

# Ham Radio Slang.

73 - Best wishes

88 - Hugs and kisses

Boat anchor - Old, usually BIG, radio equipment

Brick - A small, solid-state amplifier

Bug - A semi-automatic Morse code key

Bureau - A clearinghouse for QSL cards

Cans - Headphones

Chirp - A Morse signal with a varying tone

Clear - "I'm finished on the frequency, anyone else can use it"

Cloud warmer - An inefficient antenna that radiates straight up

DX - Talking to stations very far away

DXpedition - A trip to a (usually) remote place to operate ham radio

Elmer - An experienced ham helping a newcomer

Hollow state - Tube equipment

Homebrew - Home made equipment

Lid - An inconsiderate operator

Magic Band - The 6 meter band (50-54 MHz)

OM, Old man - Any male ham (regardless of age), husband

Out - "I'm turning off my radio", but NEVER use "Over and Out"

Over - "It's your turn to talk, I'm listening"

Pile-up - Lots of stations calling one station at the same time

Pond - The Atlantic Ocean

Pound brass - Operate using Morse code

Rag chew - Shooting the breeze, just chatting

Reading the mail - Listening without transmitting

Rig - Ham radio equipment

Rock - a quartz crystal used for frequency control

Rock bound - Transmitter using crystals. Instead of tuning, you change crystals

Sideswiper - A type of Morse code key that moves side-to-side

SK, Silent key - When referring to a ham, it means they died

Tail gating - Transmitting quickly after another transmission

Ticket - Amateur radio license

Top band - The 160 meter band (1.8-2.0 MHz)

Wallpaper - Awards and certificates

Work - Make contact with. Example: "I worked W5ALT on 10 meters"

XYL - Wife (Ex-Young Lady)

YL, Young lady - Any female ham, regardless of age