

Largest ham family under one roof?

I'm including this article as a follow-up to Dick, KM4SX's article, and as a way to bring my friend W4FNB's hat size back down to near normal. Seems Bill's son Kevin passed his Tech+ at RarsFest this past Sunday. Way to go Kevin....and Bill, with 3 hams in the family you got a long way to go! ed.

What do you do to compensate for the lack of useful education in our public schools? How do you get the kids away from the video games and into some kind of activity where they might actually learn something besides how to traverse the levels of Duke Nuke 'em?

Well, you guessed it. Ham Radio! We decided one night after looking at the homework that's being given to our children that our public educational system in the U.S. is broken beyond repair. Because of "Outcome Based Education", bright kids are being held back rather than encouraged to excel, so that the product of our schools is equally poor no matter how gifted a student is. This is the current thinking on "equality enforcement", and it's pretty disappointing as a parent and a taxpayer.

"I wish kids today did the kind of things I did when I was young", I told the XYL. "It really wouldn't matter what was going on in school if they were into some technical hobby like I was when I was a kid", I lamented. "Well, why don't you get them to do it", she said. I doubted that I could compete with the diversions of youth today, but the suggestion kept coming back every time I looked at their schoolwork. A couple of weeks later a trip to Ham Radio Outlet in New Hampshire found me returning with a Technician Class License Manual.

We looked it over and decided that even a modest knowledge of the concepts covered would be a dramatic improvement in the educational level of our children. With the test as a vehicle and as much time as I could spare we began. First job was to get an assistant. Vicki, the XYL, got things off to a quick start when she attended a weekend course for a Technician License at the Framingham Radio Club and became N1XYA. (She has since upgraded to Technician Plus and intends to keep right on going!)

We started with one hour sessions every night after dinner. It was tough at first, especially for David (age 7) because his reading vocabulary was much smaller than required. In the first week we discovered Anthony (10) seemed to have difficulty reading. A quick trip to the eye doctor and he was right up to speed with the best of them! I guess they thought his performance was "normal" in school!

Their older sisters were quick studies when we could get them off the phone, but it wasn't until we reminded them that with ham radio they could talk ad infinitum that they really buckled down. It was fun working out the metric system and watching the puzzled looks slowly turn into enlightened enthusiasm. "Now I get it!" became a pretty common phrase as we went from picofarads to microfarads to henrys to ohms law to millivolts and microvolts and kilovolts and wavelengths and so on.

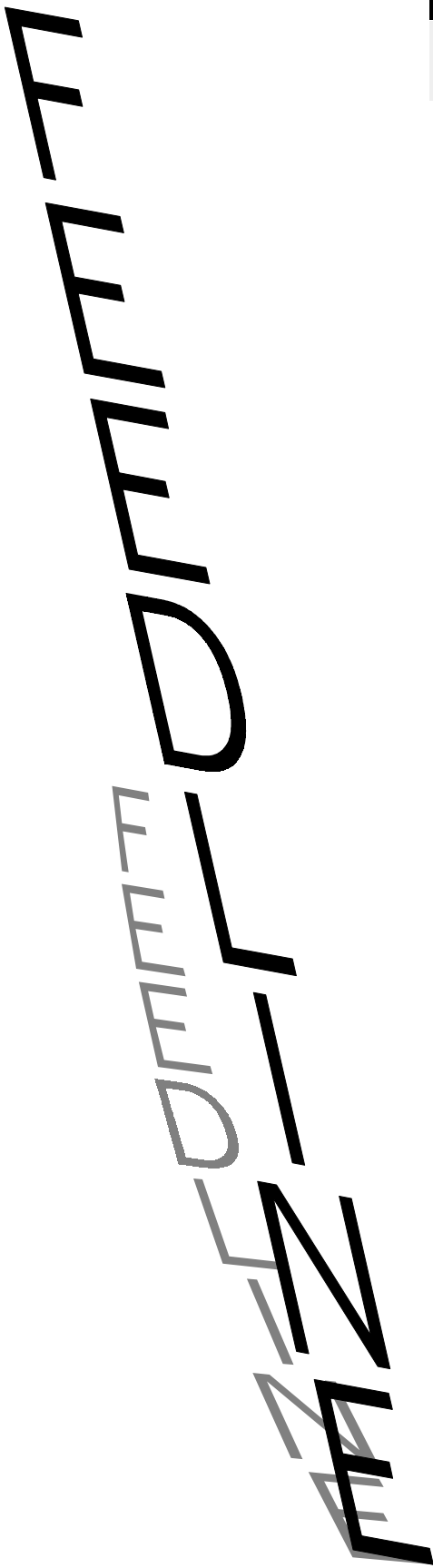
Suzanne, age 13 was the first to pass Technician and she became N1YFT. She was followed two weeks later by Laura, N1YGB, and Kristina, N1YGC ages 16 and 13 respectively.

