

Give a Description

When people asked you to either give a description of your hobby or what you do for a hobby, how do you answer them? Do you try and explain the fine intricate workings of amateur radio or do you have something concrete and simple that you can offer them? How important is your hobby to you? Why so many questions, you ask? Well let's examine our hobby.

I have been trying to think of a professional answer to the "description" question and here is what I've come up with. I am an amateur professional that volunteers my time as an emergency communications worker, works as a scientist, international ambassador, electrician, file clerk, secretary, computer analyst, programmer and head engineer. Just think about it. We cover many aspects of each of these, some more than others.

Our hobby is diverse and can be as simple or complicated as we choose. We can work (or play) as many hours a day as we wish or can fit into our busy schedules. In volunteering our time, we not only help ourselves but our neighbors in the community. The FCC part 97.1 Basis and purpose: (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. Working as a scientist, we find ourselves in the continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. International goodwill can be accomplished through working DX and exchanging QSL cards. The filing of these cards keeps our filing and secretary skills sharp. Anyone trying to do this without the use of a computer and programming is almost impossible this day and time. It's not hard to become an electrician after trying to figuring out how to hook up 30 amps of working equipment to a 20 amp service. When achieving this you feel like an engineer.

Or you could simply say; an amateur radio operator is a person who recognizes the enhancement value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, for no charge to the public or served agencies. He/she strives for a continuation and extension of their proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and providing good sound communications. Their encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art are an expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts who have a continuation and extension of their unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Folks, you have an opportunity to excel in what you do, be proud of our accomplishments and continue to strive for your highest attainable goal. Never sell yourself or the hobby short as we all have something to contribute. Each of us makes up one of the most rewarding hobbies ever experienced in modern times. If you're not a member of the ARRL you need to give some consideration in becoming one. Without the ARRL and its supporting role in our hobby some of the goals we set could very well be in jeopardy. Now is the time to become part of the largest group of hams working to protect the hobby we all enjoy! Any questions about joining the ARRL feel free to contact me at either 859-472-6690 or e-mail address nb4k@arrl.org. Remember we are only as strong as our weakest link.

73

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