

**HAM Radio Acronyms**

| **Acronym** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| RF | Radio Frequency |
| Hz | Hertz - unit defined by cycles per second |
| kHz | Kilohertz |
| MHz | Megahertz |
| SW | Shortwave |
| HF | High Frequency |
| VHF | Very High Frequency |
| UHF | Ultra High Frequency |
| SWL | Shortwave Listener |
| Op | Operator |
| HAM | That would be YOU�LOL |
| VFO | Variable Frequency Oscillator - Adjust frequency to tune your radio |
| MR | Memory Record - Local memory on your radio for you to program and recalkl for working repeaters and simplex frequencies |
| TXP | Transmit Power - Output setting for your radio |
| VOX | Voice Operated Switch - Voice Activated keying so you can be hands free |
| SQL | Squelch - Controls and turns off output until incoming transmission overrides the setting parameters |
| TDR | Dual Watch - Allows your radio to listen to two channels. |
| CTCS / CTCSS | Continuous Tone Coded Squelch - Used on repeaters and your radio to control receive and transmit squelch |
| DCS | Digital Coded Squelch - Allows radio to tune out signals that are not using a tone |
| PTT | Push to talk - the button you depress to speak on the radio |
| BCL | Bust Channel Lockout - When enabled, prevents radio from tranmitting when another signal is present |
| F/MW | Function.Memory Write - Multi-function button for menus and writing to mem channels on Yaesu radios |
| BCN-TX | Beacon Transmit - If using APRS, this transmits your APRS beacon |
| AGC | Automatic Gain Control - keeps audio levels constant |
| ATT | Attenuator - Knocks down large signals to prevent receiver overload |
| CAT | Computer Assisted Transceiver - Provides computer control of your station to make it easier to use digital operation |
| NB | Noise Blanker |
| NF | Notch Filter |
| MUF | Maximum Useable Frequency - Highest frequency between two points where communication is possible |
| LUF | Lowest Useable Frequency - The lowest frequency between two points where communication is possible |
| SFI | Solar Flux Index - Amount of solar spots on Earth facing the sun |
| A Index | the daily average level for geomagnetic activity |
| K Index | a 3 hour interval of geomagnetic fluctuations |
| D Layer | The lowest of the ionospheric layers. 25-55 miles up called the "daylight layer" |
| E Layer | The next ionospheric layer which is about 55-90 miles up also referred to as a Daylight layer |
| F1 Layer | Second to the highest ionisperic layer is about 90-150 miles above the Earth |
| F2 Layer | The highest layer that is over 250miles above the earth |
| CW | Continuous Wave - This mode is used to transmit morse code |
| AM | Amplitude Modulation - Voice Mode |
| SSB | Single Side band |
| USB | Upper Side band |
| LSB | Lower Side band |
| FM | Frequency Modulation |
| D-Star | Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio (ICOM Radios) |
| DMR | Digital Mobile Radio |
| APRS | Automatic Packet Reporting System - Offers real time digital communications of information in local area |
| Coax | Coaxial Cable used to connect antennas to radios, etc |
| SO239 | connector for UHF Radios SO indicating Socket |
| PL259 | connector for UHF Radios PL indicating Plug |
| BNC | Bayonet Neill-Concelman - twist lock antenna connector reliable up to 2GHz |
| SMA | Subminiature Version A - A threaded connector on HT radios and antennas good for 0Hz - 40GHz |
| Type N | Another connector type gott for frequencies up to 10GHz |
| SWR | Standing Wave Ratio - a measurement of the difference of impedance of your antenna connector and antenna feedline connection |
| Balun | Balanced/Unbalanced - allows interfacing antennas to coax to reduce feedline interference to your radiation pattern for the antenna |
| Unun | Unbalanaced/Unbalanced - allows interfacing antennas to coax to reduce feedline interference to your radiation pattern for the antenna |
| RST | Readability, Signal Strength, Tone |
| RTTY | Radio Teletype |
| ARRL | Amateur Radio Relay League |
| ARES | Amateur Radio Emergency Service |
| RACES | Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service |
| SOTA | Summits on the Air - Make four contacts from an approved summit |
| POTA | Parks on the air - Make 10 contacts from an approved park |