ARRL The national association for Amateur Radio® CENTENNIAL

Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914

TIMELINE



1830-1900

1900-1910

1909 Junior Wireless Club formed in NYC – will become the Radio Club of America.





1906 Fessenden sends Christmas greetings to ships at sea via radio.



1915-1920



((**•**)) 1918 Legislation was introduced to give the Navy permanent control.

> (()) 1919 In September, Amateur Radio gets back on the air.

1918 In November. ARRL resumed operations and launched "the Blue Card Campaign," to get back on the air.

all radio use "for the duration of the war".



1919 Amateur Frank Conrad 8XK plays music over the radio and commercial broadcasting is born.



1921 Maxim sends message from 1AW to California and gets a reply in 6.5 minutes via relay.

1921 Second Transatlantic test is successful. American amateur signals were heard in Scotland.

1921 US Department of Commerce admits it cannot control growing Amateur Radio ranks and asks the ARRL for help.

• 1923 First two-way transatlantic contact.



AR

1925 Hams are discovering the magic of HF propagation and that frequencies with these shorter wavelengths do very interesting things. Intercontinental contacts flourish. J Reinartz writes about his "skip theory" in QST.





> 1926 ARRL publishes its first Amateur Radio Handbook. It becomes a world standard reference.

1922 Amateurs are prohibited from broadcasting to the public at large and a new commercial broadcasting license is required.

• 1923 By this time sparkgap radio is disappearing and amateurs are using vacuum tubes and CW.

1923 Second National Radio Conference – hams are able to operate anywhere within specified bands - not isolated channels or frequencies.



1925 The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is formed in Paris.



1920-1925

1925-1930

1927 The International Radiotelegraph Convention defines "amateur" and establishes international amateur frequency allocations. Call sign prefixes are allocated by country (e.g. 9UA becomes W9UA).

> 1928 ARRL holds its first contest, the 1928 International Relay Party.



1930-1938 Between 1930 and 1938 there were a great many instances in which radio amateurs saved lives and property.

 1933 Federal Radio Commission starts to require all license candidates to appear in person for testing.



1934 The 1934 Communications Act establishes the Federal Communications Commission, replacing FRC.



1939 WW2 restrictions begin for amateurs in other countries.

(
) 1940 US amateurs prohibited from talking to other countries due to war.

> • Following Pearl Harbor, all Amateur Radio action is suspended.

1933 ARRL holds its first national Field Day!

1935 Armstrong defines FM transmissions.

1935-1937 ARRL creates the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES[®]).



1938 ARRL station W1AW is built after W1MK was destroyed by 1936 floods.

located at Brainard Field outside of Hartford was well known. It was destroyed in a flood.



36 ARRL's station W1MK.

1941 Critical shortage of radio tubes causes the military to call upon ARRL and request them from hams.



1942 Of 51.000 hams in the USA. over 25.000 enlist while others work on radar. etc.



1946 Hams get most of their privileges back plus 5 and 2.5 meters are swapped for the 2 and 6 meter bands.

> 1947 The Atlantic City Conference – addition of the 15m band.

1945 Limited use of Amateur Radio is permitted again.

> Large supplies of war surplus equipment fuels Amateur Radio improvisation and VHF/UHF exploration.

1940-1950

• 1950 There are about 90,000 hams in the USA.

> • 1951 Novice and Technician licenses are created.

> > • 1951-1952 Major FCC changes to Amateur Radio rules, privileges and adoption of the Basis and Purpose of Amateur Radio.

• 1955 By this time commercial gear has overtaken the use of "homebrew" rigs.

> 1956 There are about 140.000 hams in the US.

> > **1957** The International Geophysical Year - ARRL receives contract for propagation studies.



1963 ARRL moves into new

ARRL promotes SSB < as the preferred phone mode.



1957 Hams are among the first to hear Sputnik the first artificial, earth-orbiting satellite.

1963-1967 Incentive Licensing Debate.

Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, promotes ham radio.

1961 OSCAR-1, the first Amateur Radio Satellite is launched.





headquarters building at 225 Main Street in Newington, CT.

1979 Packet radio systems are developed.

1970 Major advances in the use of FM radio. especially in portables and the use of 2 meters and repeaters.







983 The SAREX program – Amateur contacts with the space shuttle.

1988 CRRL, the • Canadian Radio Relay League, becomes autonomous.

1985 The FCC's PRB-1 • policy helps amateurs get zoning permission for antennas.

() 1996 "Little LEO" satellite spectrum threat to VHF/UHF bands from commercial low earth satellites.



1996 The ARISS organization is formed, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, with ARRL as a major partner.

2000 The FCC reduces Amateur Radio licenses to three classes -Technician, General and Extra.

> 2002 Advances in computers are embraced by hams and lead to the development of hybrid systems such as Echolink (2002) and SDR. Software Defined Radios.



1984 Phone bands expanded.

1984 FCC delegates license testing to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators.

1991 FCC creates the "No Code Technician" license.

> 1987 Novice and Technician licensees get 10m SSB phone privileges.



1998 PSK-31 Amateurs develop highly efficient PSK-31 HF digital

2001 Amateur Radio volunteers react and respond quickly to the 9-11 attacks when many other systems failed due to collapse of antennas atop World Trade Building towers.



2003 Logbook of the World inaugurated providing online awards tracking and confirmations.





(•) 2005 Hurricane Katrina – "When all else failed, ham radio worked!"



2004 BPL Threat -Broadband over Power Lines promoted by FCC despite documented interference issues.

2007 FCC eliminates the requirement for Morse code proficiency in testing but actual CW use increases on the bands.

2000-2010

2012 US licenses exceed 700,000 – ARRL memberships exceed 160.000.

> • 2012 Congress mandates that FCC study impediments to Amateur Radio emergency uses, including a focus on CC&R restrictions.



ARRL Launches the Second Century Campaign.

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> 2012 ARRL publishes the first digital edition of QST.

Where do we go from here?

We continue to promote and advance the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

By being an ARRL member you not only reflect the commitment and enthusiasm of American hams, but also provide leadership as the voice of Amateur Radio in the USA.

ARRL members have been there:

- to defend our spectrum
- to help teach new hams
- to encourage your enjoyment with contests and activities
- to encourage community service and promote Amateur Radio in the media
- to advocate for hams in regulatory actions
- to share the joy of creating new things, learning new things and realizing, "Hey, I can do that!"

2010-2014



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