



Dayton Youth Forum Reaches Quarter Century Milestone

By Carole Perry, WB2MGP

With 10 young speakers, eager to give their presentations, **Photo A**, and special guests who wanted to give greetings and invitations to the audience, and with lots of prizes to give out, plus a new special segment to introduce, I knew we were in a race against the clock again at the 25th Youth Forum at the 2012 Dayton Hamvention®.

For me, three hours always appears to fly at this forum because we have so many good things to squeeze in. The *sharing factor* is what drives this forum and the Teachers' Forum.

Everyone shared in my delight to observe the special banner that was custom made for our 25th Youth Forum by **Phil Henline, WA9KFB**, and inspired by **Rich Siff, W4BUE**. It will be displayed at our Youth Forums from now on.

Traditionally, the Dayton Youth Forum has been a time during which we share in celebrating the accomplishments of our

"I waited a long time . . . 24 years, in fact, to be able to say, 'Welcome to the 25th Youth Forum.'"
– Carole Perry, WB2MGP

young presenters, and we share our ideas to motivate others to become involved with young people.

YDXA Brings Adventure for Young Radio Amateurs

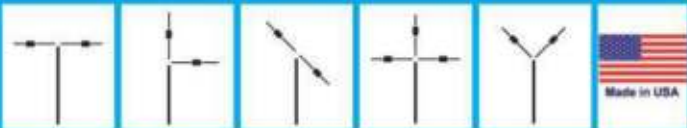
Keeping with this theme, the first group to make a presentation was the **Youth DX Adventure (YDXA)** team led by two of my *favorite people*: **Don DuBon, N6JRL**, president of Dayton Amateur Radio Association; and **Dave Kalter, KB8OCP**, general forums chairman.



Photo A. Ten outstanding young radio amateurs gave impressive presentations on a wide range of topics at the 25th Youth Forum during the 2012 Dayton Hamvention®. (Photography courtesy of WB2MGP)



BUDDIPOLE



ANTENNAS & MORE

From beaches to mountaintops, condos to RV parks and everywhere in between, the Buddipole line of portable HF antennas and accessories is ideal for both novice and expert operators alike.

We manufacture all of our antennas using custom CNC parts and injection molds with carefully selected materials.



We also manufacture A123 Nanophosphate battery packs for all portable radios. These power packs provide unparalleled performance in the field. See our website for more details.

BUDDIPOLE FEATURES

- > Multi-band design works 9 bands (40 meters thru 2 meters) with one set of adjustable coils!
- > Rated from QRP to 250 watts PEP
- > Modular Design – create dozens of different antennas with interchangeable parts
- > Rotatable/Directional
- > Lightweight, rugged components
- > Rotating Arm Kit allows users to instantly change antenna configurations
- > Used by Emergency Services Groups throughout the world

Secure online ordering at:
www.buddipole.com

WHAT IS THE BUDDIPOLE?

The Buddipole™ Portable Dipole fits in your travel bag and assembles in minutes. The Buddipole is more than an antenna, it's a versatile system for launching your signal. Optimized for transmit power and proven for DX work, the Buddipole is the secret weapon used by HF portable operators all over the world.

See our videos
www.youtube.com/buddipole

3028 SE 59th Court, Suite 600
Hillsboro, OR 97123

tel: (503) 591 8001
fax: (503) 214 6802

info@buddipole.com



Photo B. John Amodeo, NN6JA, one of the producers of the ABC-TV hit sitcom *Last Man Standing*, starring Tim Allen, "KAØXTT," urged the young people attending the 25th Youth Forum, "to have fun with ham radio, and to continue to develop the skills that will enhance their pursuits later in life."

This fabulous DXpedition to Costa Rica is for kids and a parent — and is totally free. The selected kids are expected to help out in raising funds for this wonderful experience. Several young people in the audience went last year. One of the presenters, 12-year-old **Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P**, attended this summer with her dad. I hope to see this *adventure* grow and grow every year.

