

## Amateur Radio's Web "Top 20"

Since I am not a rocket scientist, I recently completed a *unscientific* study to determine the most popular Amateur Radio sites on the Internet. Using a variety of search engines, I came up with the list that follows these introductory paragraphs.

Please note that I excluded the Web sites of the various Amateur Radio hardware and software manufacturers and dealers. These sites are certainly popular, but you and I already know who they are and how to find them when we need them so there is no need repeating them here.

I also excluded the Web sites of foreign Amateur Radio organizations because the primary audience of *QST* lives in the US and I excluded local Amateur Radio organization Web sites because the primary audience of *QST* lives *throughout* the US. Finally, I discarded any sites that I could not access, despite the fact that the search engines said that I could.

If your favorite Amateur Radio Web site is missing from the list don't blame me; I used the data provided by the search engines and did not manipulate that data in any way to the benefit or detriment of any Web site. So, let's begin; here is the Number One Web site with a bullet:

#### 1. ARRLWeb: ARRL Home Page

[www.arrrl.org](http://www.arrrl.org) is the home of the American Radio Relay League, the US national organization of Amateur Radio operators. It needs no introduction and it is no surprise that it heads the list.

#### 2. Ham Radio On-line

[www.hamradio-online.com](http://www.hamradio-online.com) has original stories about wireless communications and Amateur Radio, on-line forums and chat rooms, real-time radio propagation reports and links to other sites.

#### 3. QRZ.COM Home Page

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) is world famous for its searchable call sign database, but it also contains news, license renewal information, DX spotting reports, and much more.

#### 4. AMSAT-NA

[www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org) is the site of The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation of North America, the folks responsible for ham radio birds in outer space.

#### 5. Amateur Radio and DX Reference Guide

[www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com) is the mother of links to other Amateur Radio Web sites. Compiled by Rod Dinkins, AC6V, it features over 80 pages containing more than 3000 links that

cover over 400 radio-related topics.

#### 6. The Amateur Radio Web Ring

[www.digdez.com/amateur](http://www.digdez.com/amateur) is the home of a Web ring of 587 Amateur Radio Web sites. (A "Web ring" or "Webring" links similarly minded Web sites together to facilitate finding and navigating the sites.)

#### 7. eHam.net Home—Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) Community Site

[www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) is a Web site for Amateur Radio operators around the world featuring call sign lookup, product reviews, classified advertisements, news, articles and more.

#### 8. IARUWeb

[www.iau.org](http://www.iau.org) is the Web site of the International Amateur Radio Union, which is the worldwide voice and source of information for radio amateurs.

#### 9. Amateur Radio Newline Home Page

[www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org) is the home page of the service that provides Amateur Radio news worldwide.

#### 10. mods.dk

[www.mods.dk](http://www.mods.dk) is the top Web site on the Internet for finding modifications and improvement of Amateur Radio equipment. The site contains over 1700 modifications.

#### 11. Beginners Guide to Ham Radio

[www.irony.com/ham-howto.html](http://www.irony.com/ham-howto.html) is a Web site that provides a great resource for learning how to become an Amateur Radio operator.

#### 12. CQ Home Page

[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com) is the home of *CQ* magazine and its sister publications. It has news and articles pertaining to ham radio and includes links to related sites and forums.

#### 13. The DXZone.com—Ham Radio Guide

[www.dxzone.com](http://www.dxzone.com) provides a guide to ham radio, scanning and short-wave listening via links to other Web sites.

#### 14. HamRad—Amateur Radio Resource

[www.hamrad.com](http://www.hamrad.com) provides a resource for finding Amateur Radio manufacturers, dealers, organizations and modifications. It is also the home of HamRad Trader pages.

#### 15. K1DWU Dot Net

[www.k1dwu.net](http://www.k1dwu.net) is another Web site of ham radio links. It has a collection of over 4500 links to Amateur Radio sites worldwide that are verified each week.



Figure 1—NASA's International Space Station Reference Web site ([spaceflight1.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/](http://spaceflight1.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/)) is one of the most popular Amateur Radio Web sites according to the Internet search engines.

#### 16. University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Amateur Radio Club Home Page

[www.ualr.edu/~hamradio](http://www.ualr.edu/~hamradio) is the home of UALR's ham club and its award-winning call sign database server.

#### 17. International Space Station Reference

[spaceflight1.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/](http://spaceflight1.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/) is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Web page dedicated to Amateur Radio with reference to the International Space Station.

#### 18. NB6Z—Digital HF Ham Radio

[home.teleport.com/~nb6z](http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z) is dedicated to the HF Amateur Radio digital modes and contains information on what they are and how to use them.

#### 19. Linux Hamradio Application and Utilities Homepage

[radio.linux.org.au](http://radio.linux.org.au) provides an overview of Amateur Radio software for the Linux operating system (see the March installment of Digital Dimension for more information about Linux).

#### 20. Amateur Radio Reference

[www.panix.com/clay/ham](http://www.panix.com/clay/ham) is another comprehensive Web site providing links to other Amateur Radio Web sites.

There were a few surprises in this list, including a couple I was completely unaware of, but I now have bookmarked them for future reference. Q57-