

# Amateur Radio in the Hollywood Spotlight

Amateur Radio has been on the Silver Screen and on the TV. Sometimes Amateur Radio Operators are portrayed as weird individuals and other times as the ones that save the world from the end of times.

The truth is Amateur Radio Operators are people like you and me. If for some reason we are the only ones that can communicate, it's because we earned our Amateur Radio Licenses and we are willing to go that extra mile to help.

Below is a list of some of the Movies and TV Shows that Amateur Radio was in. It may be a small scene or it may be the whole shows theme. Some Amateur Radio Operators have been on the technology side of Hollywood making sure the Amateur Radio scenes are done right.

## Hollywood Movies:

["Andy Hardy"](#) - [1938](#) Oldest Scene Known!

Andy Hardy's Father (Lewis Stone) needs to send an urgent message to his wife in Canada here there is no phone service. Andy Hardy (Mickey Rooney) knows of a Ham Radio Operator named Jimmy (Gene Reynolds). Jimmy call W8XCR and made contact with DE3AVS. The message was sent and all was well. The rig Was HOME BREW!! No HRO back then.

["Radio Hams"](#) - [1939](#)

Ham desperately attempts to contact police near the location of DeVinna's hut, in hopes that somehow a doctor could be found to get to DeVinna before it's too late. Home Brew Rig was used!

["The Lost Contest Weekend"](#) - 1945

Ray Milland in a dramatic battle on 20 Meters for one elusive QSL. **Still Confirming Scene!**

["Highway Patrol"](#) Radioactive - 1955

Adam finds the device and sells it to a junkyard where Mel (a Ham Radio Operator) buys it for parts. **Still Confirming Scene!**

"I Was a Teenage Novice" - 1957

A troubled teenager (Michael Landon) finds fun and excitement after getting a Ham license. **Still Confirming Scene!**

["Blondie and Dagwood"](#) - Unknown year

The FCC knocks at the home of Blondie and Dagwood after Dagwood plays music over the air on a Ham Radio Set. **Still Confirming Scene!**

**"The Glass Bottom Boat" – 1966**

Doris Day, had a radio in her closet and she talked with her dad on Catalina (Aurthur Godfree) she used it to save on long distance calls and the agency she worked for thought she was a spy and the radio helped confirm to be more suspicious. Rig un known used in the scene. **Still Confirming Scene!**

**"The Shining" - 1980**

In one scene they shown the Ham Radio and they could use it to get help if they needed it. Later in the movie the tubes were taken out so they could not use it.

**"High Frequency"– 1989**

Thousands of miles away in Main, Danny an 11 year old boy's Ham Radio hobby turns into a real live adventure when he helps Peter in the Swiss Alps solve a spy plot. Danny uses the call WM1ATE and Peter used HB9RFX. Other calls used G3CPC and UZ4KV. In the film, Danny used the Drake TR-4 Transceiver and Peter looks like he used IC-R70 Receiver and a Yaesu FRG-7 Receiver. Hollywood had Peter talking on one of the Receivers. They were close with some of the details, but the calls are Hollywoodized, and two Receivers do not make a Transceiver. The DX was too clear! The only real call was G3CPC.

**"Independence Day" - 1996**

In one scene in order to help get the word out about how to kill the aliens the use CW!

**"Phenomenon" - 1996**

Nate Pope (Forest Whitaker) plays a Amateur Radio Operator and finds some encrypted transmissions that George Malley (John Travolta) decodes and then gets into trouble by the government. Forest Whitaker, as a Ham, used the call sign WB6QLF. The Rig looks like a FT-? by Yaesu

**"Contact" - 1997**

Female Ham Operator (Jodie Foster) controls the Very Large Array in New Mexico, where she picks up an extraterrestrial signal.

**"Frequency" - 2000**

John Sullivan Played by (Jim Caviezel) finds he is talking to his father Frank Sullivan Played by (Dennis Quaid), decades in the past after some kind of time warp with the Northern Lights. The call sign W2QYV was used in the film and the radio was a Heathkit SB-301.