Inspiration From An ABC Sitcom Producer

John Amodeo, NN6JA, is one of the producers of the wonderful ABC-TV sitcom *Last Man Standing*, starring **Tim Allen**. John recognizes the importance of recruiting efforts in our hobby and service. Amateur radio has even been incorporated into the TV show, with Allen as the fictional **KAØXTT** (KAØ eX Tim Taylor).

John, **Photo B**, especially supports the motivation and recruitment of young people. And obviously he's pretty good at it. He has helped to bring 12 people from his production crew into amateur radio. John shared with the audience that he was always interested in radio, and developed a wonderful set of skills that helped him as an adult when he pursued a career in entertainment.

He encouraged the youngsters in the audience to have fun with ham radio, and to continue to develop the skills that will enhance their pursuits later in life. He was *very inspirational*.

Pike Family, On Traveling With Ham Radio

The **Pike family**, **Justin, KJ4AXF**, age 17; **Patrick, KJ4AXD**, age 14; and **Collin, KJ4AXB**, age 18, **Photo C**, did a great presentation on "HF around the World" — a great discussion covering the basics of traveling with ham radio.



BOOKS

Back by popular demand!

Low McCoy On Antennas



Low McCoy on Antennas

by Low McCoy, W1ICP

Unlike many technical publications, Low McCoy presents his invaluable antenna information in a casual, non-intimidating way for anyone!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95

The Quad Antenna



by Bob Haviland, W4MB

A comprehensive guide to the construction, design and performance of Quad Antennas. Chapter titles include General Concepts, Circular-Loop & Arrays, Rectangular & Square Loops, Multi-Element Quads, Delta Loops & Arrays, Design Variations, Optimizing a Quad Design and more!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95

The Vertical Antenna Handbook



by Paul Lee, N6PL

You'll learn basic theory and practice of the vertical antenna. Discover many easy-to-build construction projects.

6 X 9 Paperback \$17.95

VHF Propagation Handbook The Practical Guide for Radio Amateurs



by Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU &
Gordon West, WB6NOA

The combined ham radio experience of the authors represents many years of VHF observations and research. Tropo Ducting, Sporadic-E, Aurora, Meteor Scatter, F2 Propagation, TEP, Combo Modes, it's all here!

6 X 9 Paperback \$15.95

33 Simple Weekend Projects



by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

Do-it-yourself electronics projects from the most basic to the fairly sophisticated. You'll find: station accessories for VHF FMing, working OSCAR satellites, fun on HF, trying CW, building simple antennas, even a complete working HF station you can build for \$100. Also includes practical tips and techniques on how to create your own electronic projects.

6 X 9 Paperback \$17.95

Shipping & Handling: US: \$7 for first item, \$3.50 for 2nd and \$2 for each additional. CN/MX \$15 for first item, \$7 for 2nd, \$3.50 for each add'l. All Other Countries: \$25 for first item, \$10 for 2nd, \$5 for each add'l.

CD Only: USA \$5 for one \$3 each add'l; CN/MX \$10 for one \$7 each add'l; All Other Countries: \$15 for one \$10 each add'l.

Book & CD to a single address = ONE item!



CQ Communications Inc.

25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801

516-681-2922; Order Toll-Free 800-853-9797

http://store.cq-amateur-radio



Photo C. The Pike brothers, Justin, KJ4AXF, 17; Patrick, KJ4AXD, 14; and Collin, KJ4AXB, 18, spoke about "HF around the World" — a great discussion covering the basics of traveling with ham radio.

Photo D.

Seventeen-year-old Nick O'Dell, KDØOCR, is fascinated by EOSS (edge of space science) and shared his experiences with building payloads for balloon launches.



They spoke of the basic equipment, the need to have your license prominently displayed for customs, and how to most efficiently pack the radio, antenna, power supply, manuals, log book, and so on.

They even showed us a slide of the boys setting up radio gear at Hadrian's Wall <<http://bit.ly/LGuePM>> — in minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit weather. The boys volunteered to answer questions after the forum, and set up a Buddipole right in the room. These very impressive young men already have a fascinating travelogue of locations from which they've operated around the world.

