 5 w (10w SSB)
QRP – build it!	Build a QRP rig, many kits available. http://www.qrpkits.com/ or http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/ or http://www.qrpme.com/
QRP – join a club	Many QRP clubs like: NAQCC (North America QRP CW Club) or QRPARCI (QRP Amateur Radio Club International) or Flying Pigs QRP Club
QRP - Contesting	Lots of contests: http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html
QRPP – even lower power	Keep your power under 1W, a few milliwatts can go a long way.
QSL cards	Collect'em, get some printed or make your own, mail out some.
QSL cards – electronic version	Try eQSL and LotW (Logbook of the World), cheaper than mail
RTTY	An ancient form of digital communications
Radio Control Planes	Fly away to your heart's content
RAC – Radio Amateurs of Canada	Join today! Your hobbies' official national voice.
Ragchew	Be much more active on a repeater; regularly check in to nets.
Remote Control your station	Operate your station over the internet from somewhere else. Or let a friend operate your HF station from a nursing home etc.
Repair Radio Equipment	Help out other hams, fix their radios and yours too
Repeaters	Build'em, use'em, fix'em, control'em
Restore old radios	This is very gratifying. Tubes still work!
UHF/SHF	Work a contact on CW, SSB or digital above 450 MHz
SSTV	Operate Slow Scan TV. Check out 14230 on 20m.
Satellite-Antennas	Build a couple of antennas and put radio gear together so you can work one of the many ham satellites (FM, SSB or data).
Scanning	OK, it's only listening but hams do it so it must be fun!
Schools - do a demo	Go to your kid's school and tell'em all about this stuff
Scouting or Guides (and ham radio)	Go hand in hand
SOTA	Summits on the Air – climb a mountain and take along your ham gear (QRP works here): http://www.sota.org.uk/
Shack – build or improve	Make your ham shack more comfortable

Short Wave Radio	Listen to SW Radio from your favorite country. Maybe follow New Years around the globe for 24 hours?
Simulated Emergency Test	Take part in the annual S.E.T.
Software - Ham Radio	There are thousands of programs out there for Windows and Linux and they are fun to play with.
Software - program a chip	Try your hand at programming a PIC chip.
SDR – Software Defined Radio	Build or buy something cutting edge in ham radio.
Space Station	Talk to the ISS - chat up an astronaut
Speak at a club meeting	Share your experiences with others
Television - FSTV	Fast Scan TV - on UHF - set up your station and show off!
Test Equipment	Make a list and buy or make yours. Lots of kits available.
Traffic NETS	Try handling messages via SSB (75M) or CW(80M)
Upgrade your ham radio qualification	If you only have Basic, upgrade to Basic +; if you have Basic + then upgrade to Advanced.
VUCC - Award	Get this award for working 100 grid squares on 6M and above
Volunteer to be an Industry Canada Accredited Examiner	Help grow the hobby by qualifying more hams!
Website - amateur radio	Set up your own webpage and tell everyone what you do
Winlink2000	Email over amateur radio http://www.winlink.org/
Workbench - Set yours up	A place to do all that "fiddling around", kit construction and a place for your test equipment
Worked All States - W.A.S.	Obtain this and other awards
Worked all Provinces	And many other Canadian awards: http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/services/awards/cdn-awards.php
Write - articles about ham radio	Submit them to TCA – “The Canadian Amateur” magazine
WSPR (Whisper)	Communicate below the HF noise floor
YLs - Young Ladies in ham radio	Promote YL activity, recruit YLs, encourage YLs.
Youth - be one - help one	Help your neighbor or his kid become a ham. Loan him/her a radio to listen and learn
Try to think of something I missed	And do it! Ham Radio can be exciting!

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