**"Kangaroo Jack" - 2003**

In one scene of the movie they use a Yaesu FT-101B to communicate to a downed airplane. Note the plane is on AM around 120 Mhz and the FT-101B is not an VHF AM Radio. Well they tried.

**"Onda Corta" - 2008**

Ramón, the only taxicab driver in a small town in South America, befriends a pretty unusual celebrity through his Ham Radio.

["Get Smart" - 2008](#)

In the big chance scene where Agent 99 is kidnapped by the Rouge Agent 23, Maxwell Smart, aka Agent 89, and the Chief commandeers a car with a two-way radio in it. The radio looks to be a Yaesu FT-1802M. Look real close the S-Meter is not displayed when the other Agent talks on it. Also, the radio displays 143.910 Mhz. The Amateur Radio scene was all but 15 seconds. but it is there. Over all a good movie if you like the old Get Smart TV show.

## Amateur Radio on TV Series or Shows

Twilight Zone – 1960 "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street"  
Season 1 Episode 22

The Outer Limits - 1964 "Feasibility Study"  
Season 1, Episode 29  
Residents break into the home of a Ham Radio Operator.

Twilight Zone - 1964 "Black Leather Jackets"  
Season 5 Episode 138

McHale's Navy – 1964 "A Da-Da for Christy"  
Season 2, Episode 36  
They use the call W9643 San Diego "Not a Amateur Call"

The Munsters - 1965 "If a Martian Answers, Hang Up"  
Season 1, Episode 18  
Herman becomes a Ham, with a callsign of W6XRL4 Photos

Gilligan's Island – 1965 "Quick Before It Sinks"  
Season 2 Episode 6  
Skipper has Gilligan hide under a table while the Professor contacts him using a phony radio. He refers to Gilligan as a "French Radio Operator" and the Skipper infers that the guy is in a ham shack.

M\* A\* S\* H\* - 1972 to 1983 "Adam's Ribs" and many others!  
Season 3, Episode 11  
Note: All the phone calls back to the US from Korean Conflict They us "MARS" Military Affiliate Radio System

The French Atlantic Affair - This was a 1979 TV Mini Series

"ALF"- 1980's Episode, many of them had a reference to Amateur Radio.

Facts of Life – In an episode from 1980  
In an episode from 1980, Molly Ringwald, daughter of Bob Ringwald K6YBV, played one of the girls at a school, providing emergency communications during a storm. She even used her dad's callsign!

"Frasier" – 1997 "Ham Radio"  
Season 4, Episode 18  
This episode had nothing to do with Amateur Radio, in name only!

["The Secret Wireless War" - 2002 \(TV\)](#)

The first two episodes tell the story of the Amateur Radio Hams who listened to German Morse code broadcasts during World War II. **Still Confirming Scene!**

# Movies World Wide

[Making Waves Trailer](#) - 2004 Ham Radio Movie - British!

Robert, G4KM meets Rachel, G0KUU over the Amateur Radio Air Waves with the help of a marooned Cosmonaut stuck on the Mir Space Station. The Amateur Radio theme is through most of the movie. Staring Radios, Kenwood TS-940S; Kenwood TS-120V; Yaesu FT-901DM; and a Home Brew HF. Other calls used in the movie G8EIU & G??? Over all one of the best display of Amateur Radio gear on the screen. Not a bad movie, You like Amateur Radio and like a funny romance movie, than you got to see this one.

["Tune In"](#) - 2006

Tune In follows the fascinating unseen world of Amateur Radio enthusiasts, better known as HAMS.

15 min UK Film.

## Commercials:

Diet Mountain Dew – 2008



Just down right Funny! Love the gear they have set up.

# Cartoons

## Dilbert The Knack



## Simpsons Season 1, Episode 11- 4/15/90 The Crepes of Wrath

Bart gets sent to Albania as an exchange student after getting caught dropping cherry bombs in the toilets. The Albanian kid sent to live with Homer is a spy, and keeps sending details of Homer's nuclear reactors over a CW spy radio.