KDØOCR: To the Edge of Space

Nick O'Dell, KDØOCR, age 17, **Photo D**, is a member of the BARC Jr. group that is always well represented at the Youth Forum in Dayton. Nick is fascinated by EOSS (edge of space science) and shared his experiences with building payloads for balloon launches.

Influenced by another BARC Jr. member, and former young presenter, Austin Schaller, KDØFAA, Nick enjoys doing com-

puter programming for fun. The audience loved his presentation, especially the part about the payload design — including a jar of cockroaches. He also made really good points about taking advantage of failures, or situations that don't work out the way you've planned. It should be taken as an opportunity for learning.

For the first time in 23 years, **Rip and Ellie Van Winkle, NVØM**, and **NØCQX**, who are the heart and soul of BARC Jr. weren't able to attend the Youth Forum. We all send them our best and look forward to seeing them right there in the first row again next year.

Yls: Outreach and Recruitment Are Key

Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, age 12, **Photo E**, gave a wonderful presentation on "Youth and YL's — No Limits." She was the 2011 Young Ham of the Year.

Kaitlyn and I believe that YLs should make a special effort to recruit other YLs into the hobby and service. She is an Extra Class licensee and volunteered at the ARRL booth at Dayton. She believes most young people don't have the right idea about amateur radio. They believe it is old fashioned and not relevant.

Kaitlyn would like to see better marketing efforts to get young people involved in amateur radio. She described the importance of getting youth involved during emergency situations. Her home QTH is Harvest, Alabama, which was struck by a terrible tornado in April 2011.

The hams turned to the SKYWARN® net and welcomed young licensed amateurs to help out with the disaster.

'Smile, You're On Dayton Camera'

At this point I invited everyone to smile and turn toward **Al Eckman, WW8WW**, and his **ARGYL (Amateur Radio for Youth in Lowell)** crew from Lowell high school in Michigan who do the fabulous recording job for the Youth Forum.

Their expertise and dedication is simply amazing. The DVD they produce is an invaluable aid to me after the forum, and serves as a tool for clubs across the country to use to model other youth forums.

A Soft Touch with Radio Control Software

Next up was **Danny McReynolds, KDØILX**, age 13, who spoke about



Photo E. Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, spoke about "Youth and YL's — No Limits." She was the 2011 Young Ham of the Year.



Photo F. Seventeen-year-old Erin King, AK4JG, is a high school senior who celebrated getting into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) by sending her acceptance letter to the edge of space.

"Writing Your Own Radio Control Software." The premise of his talk was that since ham radio equipment has become so sophisticated, it's nearly impossible to build gear today like a ham might have done in the past.

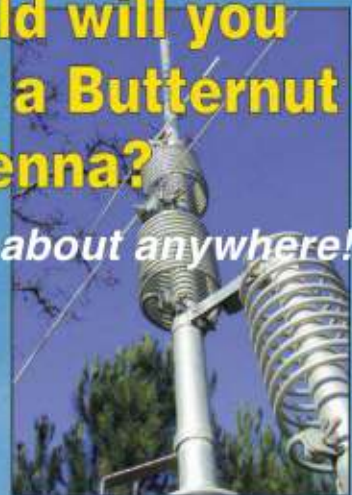
Instead of building hardware, Danny proposed that building custom software to control the computerized rigs is a better way to go. This 13-year-old told us that this can be done with a minimum of programming knowledge by using the Microsoft Visual Studio suite which is available for free from Microsoft. With step by step instruction, someone can create his own screen design, implement the features he desires, and write the code to communicate with the radios. It was very impressive listening to this technical presentation by a young ham.

Up, Up and Away (to MIT)

Erin King, AK4JG, 17, is a high school senior who celebrated getting into

Where in the world will you find a Butternut antenna?

Just about anywhere!



Whether it's for your main home station antenna, a DXpedition antenna, or the portable antenna you use with your mobile home, your Butternut is ready to deliver big antenna performance in an efficient, reliable, compact design. Used in over 160 countries throughout the world and on countless DXpeditions.

Every ham needs at least one!

Butternut verticals are available to cover all bands from 160 to 6 meters

Check our web site www.bencher.com for the full line of finely crafted Butternut and Bencher products.

