

Greetings to all of those who have come by here! I don't think that it's just by chance you came this way. As an official 'Old Timer' in this hobby we call Amateur Radio, I've been given the honor of sharing with you some of our life's lessons in this ever growing hobby. Why do we call it a 'hobby' you may ask? Simply because, as a hobby, it's something we do for relaxation and entertainment in times when regular work routines are done. And, if you are like some of us married folks, the honey do list has been completed. Well, we thought it was!!

In any case, it's a hobby if you want it to be. Or, it's a way of life for those fortunate enough to have been able to find the means to make money from it. Some use it as a means of financial security! As an Army veteran trained in power pole climbing with the Corps of Engineers, I learned several years ago proper climbing techniques. Techniques that have carried over into tower installations. "Safety-First" was ingrained in us soldiers in whatever we undertook to do. Whether it was in using firearms safely or fastening your safety belt every time you started up a pole. You knew that this was always at the forefront to be safe! Rule of thumb; "Safety is no accident!"

Proper care for all your tools was a way of life that I've always tried to pass on to my now teenaged son, Timothy. As a young person he's heard his Dad on numerous occasions remind him to put things back where they came from. And, if it's broken, tell someone right then! There's a lot to be learned from reaching for something in your tool bag while your 50 foot high on a tower and not finding it! "Timothy!!" is usually the first word out of my mouth. If you ever get the chance to have a QSO (Contact or conversation) with Kilo Four Tango Echo Papa (K4TEP... Timothy Phillips) simply ask what happens whenever Dad can't find a certain something. He's had lots of experience there! ;~)

Here's wishing you the very best in whatever area(s) of the ham hobby you decide to undertake! As a General Class licensed operator, I spend a lot of time in the digital modes of HF. Areas that my Technician Class son can not go just yet due to the band privileges being beyond his class. I can tell you that he has become well aware of what lies ahead for him once he gets an upgrade. He has seen dad work all fifty US states almost three times. And the shoe box full of QSL cards!

Hope we've sparked your interest a little more about the amateur radio service. Feel free to ask if there's anything we touched on here or that comes to mind on other aspects you may have seen.

Your elmer friend,

Eddie Philips N4EMP

