

Brisbane Amateur Radio Club (BARC)

barc.org.au

The Brisbane Amateur Radio Club was formed to promote the hobby of Amateur Radio and Electronics. Our members come from all walks of life but share a common interest in the scientific development of radio-communications and associated electronics.

A proud member of the Wireless Institute of Australia (www.wia.org.au/), BARC was formed in August 1977 and has a rich history of achievement, providing for people involved in Amateur Radio and associated electronics a centre where they may receive or give instruction and advice on all matters pertaining to Amateur Radio.

We are willing to help anyone who wishes to become an licenced Amateur radio ham. We can provide technical assistance to help you obtain your licence. The club has assessors who are able to arrange exams for those wishing to obtain their licence.

When you decide you what an Amateur Radio licence:
barc.org.au/licences



LOW POWER PORTABLE HAM RADIO

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is the use of the radio frequency spectrum for purposes of noncommercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, private recreation, radio-sport, contesting, and emergency communications.

During emergencies and other times of need, Amateur Radio operators have provided worldwide public service.

There are some 15,000 Amateur Radio operators licensed in Australia, with an international community of more than 3 million around the world. They are trained in communications techniques and basic electronics theory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Parks On The Air Home Page:
<https://parksontheair.com>

Brisbane Amateur Radio Club (BARC):
barc.org.au/licences

This handout is based on the original American POTA brochure and has been modified for the Australian environment. See original at:
<https://docs.pota.app/assets/documents/brochure.pdf>

Parks On The Air

PORTABLE AMATEUR RADIO



Wellington Point Beach, Queensland

Operating a portable amateur radio station from a park pavilion can afford fantastic views! It also provides an opportunity to expose the public to the amateur radio service.



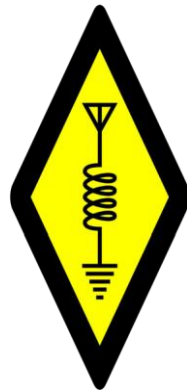
ABOUT PARKS ON THE AIR

Parks On The Air (POTA) is a non-profit organisation that supports the use of amateur radio in our state and national parks. Through promotion by Parks On The Air, more people will discover and enjoy our park system. This also directly helps amateur radio meet its charter of providing communications support in times of emergencies, such as after natural disasters,

POTA provides a website where amateur radio operators, often called "hams", can find nearby parks. Hams then set up temporary portable radio stations and attempt to contact as many fellow hams as possible.

Visiting a park and getting on the air is called an "activation" and after each one, the hams will submit a list of their contacts to POTA. The goals are to activate as many parks as possible and to talk to as many stations as possible. Certificate awards are then given for a number of categories.

Hams, like other park visitors, must obey all park regulations and leave no trace of their operation after they leave. Some hams have radios in their car and simply operate from the parking lot. Some hams enjoy backpacking and hiking and may explore throughout the park setting up operations almost anywhere. The majority of hams will locate an available picnic or similar area and operate from there.



A TYPICAL STATION

Although there is, perhaps, no "typical" ham radio station set up, all stations do have a few common elements.

POWER SOURCE

All stations will require a power source, which for portable operations, is usually a battery or possibly a solar panel.

INPUT MECHANISM

The operator will use either a microphone or a Morse code key to communicate with other hams.

RADIO

There are many different makes and models of radio and although these come in various sizes, smaller is generally preferred for portable use.

Radios are also available in high and low power versions. Operating a radio with higher power means bringing bigger and heavier batteries!

ANTENNA

The final required component is an antenna. For portable operation this is generally just a few pieces of wire sometimes attached to a push up pole.

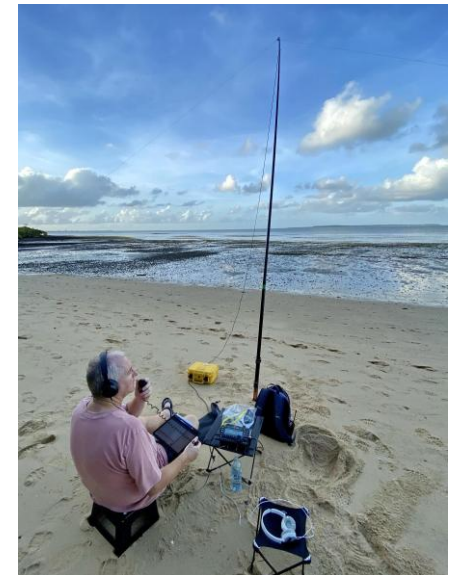
A TYPICAL STATION CONTINUED...

ACCESSORIES

Accessories might include a pair of headphones or ear buds and a tablet or laptop computer.

A notepad or log book is used to keep track of the stations that have been contacted.

Some hams gather all this gear into a single backpack for a truly portable setup!



Coochiemudlo Island, Queensland