

# The Young Hams @ Friedrichshafen (Germany, That Is)

In June of this year I was invited to conduct a forum called "Ham Radio and School Curriculum" at the world's second biggest ham radio convention. Destination: Friedrichshafen, Germany.

This fabulous event is sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) along with the popular Maker World lectures and activities.

There is such a heavy emphasis on attracting young people into amateur radio in Germany that the keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies of the 39<sup>th</sup> International Amateur Radio Exhibition was 12-year-old Kay Malfeld, DO7KAY, who passed his entry class license exam about one year ago.

This young man spoke eloquently about what makes him enthusiastic about ham radio. Interestingly, he said the attraction to the hobby was *not* the opportunity to speak with others having the same interests. He explained this could easily be done via the Internet using a smartphone, Skype, or Teamspeak.

Kay felt he was speaking for other young hams when he said the following things were what really mattered:

- Practical experience with technology
- Exciting projects, in particular those involving software and networking technology
- Getting together with other young people
- International understanding, meeting new people from other countries

\*<wb2mgp@gmail.com>

*In June, young people were well represented in the convention hall during the 39<sup>th</sup> International Amateur Radio Exhibition in Friedrichshafen, Germany — second largest ham convention in the world. (Photography courtesy of Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB)*



- Participating in Field Days, emergency communications, and experimenting with main power independent station set-ups (in case the mobile phone network fails)

Kay called upon the local clubs to provide the volunteers to cooperate with local schools, and to support and motivate interested young people.

Several clubs could join forces in order to provide the budget and the personnel to provide equipment and parts for building projects. Kay suggested that young people would be interested in exciting projects like working on a high-altitude balloon or a microcontroller board, under the guidance and supervision of adults. He made a plea for the local hams and clubs to help get more young people on the air so he could communicate with them.

In his summary, Kay said, "... Mobile phone switched on and handheld transceiver switched on, as well. The combination of amateur radio communications with smartphones and computers is an exciting approach with huge potential."

This 12-year-old feels people working in technology along with kids and teenagers is the right attitude in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## A Portfolio: Doing My Part

In the PowerPoint presentation I gave at my forum, I spoke about "Here's How I Did It," describing how I taught "Introduction to Amateur Radio" successfully for 30 years at a Staten Island, New York intermediate school to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

# Get Ready for the Holidays with **CQ** Deals!

## Reflections III

by Walt Maxwell, W2DU

All the info in Reflections I and II and more! This completely revised and updated, 424-page 3rd edition is a must-have!



8.5 X 11 Paperback  
\$39.95

New! CD Version \$29.95  
Buy both for only \$59.95

## W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook

by Bill Orr, W6SAI

W6SAI was known for his easy-to-understand writing style. In keeping with this tradition, this book is a thoroughly readable text for any antenna enthusiast, jam-packed with dozens of inexpensive, practical antenna projects that work!



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95  
Buy both for only \$29.95

## Understanding, Building & Using Baluns & Ununs

by Jerry Sevick, W2FMI

The successor to the popular and authoritative Baluns and Ununs. Great deal of new tutorial material, and designs not in previous book, with crystal clear explanations of how and why they work.



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95  
Buy both for only \$29.95

Shipping & Handling: USA - \$7 for 1st book, \$3.50 for 2nd, \$2 for each additional. CN/MX - \$15 for 1st, \$7 for 2nd, \$3.50 for each additional. All Other Countries - \$25 for 1st, \$10 for 2nd, \$5 for each additional.

**CQ Communications Inc.**

25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801  
516-681-2922; Fax 516-681-2926  
<http://store.cq-amateur-radio.com>



Carole Perry, WB2MGP, this year got an eyewitness view of "Friedrichshafen," the world-renowned and youth-oriented amateur radio convention held annually in Germany. Literally translated, Messe Friedrichshafen means Fair Friedrichshafen.

