

## Why Ham Radio?

What is it about hams that make us especially valuable for public service and emergency communications?

Hams are communications **specialists**. We practice communications, mostly for the enjoyment of it. We can take care of moving information, while those we support take care of their responsibilities.

Hams can operate in a variety of modes. We don't just talk from one place to another. We can do voice, text, digital, images, Morse code and more. We regularly practice building ad-hoc communication networks and using any and all of these modes.

We have access to many frequency bands and configurations, with different propagation characteristics. Some are excellent for local operation. Others give reliable regional coverage. Others can reach across the country, and farther.

We own our own equipment and can bring much of it to bear in any location, in adverse conditions, and on our own backup power. We can even bring out stations to relay signals or messages to improve our coverage area.

Finally, and perhaps best of all, we do all this as **volunteers**. As **amateur** radio licensees, we are not allowed to accept compensation for these services.

## Public Service (cont)



### For more information

#### In Poway or nearby, contact

Brian Tagg, AG6CF  
email: [ag6cf@arrl.net](mailto:ag6cf@arrl.net)

Charlie Ristorcelli, NN3V  
email: [nn3v@arrl.net](mailto:nn3v@arrl.net)

Or come to the Hamburger Factory any Saturday morning around 8:00 for the Poway Amateur Radio Society breakfast.

#### For information on classes

<http://sandiegohamclasses.com/>

#### For information on testing

<http://sandarc.net/VE.php>

#### Local amateur radio clubs

Palomar Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.palomararc.org>

Escondido Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.earsclub.org>

# Ham Radio in Public Service

Amateur radio is an active and vital hobby and service in and around Poway, across the country, and around the world.

There is much more to amateur radio than just "talking on the radio." Amateur radio operators – hams – are active in many public service and emergency communications roles



[WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG)