



# What's the frequency?

Amateur Radio Club holds monthly meetings for the public

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Want to learn how to speak to people on the other side of the planet without using a phone or the internet? How about listening in on astronauts phoning home?

You can, by learning the hobby of amateur radio.

The Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club hosts several annual events to teach the public about the hobby. They also support the yearly Boy Scout event, Jamboree on the Air, which helps scouts learn to use the radios and talk to scouts in other countries.

Now the group is hosting monthly meetings for the public to

teach the basics of amateur radio and electronics.

"There are lots of people interested in getting their ham license," said Joe McIntosh, secretary of the Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club.

"We want to reach out and help people learn about electronics and amateur radio and talk about what they are interested in to get started in the hobby."

McIntosh said while the group hopes to develop more amateur radio operators, they also hope to grow their membership. During local emergencies and natural disasters the club kicks into gear to assist the Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency,

## Want to go?

**WHAT:** Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club

**WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 19, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Daphne Public Library, 2607 U.S. Hwy 98, Daphne

**MORE INFORMATION:** Visit [www.sb-arc.com](http://www.sb-arc.com)

headquartered in Robertsdale.

"Whenever a natural disaster strikes we may lose infrastructure so we have a radio room in the Baldwin County EMA building to assist with communications locally and back to the state," McIntosh said. "When power goes out it doesn't take long for cell towers to go out too."

At the group's first meeting McIntosh said they will likely discuss many of the finer points

of beginning in the hobby.

"In this day and age calling long distance is easy but when you're talking about amateur radio, it's much more complicated," he said. "You have to have the right frequency at the right time, the antenna has to be tuned properly, it's an art."

The group will also discuss ways to make your own antenna rather than invest in pricey equipment.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club teach Boy Scouts about the hobby during the annual Jamboree on the Air event last June.