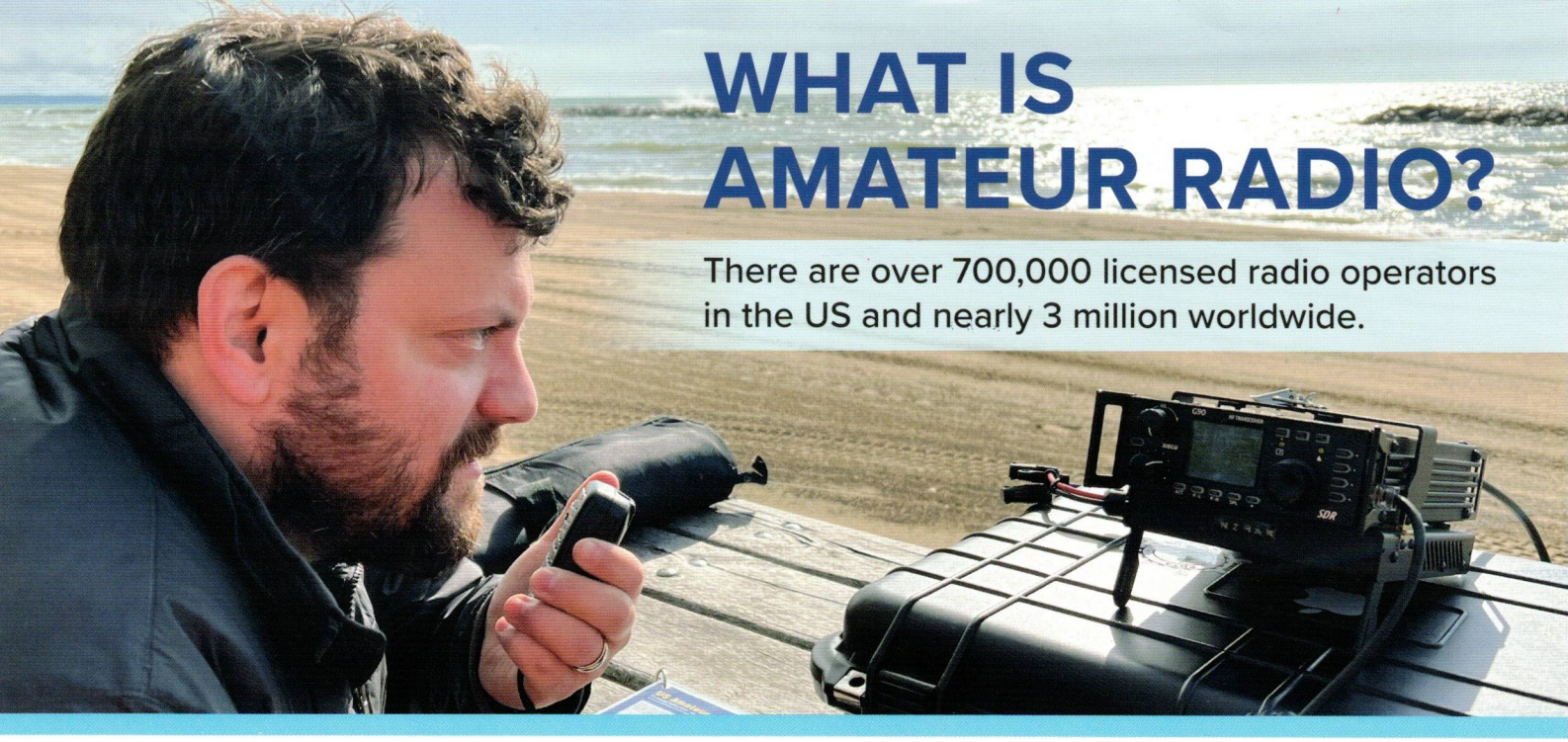

WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO?

There are over 700,000 licensed radio operators in the US and nearly 3 million worldwide.

Amateur radio is a non-commercial radio communication service on radio frequencies assigned to the Amateur Radio Service by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States and the International Telecommunication Union worldwide.

How is amateur radio used?

Ham radio is used for a variety of recreational and service-related activities. Amateur radio operators, also called "hams," use amateur radio equipment to engage in two-way personal communications with other hams, as well as:

- Participate in competitive events and earn awards in contests
- Aid communication during public events, such as parades and road races
- Act as a vital communications link during emergencies and disasters
- Advance their technical skills and build their own radio components

What is ARRL?

ARRL is the national membership association for amateur radio operators. We provide opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve your local community. No other organization works harder than ARRL to promote and protect amateur radio!

Learn more at www.arrl.org

Who can become a ham?

Anyone of any age who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an amateur radio operator in the US. Before you can get on the air, you'll need to be licensed and know the rules to operate legally. In the US there are three license classes — Technician, General, and Amateur Extra.

What kind of equipment will I need to get on the air?

Starting simple is often recommended. A reliable handheld radio is a good and affordable way to get started while building your station over time. A complete amateur radio station typically includes a transceiver, power supply unit, antenna, amplifier, headphone, and microphone, and can include several accessories and related devices.

Learn more by contacting us, or visit
www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio

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