

How Old is Young?

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How old is young? Especially when it comes to hams? We all (hopefully) say we want more young hams in the hobby, but how do we define the term? Who qualifies as young? Do you have to be a teenager? Maybe under 25? 35? In his column this month, DX Editor N2OO suggests that based on the crowds he's seeing at Dayton and elsewhere right now, any ham under age 50 should be considered young. He might have a point, as people in their 30s and 40s often have more stamina than folks who are a bit older. They also tend to have greater means available to invest in the hobby than folks who are a bit younger.

But many of us look to young people in their teens and early 20s as prime recruits to amateur radio, perhaps because that's the age range in which many of us "old-timers" started out. It's certainly true that becoming a ham at an early age can have many benefits, especially if you're technically inclined. Even though seemingly all of our technology today is digital, more and more of it connects with the rest of the world wirelessly. And we hams understand that "wireless" means radio. There is a great and growing need for engineers and technicians who are skilled in the analog world of RF, since radio itself is analog and always will be. Perhaps even more important is the ham radio mindset of learning how things work, and how to make them work when the usual methods aren't available. These skills can be helpful in a wide variety of career paths. And maybe even more important than that is the wide-ranging networking opportunities offered by our hobby.

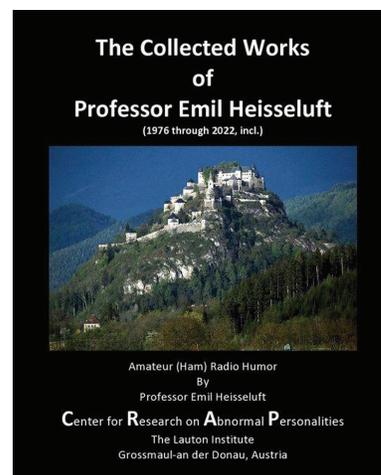
This issue has a focus on young people and radio, starting with our "News Bytes" item on the 2022 Newsline Young Ham of the Year, a future microbiologist and high-altitude balloon enthusiast who's being mentored in the art of ham radio ballooning by Bill Brown, WB8ELK, a pioneer in the craft and a NASA engineer. She probably wouldn't have that connection without ham radio. Our second News Bytes item

is about this year's round of scholarships administered by the ARRL Foundation, whose amounts have been nearly doubled over last year by a huge expansion of scholarships from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications foundation. This year's scholarships are going to nearly 140 young amateurs, in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 and totaling more than \$900,000!

Our lead feature this month is on YOTA Camp. That's Youth on the Air, and this year's edition hosted around 20 campers in a radio-immersed experience. One of the greatest things about YOTA Camp is that many of the activity leaders and instructors are young hams themselves, perhaps a bit older than the campers — but not always — and still within the range that many of us would consider young. Some of these youngish hams are already emerging as the next generation of leaders in our hobby.

We have two other youth-focused articles in this issue, both of which serve to remind us of the critical role that radio continues to play in keeping us informed about our world, especially in difficult times. OH2BH shares with us the story of Daniel, the young son of a ham from Ukraine, and how a battery-operated radio provided as a gift at the beginning of the war there provided a lifeline of information while the family was taking shelter in their basement (and while Dad was quietly making arrangements with hams in Finland to provide the family with emergency housing and support). Finally, we hear about 8-year-old Extra Silas Kriner, KI5VDZ, whose dad Eric, KF5KVE, moved his ham rig into the family's dining room to keep up on developments in Ukraine via international shortwave. Silas got hooked on local weather nets, though, particularly during tornado season, and decided he wanted his own ham license. Studying three hours a day with HamTestOnline, he went from zero to Extra Class in just a little over two months. With motivation and dedication like that, Silas clearly has a bright future, both in ham radio and whatever else he puts his mind to.

So how old is young? As we see it, in ham radio, youth is not a number, it's a mindset. In our view, anyone who brings energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas to amateur radio is young, regardless of their chronological age. While we strongly encourage the physically young to embrace ham radio, of course, we also put out the welcome mat for anyone with a youthful outlook on the world and the hobby.



Book Notes

Last month, we introduced *Playing With Meteors*, KL7AJ's new book for tech-focused young people who don't know yet that they need to be hams. This month, we'd like to tell you about *The Collected Works of Professor Emil Heisseluft*, a complete compendium of the professor's April CQ articles from 1976 to the present. Curated by longtime CQ author and propagation authority Ted Cohen, N4XX, the book provides reprints of every Heisseluft article to grace the pages of this magazine. Always insightful, frequently predicting the future (from cell phones to stealth aircraft), Professor Heisseluft's wisdom is now available any time of the year (not only in April) and all in one place (a book). It's available through the CQ Bookstore and on Amazon.com. Of course, we recommend it highly!

— 73, Rich, W2VU