

**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  |