A week later, Anthony, age 10 entered ham radio as N1YHL. He was followed the next day by David who became N1YHO at age 7.

There's a lot of RF around 607 Sudbury Street in Marlboro today, and there's going to be a lot more. We have four antennas up at present and plans for two more are being made for the spring. The boys want to do moonbounce, the girls are recruiting their friends (at the other end of the telephone line) and talking about a DXpedition to an island with a good beach someday. The family is just about in constant touch everywhere.

The RFI can be annoying, after all I went 30 years as the only ham, but the QRN has decreased somewhat since everyone is a little more careful about hair dryers during contests and rag chews, and it certainly is easier to recruit help for antenna projects!

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Feedline

Feedline is a member-supported publication of the Cary Amateur Radio Club and is published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month.

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Cary, North Carolina 27511

Cary Amateur Radio Club

The Cary Amateur Radio Club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, **7:30 p.m.** in the lower level of the Christian Life Center of White Plains United Methodist Church. The June, November, and December meetings are held off-site. Call for location of those meetings.
Next Meeting: April 24 - Program: NTS.

1997 Officers

N9CGD	Tom Doligalski	481-1236
	President	
N4AJF	Lee Swanson	467-8128
	Vice-president	
K4IWW	Will Harper	467-0224
	Treasurer	
N4UE	Herb Lacey	467-9608
	Secretary	

HerbLacey - N4UE

Meeting Report

March 27, 1997

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m., by President., Tom, N9CGD. Introductions.

Treasurer's Report - Will, K4IWW

Savings: \$3,159.48
Checking: \$118.86
Cash: \$89.00
Total: \$3367.34
Dues are due!!!! \$9/yr.

Field Day '97: Will, K4IWW, to be FD Czar. We have Town of Cary permission to use the Fred Bond Park, again. It is a super location. We definitely need more operators to become involved in FD. It is invaluable experience that no amount of planning can give you. It can be a lot of fun, too.

SWAPFEST (July 19): Tom, KM4LB, to be SF Dictator. That means he knows what is going on, but NOT that he does the work!!! Things look to be "on track." We will be mailing flyers and complimentary tickets to about 50 NC radio clubs.

As always, you go to another club's 'fest to enjoy it. They put on the show. When it is out turn, WE PUT ON THE SHOW!! Lets all get behind out Mid-Summer SWAPFEST especially this year, which is our 25th!!!

Program was the legendary CARC Auction. Pres., Tom, N9CGD, auctioned, cajoled, pled, pressured, intimidated, chastised, reasoned, enticed, challenged, etc., until all of the goodies at least had a chance to change homes.

n4ue

TomDOLIGALSKI - N9CGD

The program for the March meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club included our annual auction. A great time was had by all, and many interesting amateur radio artifacts went to new owners!

The April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 1997 at 7:30 PM. The usual interesting and enlightening business meeting will be followed by a presentation by the North Carolina Section Traffic Manager (STM), Will Harper, K4IWW, on the National Traffic System. Hope to see you there!