## Simpsons Season 4, Episode 13 - 1/21/93 Selma's Choice

Marge's sister is Selma is a ham. She decides she wants to have a baby, and states he reason is because "I 've got a lot of love to give, and my only outlet is my ham radio" (cuts to shot of radio) Radio: [speaking foreign language] I have a ham radio.



## Simpsons Season 8, Episode 12 - 2/2/97 Mountain of Madness

Mr. Burns decides to use the telegraph to send an S.O.S. The telegraph signal only manages to reach a telegraph machine stored inside a museum exhibit of Samuel Morse



Simpsons Season 9, Episode 23 - 3/3/98 [King Of The Hill](#)

Homer gets in shape and climbs a mountain after eating power bars. He uses a HT for communications while climbing the mountain. Later a goat steals his HT.



Simpsons Season 11, Episode 15 - 2/20/00 [Missionary Impossible](#)

Homer the missionary used ham radio to talk to his family (frequency on radio was in 15-meter phone band)



Simpsons Season 17, Episode 10 - 1/8/06 [Homer's Paternity Coot](#)

Where Seymour is a ham, using WA3QIZ as a callsign (WA3QIZ was the callsign of executive producer David Mirkin. That call expired in 1998.)



# And Then There is Jericho

"Jericho" – 2008 from the first on to the present!

At the opening of each show credits you will hear Morse Code "Dit's and Dah's" If you know CW you can decode what they are saying.

This is what we know so far...

## **Episode 1.01: The Pilot**

CW Code: Jericho Pilot

## **Episode 1.15: Semper Fidelis**

CW Code: They will need it

## **Episode 1.02: Fallout**

CW Code: Jericho Fallout

## **Episode 1.16: Winter's End**

CW Code: A costly deal

## **Episode 1.03: Four Horsemen**

CW Code: Jericho Three

## **Episode 1.17: One Man's Terrorist**

CW Code: Rob Exposed

## **Episode 1.04: Walls of Jericho**

CW Code: He knows Rob

## **Episode 1.18: A.K.A.**

CW Code: Who Ran Red Bell

## **Episode 1.05: Federal Response**

CW Code: There is a fire

## **Episode 1.19: Casus-Belli**

CW Code: ONE GOT AWAY

## **Episode 1.06: 9:02**

CW Code: The EMP hits

## **Episode 1.20: One If By Land**

CW Code: We Pledge

## **Episode 1.07: Long Live the Mayor**

CW Code: Pray for NYC

## **Episode 1.21: Coalition of the Willing**

CW Code: Allegiance

## **Episode 1.08: Rogue River**

CW Code: Rob not FBI

## **Episode 1.22: Why We Fight**

CW Code: To the Flag

## **Episode 1.09: Crossroads**

CW Code: AOV Surprise

## **Episode 2.01: Reconstruction**

CW Code: WE'RE BAAACK

## **Episode 1.10: Red Flag**

CW Code: It begins with

## **Episode 2.02: Condor**

CW Code: J&R RAN BOXCAR

## **Episode 1.11: Vox Populi**

CW Code: 6 and ends with

## **Episode 2.03: Jennings & Rall**

CW Code: CALLER KNOWS ALL

## **Special Episode: Return To Jericho**

CW Code: back next week. 36 hours before bombs

## **Episode 2.04: Oversight**

CW Code: A Costly Death

**Episode 1.12: The Day Before**

CW Code: Bloodshed

**Episode 2.05: Termination for Cause**

CW Code: THO IT IS DARK

**Episode 1.13: Black Jack**

CW Code: Bleeding KS

**Episode 2.06: Sedition**

CW Code: Know our Flag

**Episode 1.14: Heart of Winter**

CW Code: 4 Down 4 to Go

**Episode 2.07: Patriots and Tyrants**

CW Code: Is still there

**Note: On the first few shows, it shows Amateur Radio Operators getting paid for communicating to other cities and towns. Amateur Radio Operators DO NOT GET PAID. We volunteer to help out in the time of need. The below Photos, Print out and put mount colorful back grounds.**