

Go to the Head of the Class

Taking part in the *Newsline* Young Ham of the Year¹ award presentation each August at the Huntsville Hamfest is one of the highlights of my year and one of the best parts of my job. At least once each year, I get to look our future in the eye, and virtually always come away reassured that our hobby will be in good hands in the years to come. This year was no exception.

This year's Young Ham of the Year, Pdraig (Pat) Lysandrou, KC9UUS, has been a ham only a few years but it is clear to see that he already is headed for a leadership role in the hobby. I won't repeat what I wrote last month in my profile of Pat, but when I wrote that, I hadn't yet had the opportunity to meet him and his family. In addition to what I had learned about him on paper, I found that Pat is a very personable young man with a way of putting people around him at ease. One of the things that impressed me most was a snippet of conversation that I overheard during dinner, where his science teacher and co-nominator Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, gave him one of those lighted signs with his name and call from Jim's Engraving, and Pat was explaining to his sister something about how the infrared remote control worked. What caught my attention more than what he was saying was how he was saying it, both the fact that he obviously understood the technology and the ease and clarity with which he was explaining it. I am certain that we will be seeing and hearing more from Pat in the future.

I realized after the award presentation that I have a unique honor in this whole process as both a member of the selection committee and a presenter of the award. Most of the other committee members only have the opportunity to "meet" the nominees on paper, and our knowledge of their qualifications is limited to what their nominators have submitted. In my dual hat, I also have the privilege of meeting the winner in person and getting a sense of whether the "real thing" matches up with the picture that's been painted for us by the nominators. I must say that overall, we've done a pretty good job, based not only on first impressions at a busy hamfest but also by the winners' ongoing accomplishments over the years.

In 27 years, the group has an excellent track record. For example, last year's winner, Erin King, AK4JG, couldn't make it to this year's ceremony to "pass the torch" because she was finishing up an internship with Google's balloon internet project before starting her sophomore year at MIT. The 2011 winner, Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, filled in for Erin, taking time out from running the hamfest's youth center.

We all should express our appreciation to Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of *Newsline*, for starting this program over a generation ago; and to our fellow long-time corporate sponsor, Yaesu USA, along with more recent sponsors Heil Sound and RadioDaze. This program not only recognizes the accomplishments of young hams but encourages and inspires those who follow. The kids are pretty inspiring to me, as well.

About July and August...

Virtually all of you who subscribe to our print edition received your July issue very late, and many of you received your August issue late as well (although not quite as late). We sincerely apologize for these delays and want to explain a little bit about what happened.

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CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU; 2013 *Newsline* Young Ham of the Year Pdraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS, and *Newsline*'s Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, at the award presentation ceremony. (Photo by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB)

Without going into boring details, we encountered a production problem relating to the July issue that resulted in its not being mailed until late July. This got us off-schedule with the printer, which in turn delayed the August issue. We have changed printers as of the September issue, so hopefully these problems are now resolved. We regret the delays and apologize for the inconvenience. We also want to thank the vast majority of you for your patience and understanding as we navigated this bump in the road.

(As a side note for those of you who commented that you received the issue too late to know about planned hamfests and special events, or contests during the affected months, please be aware that the contest calendar and the calendar of upcoming events are both posted on our website along with each issue's highlights. These generally go up on the 25th of the month preceding the next issue's cover date. Neither these nor our digital editions were affected by our printer problems.)

EmComm Special

This issue is our annual Emergency Communications (EmComm) Special, featuring looks at a wide variety of ham radio EmComm activities. A common thread among all of our articles is the importance of the "people" part of the formula, along with the radios and antennas. Cory GB Sickles, WA3UVV, focuses on this aspect in his article about New Jersey's South Counties Emergency Radio Network on page 18, but it is reflected in all of our other EmComm Special articles as well. These include a look inside WX4NHC, the ham station at the National Hurricane Center; the use of ham broadband (HSMM-MESH) technology for EmComm; a profile of The Salvation Army's ham radio network; and reports from our columnists on drills and "the real thing" around the world.

If you're into the public service aspect of amateur radio, we hope you'll get some ideas from this month's special. And even if you're not, this issue's articles will give you a good idea of how hams are integrating newer technology into one of the oldest parts of our tradition—public service and emergency communications. Enjoy!

73, Rich, W2VU

Note:

1. <<http://www.arnesline.org/yhoty/>>