73, Tom

While you wait for your license ...

by Huck Huckabee, AA5BU

Did you just pass your first Amateur Radio license exam? If so, you may be wondering what to do while you wait for your license to arrive. Every ham will tell you to follow in his or her tracks, yet you may prefer to assert your individuality.

Surely the best advice is to observe the breadth of our marvelous hobby while you wait. You can look over the privileges of the various classes of hams, and find the area that will give you the most pleasure.

If you are computer oriented, Amateur Radio offers vast possibilities. If you enjoy building things, endless projects await you in electronic communications technology.

How about DXing? The whole world waits to hear your signals. Contesting? You can't imagine the excitement and fun you can have contesting-even from the simplest of ham stations-until you've experienced it.

There's always space available in public service or emergency and rescue work, and service work carries its own rewards.

And many hams enjoy just pausing in their busy schedules for a simple conversation with a friend via HF, or via VHF or UHF, using a repeater and a handheld.

Or you may enjoying daily chats from your mobile station as you commute.

You may want to do it all. That's fine. But though I've been active for over half a century, I've only scratched the surface. One reason: technology changes things faster than anyone can track.

But I'll tell you this: the excitement of Amateur Radio goes beyond description. So run fast. Keep learning. You'll enjoy it more than you can imagine.

Whatever you do, don't just wait for that license; you'll lose some of the "sweat equity" your past study earned. Instead, forge ahead toward a better license class, so your license won't limit the fun you can have.

from the November92 Austin ARC 'AARC Over'-Steve Means, N5PSW, Editor via the Amateur Radio News Service



Cut and Paste to Refrigerator

May 24 (Sat)	DurHamfest
Jun 1 (Sun)	Concord
Jun 8 (Sun)	Charlotte
Jun 14 (Sat)	Winston-Salem
Jul 5 (Sat)	Salisbury
Jul 12 (Sat)	Spruce Pine
Jul 19 (Sat)	Cary
Aug 2 (Sat)	High Point
Aug 16 (Sat)	Roanoke VA
Aug 30-31 (S/S)	Shelby
Sep 14 (Sun)	Monroe
Sep 20-21 (S/S)	Virginia Beach
Sep 28 (Sun)	Butner
Oct 4 (Sat)	Rock Hill SC
Oct 12 (Sun)	Maysville
Nov 16 (Sun)	Benson
Dec 6 (Sat)	Greensboro

Ham Radio Internet

Web Site Selections

It is said that in the Spring a young man's fancy turns towards love: it can also be said that in the Spring a ham radio operator's fancy turns towards the Dayton Hamvention (<http://www.hamvention.org>) which will take place 16-18 May 1997. This is one of the largest, if not the largest! hamfests in the world, and manufacturers of ham radio equipment typically unveil their new offerings here. Unfortunately for most of us, the limitations of family and job responsibilities keep us from attending (to say nothing of financial limitations!). Therefore, this month's column is devoted to a discussion of new radio "announcements", "pre-announcements", and rumors so that "the rest of us" can be privy to the new goodies prior to Dayton.

Icom (<http://www.icomamerica.com>) has announced a new version of its premier small HF radio, the IC-706 Mk. II. With enhanced 0.03 - 200 MHz broadband all-mode receive, the capability for the installation of two optional crystal IF filters, a tone squelch option, and a variety of new firmware modifications, the 706 should be a hot-selling radio this year.

Not to be out-engineered, Yaesu (<http://www.yaesu.com>) is introducing the FT-920 HF radio. Featuring dual-in-band receive, HF + 6 meters, built-in audio DSP, a built-in antenna tuner, and a style reminiscent of the FT-1000MP, this radio should also be very popular. A search of the HRO pricing database (<http://www.hamradio.com>) shows this radio to cost about \$1900, which should certainly add to its appeal!