Bencher Butternut
241 Depot Street
Antioch, IL 60002

Call or write for free color brochure:

847-838-3195

Fax: 847-838-3479



Photo G. AK4JG's balloon launch that took her MIT acceptance letter to the edge of space, and its subsequent recovery were captured in a YouTube video. Watch it at, <<http://bit.ly/KfItPO>>. (YouTube screen grab)



Photo H. Ralph Irish, W8ROI, has been the "prize manager" for the Youth Forum for 22 years. He poses here with WB2MGP under the custom-designed banner for the 25th Youth Forum. It was created by Phil Henline, WA9KFB, and inspired by Rich Siff, W4BUE.

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) by sending her acceptance letter to the edge of space, **Photo F**.

After she had received early admission, Erin learned about the school's "Hack the Tubes" tradition, where students make wacky art or conduct creative experiments with the silver tubes that contain their acceptance letters.

Several months ago, Erin filmed a YouTube video of her rigging the tube to a small weather balloon, two GPS equipped radios, a camera and a helium tank. (**WATCH: AK4JG's balloon launch and recovery, Photo G, on YouTube, <<http://bit.ly/KfItPO>>.** – WB2MGP)

She released the balloon in Lumpkin, Georgia. It rose to 90,000 feet, the very edge of space, before the balloon popped. A parachute then deployed, and the silver tube with the acceptance letter drifted slowly to earth. APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) direction finding helped Erin's team to locate the balloon. Members of the local amateur radio club chased the tube 100 miles across South Georgia. It was discovered in a tree in Cordele, 75 miles from where it was launched. The video is very exciting.

Appreciation for 'The Prize Manager'

At this point I acknowledged our good friend **Ralph Irish, W8ROI**, standing guard over our prize table. Ralph has been the "prize manager" for the Youth Forum for 22 years, **Photo H**. He not only helps with organizing and awarding of the many prizes, he has the prize tickets printed for us, and he and his club, the L'Anse Creuse ARC, have been generous contributors of prizes for the young presenters as well as for the audience for all these years.

It's this kind of support that adds so much to the success and smooth running of the 3-hour forum.

Amateur Radio Under the Radar

Brady Gordon, ACØXR, 12, from BARC Jr., made his second appearance at the Dayton Youth Forum. This year his talk was on "Stealth Amateur Radio Operations." Brady had the

audience try to identify where his antennas were hidden by showing us a photo of his home. *No one could see them.*

His 80-meter dipole was on the roof at 35 feet — very cleverly hidden. Brady explained that stealth operations are when you operate in a very restricted environment. He gave us many examples of how successfully he operates in different contests, including the 2011 ARRL November Sweepstakes where he and his dad won a certificate.

Brady showed us a photo of his home with a 3-element tri-band on top of a 25-foot aluminum tower. He assured us, his neighbors don't have a chance to complain because it's only up for one weekend, and then it goes under the porch. He also spoke of working on Echolink, satellites, and remote operations. For more information, Brady invites you to visit, <<http://Stealth.lowswr.com>>.

A Young Op's Perspective

Mikaila Williams, KI4DS, was my youngest presenter. "A Nine Year Old's View on the Importance of Kids in Amateur Radio" delighted the audience.

Mikaila got her Extra Class license when she was 8 years old. Her motivation was to help out in emergencies, especially after hearing stories about the role of amateur radio in the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March 2011.

The clubs and organizations she belongs to are: Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society (LMARS), a group that sponsored Mikaila and her parents' trip to Dayton; along with QCWA, the Disney Emergency Radio Services (DEARS), the Osceola Emergency Radio Services, and the Mid-Florida Region American Red Cross Disaster Services and the Youth Program. Mikaila's message to kids is to have fun and not let age be a limiting factor in helping your community.

Photo I. Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, 2005 Youth Forum presenter, encouraged the youngsters to get involved and not let age be a factor in restricting their radio activities. Here she is with WB2MGP at the 2005 Youth Forum.



