

AMATEUR AND TEST EQUIPMENT

Thank you for contacting ARRL about amateur equipment. The appended information should help explain the options for people who have amateur equipment that is surplus to their needs. This information is written for a number of purposes, ranging from helping family members clean up estates to the ham that just wants to see his or her surplus equipment find a good home by donating it to ARRL or some other worthy local cause.

Introduction

Amateurs or their families are sometimes looking for ways to find good homes for amateur-radio or test equipment that is no longer wanted. This information sheet describes several ways that ARRL can help.

Dealers

Some of this equipment has value and it can be sold. Many of the dealers that buy and sell amateur equipment do so locally, so the advice below about contacting local radio clubs that may accept donations may also help you find a local dealer to purchase equipment. If the equipment's condition is not known, however, the offer will probably be low.

Local Radio Clubs

Many local radio clubs conduct local amateur flea markets or "hamfests." You may be able to either take a table at one of these events to sell equipment, or, if the club maintains a table at the event to sell donated equipment as a fundraiser for the club, you may be able to donate the equipment to the club. The club may or may not be a 501(c)(3) entity that could allow you to use the donation as a deduction for tax purposes. You will need to check with the club and or your tax preparer to determine what applies to you.

The club may also be able to point you to a local dealer it knows that can often buy equipment from you, or sell it on consignment.

You can locate local radio clubs by looking up affiliated clubs by zip code on the ARRL web page. See:

<http://arrl.org/find-a-club>

Donations to ARRL

ARRL is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations made to ARRL may be tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Donations made to ARRL are subject to the following requirements:

- The donation is made without conditions. For most items received by ARRL, the equipment is sold, either at auction, on eBay or by volunteers at local club flea markets. Occasionally, ARRL may retain a piece of test equipment for use in the ARRL Lab or W1AW, or it may put a piece of vintage equipment into its historical collection, but that decision will be made by ARRL. To help amateurs enjoy operating W1AW, we try to keep the latest and greatest equipment available, so older generations of equipment will probably be sold. Any donations made to ARRL are made with no commitment by ARRL about how it will use the equipment, now or in the future. Even the sale of equipment helps by putting it into the hands of people that want it while also helping fund valuable ARRL programs and services.
- All donated equipment must be shipped to ARRL, at the donor's expense. It can also be dropped off in person and one the ARRL Lab staff will bring the equipment back into the Lab. For a large amount of material, or for heavy and/or bulky items, please contact ARRL HQ first.
- A letter should accompany the donation, with an inventory list consisting of manufacturer, model number and, if known, a brief description of the item. This list can also include description of items such as, "3 boxes of miscellaneous electronic parts."
- The letter should include a statement that says that the equipment is being donated to ARRL without condition, to be used or sold by ARRL as it deems appropriate.

In all cases, ARRL will reply with a donation letter, acknowledging the receipt of any donation received. It will return a copy of the inventory you provide, with a notation that the donation was received as listed.

If you do ship items to ARRL Headquarters, send them to:

ARRL
Attn: ARRL Lab equipment donations
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

Information About Donations

If you do want to make a donation to ARRL, instead of shipping equipment to us, you may also sell it locally and donate the proceeds to ARRL.

Any cash donations or the proceeds from the sale of donated items will generally be put into the ARRL General Fund, to be used to help ARRL do more to deliver member services and to implement the many worthwhile programs ARRL sponsors.

Valuation

Under IRS rules, ARRL is not permitted to provide an estimate of the value of non-cash donations. Some of the better donated equipment is sold by ARRL at its annual auction in October each year. Donors can go to our auction page after the auction to see what a particular piece of equipment sold for. Donors can also search other auction sites to see whether there were any sales of the make and model that was donated, in similar condition.

For information about the annual ARRL auction, see:

<http://arrl.org/auction>

One auction site to search for valuations is eBay, located at at <https://ebay.com>.

There is more information about how to donate to ARRL on the web page at:

<http://www.arrl.org/donate-to-arrl>

For information on cash or estate donations, contact ARRL's Development office at 860-594-0291. If you have any questions about donations of equipment, contact the ARRL Lab at 860-594-0214.

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