These last two radios will definitely be sold in the US: moving on to the rumor category, the Yaesu Japan home page (<http://www.yaesu.co.jp>) has an interesting description of a new linear amp, the VLM-1000. Also styled like the FT-1000MP, this amp apparently (I don't read Japanese!) features HF + 6 meters, and is in the 1 kw category. Will it be available in the US?

Finally, the usenet mailing group has featured a number of rumors about a new "mini" HF radio (similar to the Icom 706) rumored to be produced by Alinco as the DX-701, as well as a mini HF radio to

be built by Yaesu as a replacement for the venerable FT-900.

73, Tom

janAvinger N4UTT

Worth Repeating

Bill, K4SG, is entertaining a special guest April 26th. Said is coming to visit from Morocco. He is CN8GG. Welcome to a brother Ham.

Joshua, Dave, K4SAN's, son has been promoted from the Cubs to the Boy Scouts Troop 205. We wish Joshua well in his new school and new Troop.

RARS fest was this past weekend and for all who could not make it we'd like to thank Walter, KM4BU, for his tribute as master of ceremony to Rolin Ransom who became a silent key last year. And Peggy, N4SSS, says that being the keeper of Quicken helps keep a line on Walter's indiscretions at the RARS fest! (*Oh ye damned technology!* ed.)

KM4SX, Dick, is keeping busy being a soccer referee. He's not in it for the money, just the respect...:-)

Henry Radio in Los Angeles is closing its doors as of 20 March. This long time dealer of amateur radio gear will keep its amplifier and commercial manufacturing going, but its retail store is no more.

There is a rag chew net going on Monday through Friday at **10:30 a.m.** on the 147.150 machine for those of us who are around and home bound at that time. Paul, KE4DNK, says it lasts around twenty minutes. Check in and volunteer to be net control one day a week!

KM4LB and son Lee have proclaimed Lee's rebuilt engine a success...after finally sealing a pesky oil leak!

The Avinger-Annual-Tax-Survey reports that most of the folks I polled file just under the wire.....we are not alone.

See Ya,

Jan

(Continued from page 1)

The most important thing to come of the entire effort, which took about 10 weeks start to finish, was the exposure of these young minds to some real technology at a level where some knowledge about how it works and why was imparted. Reading skills and comprehension soared for all of them (especially the younger ones) and their vocabulary increased as well. A high level of self-esteem was had by each as they passed the test and the excitement of achievement formed an impression on these young minds that is all too uncommon today.

Now if you've read this far, you probably have tried to get your kids interested in ham radio before and are hoping for some secret trick. After all, it's hard to compete with VGA graphics, stereo sound, touch-tone phones, and MTV! So here's the trick. The secret is motivation and time, especially 1 on 1. In my case the kids had been after me for a trip to Disney World for years. I really can't afford it (there are 7 of us!), but decided that we'd find a way to go if they all got their tickets. It worked. When things got slow we had special incentive programs and quizzes for spending money on the trip.

As we got into the process though we noticed something. Those who needed a little extra help were quick to request and get some serious 1 on 1 time with me or the XYL. These remedial sessions were a real hit, and brought us closer as a family. This kind of time with your children (which was probably commonplace in years gone by) has been displaced by the hectic family life of the 90's.

The bottom line is that you can get your kids interested in ham radio (and boy does it mushroom once they start) but it will cost you - not only an incentive but some time - however it might just be one of the best learning experiences they or you will ever have!

DisneyWorld here we come!

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TOOL TIME!

10 Best Tools of All Time

Forget the Snap-On Tools truck; it's never been there when you need it. Besides there are only 10 things in this world you need to fix anything, any place, any time.

1. *Duct Tape*. Not just a tool, a veritable Swiss Army knife in stickum and plastic. it's safety wire, body material, radiator hose, upholstery, insulation, tow rope, and more - in an easy to carry package. Sure, there's prejudice surrounding duct tape in concours competitions, but in the real world, everything from LeMans-winning Porsches to Atlas rockets use it by the yard. The only thing that can get you out of more scrapes is a quarter and a phone booth.

