

Kids Day: "A Great Time"

June 17 is the next opportunity to bring Amateur Radio into the lives of some young people. It's their special day, so make the most of it.

Mark Spencer, WA8SME

More activity, more fun! It seems like the message is getting through; more hams are getting involved in Kids Day, and it shows. Why not join in the fun and invite some kids to experience the "magic of radio" in your shack June 17 — KIDS DAY. Your participation could be an organized club activity on a grand scale or simply mentoring a youngster during their first QSO. You will never know the joy of piquing a kid's interest in ham radio, science and math if you don't try.

There is also one more reason to add to the long list of reasons for getting kids involved in ham radio — the new Technician class exam goes into effect July 1. I am excited about the potential impact that the new Technician test will have, particularly for youth. I would not say that the new test is easier; I would say that it is more realistic and more relevant to today's beginning ham radio operators. You'll find that the new license manual materials are also "new and improved" and present study material in a format that is conducive to learning. So while you're letting the kids experience the fun of ham radio contacts, you can also encourage them to pursue their own ham radio careers by getting their first license. Who knows how far they will take the experience — to outer space perhaps?

What They're Saying about the Last One

Here are just a few of the comments received from the January 2006 Kids Day activities:

"This was very fun and I'm really amazed that

I was able to call CQ and make the contacts. I look forward to doing it again!" says Emily (via AD4L).

"Had a lot of fun meeting other kids my age, and some younger, like my little sister. I have already taken one test and failed, but now will study harder," from AF4QB's grandchild.

"It was our 10th Kids Day and it was as great as every year. We also built a small Morse generator and made a Morse test. The kids gave their own name and received a special certificate for this." — DN1NDG



Kirk Johnson, age 10, operating K6YS.

JOCK MACKAIG, K6YS

"Kids Day was an excellent way for our radio club to introduce 9-10 year olds to amateur radio. The kids really had fun and the feedback I received from their parents was nothing but positive." — K3DQB

"Fun as heck! 8 cub scouts asking a zillion questions." — KA5ZDE

"My daughter Samantha had a great time calling CQ KIDS DAY on the local repeater and had a little pile up going on for awhile." — KB1FJG

"Used the AO-51 satellite, which was set up for Kids Day. Talked with another Kids Day participant in Manitoba and two friendly hams in California from Washington State." — KE7EYQ

"Ryan got bitten by the Ham Radio bug last Kids Day and is studying for his license. He has over 50 QSOs under my watch on HF. He should have his Tech before he's 9!" — WO8USA

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SUMNER WEISMAN, W1VIV



W1VIV and friends operating W1FY. "They keep on comin'!"

TOBI DAVIS, KC9GDL



Fox Ridge Radio League and the "Next Gen Hams."

Kids Day Rules

**Saturday,
June 17, 2006**

Purpose: Kids Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with children.

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2006.

Time: 1800 to 2400 UTC. No limit on operating time.

Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kids Day."

Suggested frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2 meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). Please visit www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.