

Common Abbreviations used in Amateur Radio

ACS Auxiliary Communication Service-a combination of RACES and ARES

ARES Amateur Radio Emergency Service-a subsidiary organization within ARRL that consists of Hams with appropriate emergency equipment who volunteer to provide emergency communications during disasters and times of need.

ARRL Amateur Radio Relay League-the national organization of Amateur Radio operators in the United States that represents the interests of amateur radio operators and clubs

CQ Calling any station; the general call when a Ham is requesting a conversation with any other Ham

CTCSS Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System-a low tone system used on most repeaters allowing a receiver to output the received information. Also called PL or private line.

CW Continuous Wave-Synonymous with Morse Code representing numbers and letters with a series of dots and dashes.

DX Distant stations including those in foreign countries

FCC Federal Communications Commission-the U.S. governmental agency that regulates the use of radio frequencies and issues licenses to all operators.

GIGA The metric prefix for one billion or 10^9

HF High Frequency Band that refers to frequencies from 3 megahertz to 30 megahertz.

IARU International Amateur Radio Union-the worldwide federation of Amateur Radio organization such as ARRL that represents the interests of amateur radio operators globally.

ITU International Telecommunications Union- the international organization that regulates the world's common airwaves.

KILO prefix for one thousand or 10^3

MEGA prefix for one million or 10^6

NTS National Traffic System-Sponsored by the ARRL, this network of ham volunteers provides message delivery worldwide.

RACES Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service-Hams participate in emergencies by providing communications for local, state and federal agencies such as office of emergency services (OES) or Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Only a state or federal official can activate the RACES system. The FCC has provided specific frequencies within the amateur bands that RACES members exclusively use during a declared emergency.

RF Radio Frequency carrier signal that is frequency modulated (FM) or Amplitude modulated (AM) so that an information signal can be added to the transmission

SSB Single Side Band- mode of communication which is the most widely used for phone communication on the HF band.

UHF Ultra High Frequency Band that refers to frequencies from 300 megahertz to 3 Gigahertz.

VHF Very High Frequency Band that refers to frequencies from 30 megahertz to 300 megahertz.

VIP Volunteers in Prevention-Providing communications is one part of the services provided by this group which is sponsored by the California Division of Forestry (CALFIRE).

73 Ham short cut language for “best regards”

88 Ham short cut language for “love and kisses”