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DIGITAL DIMENSION

Amateur Radio's Web "Top 20"

Since I am not a rocket scientist, I recently completed an *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.arrl.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 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 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 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 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 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 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.iaru.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 Newsline Home Page

www.arnewsline.org is the home page of the service that provides Amateur Radio news worldwide.

10. mods.dk

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 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 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 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 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 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/) 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 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/ 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 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 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 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. **QST**