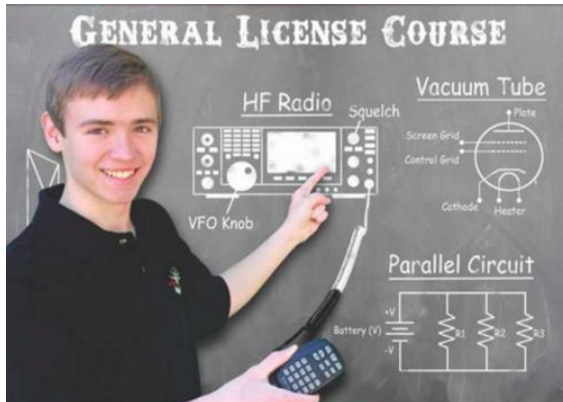




Earn your ham radio license at WashJam!

Ham radio saves lives and makes a great Troop activity



Would you like to obtain your Amateur License at WashJam? You only need to pass a 35 question, multiple choice exam. And you can borrow a book and use online study material which lists all the possible questions! The study material is also available to scout leaders interested in working with their troop. An exam-cram workshop will be available immediately prior to the exam.

There is a \$15 fee for taking the test. Woodinville ARES Group will sponsor (and pay for) any Boy Scout who wants to take the test. Adults get to pay for their own.

Other radio activities at WashJam:

- Already have your license? We have a loaner radio for you! Just bring your callsign and you are on the air!
- We will have games, prizes and lots of radio practice planned.
- The Radio MB can also be earned.

Contact Dave Wickert (dwickert@microsoft.com) for details about any of these activities.

Hiker saved using ham radio

After a hiker stranded on Buck Creek Pass east of Glacier broke his leg, he used a low-voltage portable radio and Morse code to send out a call to help. Six hundred miles away in Bozeman, Mont., Robert Williams was testing his ham radio Sunday when he heard the call signal, "W-7-A-U." Williams replied and quickly learned, in the dashes and dots, that he was talking with a 62-year-old Corvallis, Ore., man, who had slipped and hurt himself in the high Cascades of Western Washington. Williams called 911 and was connected to Snohomish County search-and-rescue officials.

The man had a low-voltage radio transmitter, which operates on about as much power as it takes to make a tiny Christmas tree light sparkle. In the right conditions, radio signals can bounce off the Earth's atmosphere and ricochet thousands of miles. "A signal like that can skip a long way around the world," Williams said. "You can talk to Europe or Asia given the right conditions."

It isn't the first time amateur radio operators have helped out with an emergency situation, said Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the American Radio Relay League based in Newington, Conn. The radios work well when other kinds of communication fail, he said. Ham radio operators were of paramount importance after Hurricane Katrina and when a tsunami ravaged southeast Asia.

Amateur radio operators used to be required to know Morse code to get a license. That requirement was dropped a few years ago. Since then, Morse code has actually gained popularity, Pitts said. "Morse code will get through when no other type of communication will," Snohomish County Hams Club President Grant Hopper said.