2. *Vice Grips*. Equally adept as a wrench, hammer, pliers, baling wire twister, breaker-off of frozen bolts and wiggle-it-til-it-falls-off tool. The heavy artillery of your tool box, vice grips are the only tool designed expressly to fix things screwed up beyond repair.

3. *Spray Lubricants*. A considerably cheaper alternative to new doors, alternator, and other squeaky items. Slicker than pig phlegm, repeated soakings will allow the main hull bolts of the Andrea Doria to be removed by hand. Strangely enough, an integral part of these sprays is the infamous Little Red Tube that flies out of the nozzle if you look at it cross eyed (one of the 10 worst tools of all time).

4. *Margarine Tubs with Clear Lids*. If you spend all your time under the hood looking for a frendle pin that caromed off the pertal valve when you knocked both off the air cleaner, it's because you eat butter. Real mechanics consume pounds of tasteless vegetable oil replicas just so they can use the empty tubs for parts containers afterward. (Some of course chuck the butter-colored goo altogether or use it to repack wheel bearings.) Unlike air cleaners and radiator lips, margarine tubs aren't connected by a time/space wormhole to the Parallel Universe of Lost Frendle Pins.

5. *Big Rock at the Side of the Road*. Block up a tire. Smack corroded battery terminals. Pound out a dent. Bop noisy know-it-all types on the noodle. Scientists have yet to develop a hammer that packs the raw banging power of granite or limestone. This is the only tool with which a "Made in Malaysia" emblem is not synonymous with the user's maiming.

6. *Plastic Zip Ties*. After 20 years of lashing down stray hose and wiring with old bread ties, some genius brought a slightly slicked-up version to the auto parts market. Fifteen zip ties can transform a hulking mass of amateur-quality wiring from a working model of the Brazilian Rain Forest into something remotely resembling a wiring harness. Of course it works both ways. When buying a used car, subtract \$100 for each zip tie under the hood.

7. *Ridiculously Large Craftsman Screwdriver*. Let's admit it. There's nothing better for prying, chiseling, lifting, breaking, splitting or mutilating than a huge flatbladed screwdriver, particularly when wielded with gusto and a big hammer. This is also the tool of choice for all oil filters so insanely located that they can only be removed by driving a stake in one side and out the other. If you break the screwdriver--and you will do just like Dad and your shop teacher said--who cares, it has a lifetime guarantee.

8. *Baling Wire*. Commonly known as MG muffler brackets, baling wire holds anything that's too hot for tape or ties. Like duct tape, it's not recommended for concours contenders, since it works so well you'll never need to replace it with the right thing again. Baling wire is a sentimental favorite in some circles, particularly with the MG, Triumph, and flathead Ford set.

9. *Bonking Stick*. This monstrous tuning fork with devilish pointy ends is technically known as a tie-rod separator, but how often do you separate tie-rod ends? Once every decade if you're lucky. Other than medieval combat, its real use is the all-purpose application of undue force, not unlike that of the huge flat-bladed screwdriver. Nature doesn't know the bent metal panel or frozen exhaust pipe that can stand up to a good bonking stick. (Can also be use to separate tie-rod ends in a pinch, of course, but does a lousy job of it).

10. *A Quarter and a Phone Booth*. See tip #1 above.

Check your label.

Look for a two-digit number following your callsign. If you set your Orphan Annie decoder to 11 the secret message should read "life member", while 22 results in "complimentary copy."

If your secret number is "97" we thank you for paying your dues and rest assured you will continue to receive Feedline for the next 12 months, and that's just one of the "Benefits of Membership."

Anything else and its time to get out your checkbook, an envelope and a stamp. Make a check payable to CARC for **9 bux** American and send it to Will Harper, K4IWW, P.O Box 53, Cary NC 27512.

.....sorry, no IRC's.

Pat Porcine G0PIG 96
100 Cloven Lane
No. Kosher, NC 27500