



W4NJA.com

Paducah Amateur Radio Association

Would you be interested in:

- Getting your children fired up about science, math, and world geography?
- Show them an alternative to a cell phone that becomes useless in a power outage or other disaster.
- Teach them more self sufficiency with a plan to help their family meet their needs.
- Teach them useful computer skills
- Teach them to organize their own network to chat with other children their age
- Learn the discipline of a structured communication protocol
- ***Remember: When all else fails, Amateur Radio still works!***

Hi parents! Michael Durr here, also known as KN4TIP- Michael to my fellow Amateur Radio Operators. We are looking to our 8-13 year old children to get them involved in Amateur Radio.

Some people think that "ham" radio is a dying hobby... THAT IS NOT TRUE!

At last count there were about **3 million hams world-wide, 779,545 in the US, 9817 in Ky, and over 1000 just in the local West Ky/Southern Illinis area. The recent concern for "prepping" has skyrocketed interest in communication.**

There are so many facets to this hobby that nearly anyone will find their niche. For example- with just the beginner level of "Technician" they have:

- Unlimited access to our local repeater in Paducah, which receives the signal from a small transmitter (such as a handheld (walkie-talkie) then rebroadcasts it up to 50-70 miles away.
- Use of world-wide radio by voice on a portion of the 10 meter band (see figure 1)
- Use of CW (Morse code) the "secret" language we can use to talk worldwide
- Use of a "smart phone" app called Echolink that connects you by internet to our local repeater or to one of over 6000 "nodes" around the world you access with a 5-digit number or their call sign, no radio required!
- Learn how to track a lost person in the woods by using a direction finder to locate someone that has a radio transmitter
- How to send "eMail" without having the internet
- Learn how to build antennas out of common materials... like coat hangers, a scrap piece of wire, copper pipe, wood, pvc pipe, broken tape ruler, old dish antennas, and recycled plastic.

So what's the goal here?

- Give our children a new experience to learn and enjoy
- Give them a new perspective on geography
- Learn skills of working in a group to create their own "Club"
- Support by the local ham operators to receive free beginner equipment
- Work together with their parents in the project, maybe even some of the parents would become licensed operators.

The National organization of amateur radio, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has negotiated with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to waive the license fee of \$35.00 and reduce their testing fee to \$5 (regular \$15) for applicants under 18yrs old. Our local Paducah Amateur Radio Association (PARA) is providing a free entry level handheld radio (walkie-talkie) to each child getting their technician license (some restrictions apply). We will provide training at no cost. No money will be needed until testing or licensing.



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RSVP for your child/children to get them started in the “Push-To-Talk, or Pre-Teen-Talkers”, now referred to as the “PTT Technicians”. A parent or guardian must accompany their child during the program, which is expected to run about 2 ½ hours (including a mid-program break).

We will meet at Gospel Assembly Church 2100 Ohio St. Paducah Kentucky on Saturday February 18, 2023 at 5:00pm in the downstairs dining area. We will have radios there for you and your children will to talk across the country or even the world!

RSVP by email to kn4tip@arrrl.net or message my phone 270-217-2315 (messages only please) to reserve your place by February 11, 2023.

How do I become an Amateur Radio Operator?

- It starts with a Technician license
- You must register with the FCC at fcc.gov and request an FRN number
- Study is available online at no charge with unlimited practice tests. www.hamradioprep.com
- The average study required to pass the test is 8-10 hours.
- Take a written test with 35 questions are taken from a pool of 412 possible questions. A 74% passing score is required.
- Testing is usually done by local clubs by appointment by volunteer examiners (VE's).
- There is a \$5 charge for the test.

When the student has passed, the VE's will submit the test. The license may take as little as 8 hours but may take 14 days.

The normal \$35 charge is waived to \$0 for the ten year license for children under 18.

Bottom Line:

Cost: Training:	Free
Support:	Free
Testing:	\$5
FCC Fee:	\$0
Beginner	
Radio:	\$0 , provided by local amateur radio operators as long as your child is using the radio.
Personal:	Free, lifelong achievements

Participation in the program gives the PARA organization and members permission to present information to your children.