The purpose of the test is to ensure that licensees operate their stations safely without causing interference to others. Also, it teaches the licensee to become a Professional Communication Station Operator, and the knowledge gained gives one confidence to pursue projects that one may have never dreamed of. Licensed Amateurs gained great privileges, and the trust put in Amateurs by Governments all over the world, especially in times of disaster, is great. It is a truly revered and special hobby, with camaraderie seldom found elsewhere.

How much does Amateur Radio cost?

Basic study material, and registering for the examination costs less than €40. Once examination has been completed successfully, the Amateur Radio callsign is obtained, by paying a registration fee of €52, and an annual fee of about €26.

Once the license is obtained, most radio amateurs find it best to start with simple equipment and grow over time. A handheld VHF FM transceiver can be purchased for as little as €80 new, and excellent used equipment is often available at low prices. All things considered, the cost to get the license and radio should be less than €200. For less than the cost of a video game system, kids will gain a hobby that will benefit them all through their lives.

If your son or daughter has expressed an interest in amateur radio, we hope you'll be supportive. You may even want to consider getting a license of your own, so that you can share this experience with your son or daughter. Many parents have done this and made amateur radio a family affair.

Contact the

Cyprus Amateur Radio Society

JOIN THE FUN !!

We look forward to meeting you all on the Air!

Cyprus Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 51267
3503 Lemesos

cars@cyhams.org

http://www.cyhams.org

AMATEUR RADIO

Parent's Guide To Amateur Radio

http://www.cyhams.org/

The brochure was developed with the kind permission of Dan Romanchik, KB6NU.

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is a hobby enjoyed by millions of people around the world. They enjoy communicating with one another via two-way radios and experimenting with antennas and electronic circuits.

All kinds of people are amateur radio operators, also known as "hams." Radio amateurs are young, old, men, women, boys, and girls. Kids as young as seven years old have gotten amateur radio licenses and many hams are active into their 80s and beyond.

You never know who you'll run into on the amateur radio bands: young and old, teachers and students, engineers and scientists, doctors and nurses, mechanics and technicians, kings and entertainers. People from all walks are amateur radio operators.

For example, did you know that most of the astronauts sent up to the International Space Station (ISS) in the last five to ten years have been licensed radio amateurs? They use the amateur radio station on board the ISS to communicate with school groups all over the world.

Amateur Radio Operators are truly citizens of the world. Our call signs are passports into most countries. National boundaries, politics, colour, sex, age or occupation are no barrier to Amateur Radio. Amateurs enjoy talking over the world and beyond, either on regular schedules or as chance contacts. Many have formed life long friendships with people they never met, while others take the opportunity to travel overseas to visit their Amateur friends.

Who can become a Radio Amateur?

The short answer is ANYONE can! As Radio Amateurs one can have tremendous fun, make great friendships and gain a huge sense of personal satisfaction and achievement. There is no minimum age for obtaining an Amateur Radio License. Amateur Radio provides an excellent introduction to astronomy, the absorbing world of computers and IT, electronics and radio, so many young amateurs go on to choose careers in these fields.

Radio Amateurs also include many people with disabilities who find that Amateur Radio opens the world to them from the comfort of their own homes, keeps them active and alert and opens new horizons every day. Many famous people such as King Hussein of Jordan and King Juan Carlos of Spain have become Radio Amateurs. Your child might just find itself talking to a celebrity!

What do kids get out of Amateur Radio?

Being involved in amateur radio is beneficial for kids in many ways. They will, for example, learn about electronics and radio propagation; expand their knowledge of geography and enhance their personal communication skills. An interest in amateur radio gives them knowledge that will help them succeed in school and in life. It often kindles an interest in math and science, which can then lead to a career in science or engineering.

In addition to technical skills, kids will also learn social skills. It's often said that amateur radio is a "contact sport." In making contacts with other amateur radio operators, your child will make friends with other hams around the country and around the world. This, in turn, will help them learn about other cultures and the world we live in.

Amateur radio also teaches children the value of public service. Part of amateur radio's reason for being is to provide emergency communications and other public service communications. By taking part in those activities, your child will learn how satisfying public service can be.

How does one get into Amateur Radio?

A child can begin as a listener on the amateur bands now, but to transmit an Amateur Communication Station License is required, issued by the Ministry of Communications and Works. In return for being granted a License, and thousands of “channels” in 23 frequency bands to operate in, Radio Amateurs are required to pass a test in basic electronic theory, practical & regulations. The test is not hard, and the study enjoyable because one is learning about something he is interested in. *Many 10-16 year olds are Amateurs along with many adults who have never completed school!…* ***Anyone can do it!***