

Talking Points for Teens and College Students

This group is very savvy to technology, and is also pretty jaded when it comes to technology. Their attitude says "Impress me," so I try to use that to my advantage. I try to use the real "gee-whiz" aspect of the different facets of Amateur Radio to appeal to them.

- APRS - Every kid has seen a James Bond film where James Bond tracks the bad guy with a radio beacon planted on the car to be followed. This quickly explains the concept of APRS and I go from there with additional details on uses of the system as well as a demo of it, if possible, using the findu.com Website.
- HSMM - The High Speed Multimedia project of the ARRL has great appeal to the computer geeks in the crowd. They are familiar with wireless networking and wardriving so I usually just tell them "Yep, we do that but we do it a lot bigger." The world record for an 802.11b wireless connection was recently set by a handful of folks, several of them hams, at over 82 miles! Not bad for a technology designed to communicate at less than .5 miles.
- Satellite Communication - I often talk to this crowd about being able to talk directly with other hams via satellite connections as well as directly with astronauts on the Shuttle or ISS. This really wows the crowd. They are often amazed that I have talked with astronauts using my "walkie talkie".

I end by telling them how easy it is to get your Tech license and briefly touch on other topics that I know will hit their buttons - fox hunting, packet radio, and the various internet linking projects.