Before letting Mikaila return to her seat, I asked her to wait up front with me while I told our audience about a contest. This past winter, I was approached by **Evan Rolek, K9SQG**, who had the idea of a contest for young hams called, "What I have done to assist a senior citizen or disabled person."

We each contributed \$50 and advertised the contest for several months. The winner would be announced at the Youth Forum, but did not have to be a young presenter. It so happened that the winner was young Mikaila Williams, for her extraordinary work described in a letter sent by a senior citizen in Mikaila's neighborhood who was so very grateful for assistance when she really desperately needed it.

ICOM Supports Boy Scouts of America

Next up was **Ray Novak, N9JA**, from ICOM who broke the news about ICOM becoming the official vendor for the Boy Scouts of America. The 2013 Boy Scout Jamboree and the Radio Merit badge program will now have ICOM equipment for the scouts to use and become involved with radio through hands on experiences.

This is one example of the terrific dedication to youth that Ray, as a representative of ICOM has always shown. Their generous donation of radios to every young speaker at the Dayton Youth Forum has been a longtime tradition.

In Celebration of 25 Years: Where Are They Now?

To mark the occasion of 25 years of the Youth Forum I introduced a new segment called, "Where Are They Now?"

Six former speakers were contacted and asked to produce a brief power point presentation of how ham radio, and being a presenter at the Youth Forum influenced their career choices, schools attended, hobbies, and so on.

- **Austin Schaller, KD0FAA**, (2009 and 2011)
- **Nicky Lance, KC5SWM**, (2000)
- **Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB**, (2006)
- **Kristen Lundy, KC0INX**, (2000) — who was there to narrate her story in person
- **Mary Alestra, KB2IGG**, (1990 Young Ham of the Year and one of my 7th grade students) **Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT**, were on a combined power point put together by Al Eckman and his crew, and was narrated by **Dan Onan, KD8NSV**, from the ARGYL group.

This segment was a big hit with everyone. Parents, especially, enjoyed seeing how successful the youngsters had become; and the youngsters in the audience found new role models.

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, (2005 Youth Forum presenter, **Photo I**), has been a huge advocate for youth in ham radio and does tremendous volunteering for the ARRL Youth programs. She was there in person to encourage youngsters to get involved and not let age be a factor in restricting their radio activities.

Longtime Support from MFJ Enterprises

Richard Stubbs and **Martin Ju, K5FLU**, from MFJ Enterprises, Inc., have supported youth in radio before the Youth Forum came into being. They donate equipment to the young presenters and offer discounted prices to the other contributors to the forum.

Hard Work, Generous Donations, Excellent Presentations

The end of the Youth Forum is always so much fun. I had fellow RCA members hand out The RCA Young Achiever Award certificates, along with a \$100 stipend check to each young presenter.

ICOM, MFJ Enterprises, and **Kenwood** radios that were generously donated were then won by kids and adults in the audience. Remarkably, we finished with one minute to spare, wrapping up the 25th Dayton Youth Forum.

I invite all my readers to be on the lookout for enthusiastic, young hams who would like to be considered to be a presenter at the Dayton Youth Forum in 2013. They can contact me at <caroleperry@ix.netcom.com>.

CQ VHF Ham Radio
Above 50 MHz

*The magazine for the VHF/UHF
Enthusiast*

Within the pages of CQ VHF you'll find more meaty reading aimed at the really serious VHFer. That's what our surveys told us you wanted and that's what we deliver!

By taking advantage of our subscription specials you'll save money and have CQ VHF delivered right to your mailbox. Only \$28 for four information-packed quarterly issues. Or better yet, enter a two or three year subscription at these special prices. As always, every subscription comes with our money back guarantee.

**Don't miss out - take advantage
of these special prices today!**

1 year only **\$28.00** • 2 years **\$56.00** • 3 years **\$84.00**

Canada/Mexico - 1 year \$38, 2 years \$76, 3 years \$114;

Foreign 1 year \$41, 2 years \$82, 3 years \$123

Payable in U.S. dollars

25 Newbridge Road Hicksville, NY 11801
Toll-Free: 800-853-9797 • FAX: 516 681-2926
www.cq-vhf.com