I taught 11 classes twice a week and one class three times a week. It was not taught as a licensing class, but rather as a program, open to all students, to learn the basics of radio phenomena and to experience making contacts on the radio in our classroom. Through the

years, with 450 students a term, hundreds of students got their FCC licenses and went on to join our local amateur radio clubs and get active in community events as volunteers.

I gave suggestions on how to keep the students interested and excited, for



The Learn to Solder hands-on exhibit was particularly interesting to many of the young people attending the convention.



Young people of all ages — and species — made an appearance at Friedrichshafen, as captured in this pose to CQ photographer Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB.



Set-up in the display areas at the annual convention in Germany is full of amateur radio eye candy, even before all the vendor covers are removed.

example, inviting hams with interesting careers — such as pilots, scientists, astronauts, missionaries, motorcycle police officers, entertainers, clowns, athletes, and so on — whom we had spoken with on the air, to visit our classroom.

Many of these speakers motivated and influenced career choices of my students. I encouraged the teachers in the audience to apply for International Space Station contacts. Speaking with

astronauts was always a highlight of the term whenever we were fortunate enough to contact them either in space shuttles or at the Johnson Space Center amateur radio club station W5RRR.

I proposed a plan to pair up young hams from both Germany and America. I am presently working with Annette Coenen, DL6SAK, to give three students from each country a free one-year digital subscription to *CQ Amateur Radio* and *CQ DL* magazines, and to arrange for them to meet on the air.

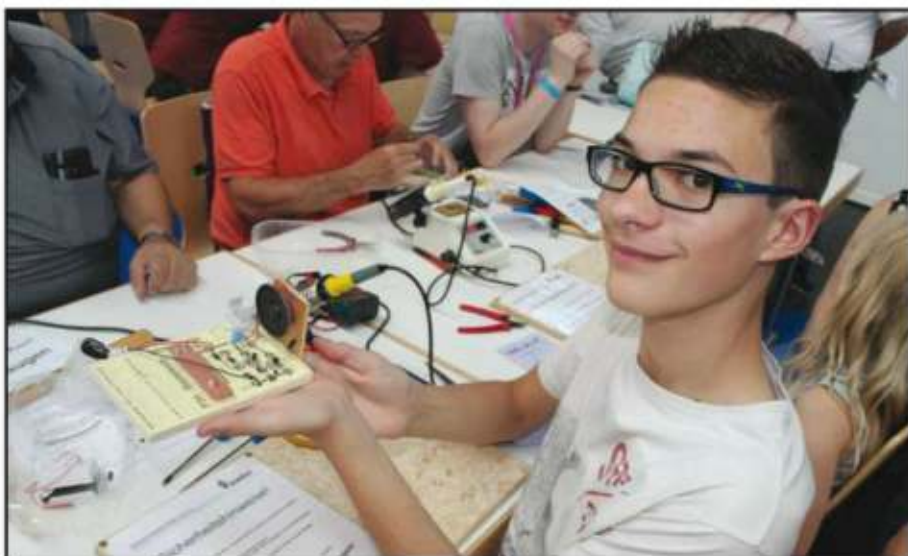
We are all very excited about the “possibilities” of this project. I am looking for corporate sponsorship to finance the project of sending a young presenter from my Dayton Youth Forum to speak

at Friedrichshafen. I welcome any suggestions and support from hams who would like to get involved in this exciting project for young hams with me. Please contact me at <caroleperry@ix.netcom.com> if you are interested.

### Overview from a Staten Islander

The 39<sup>th</sup> International Amateur Radio Exhibition was a *fabulous* experience for me. The gracious hospitality of the DARC members made this “elegant” ham radio convention the experience of a lifetime, with lots of potential for more youth activities.

— Carole Perry, WB2MGP



Old and young people alike came away from Friedrichshafen with smiles and a sense of accomplishment — this completed breadboard project as proof. In case you're wondering, on the paper in front of this young man, SICHERHEITSHINWEISE means Safety Instructions.



CQ columnist Carole Perry, WB2MGP, described to Friedrichshafen visitors how she taught Introduction to Amateur Radio successfully for 30 years at a Staten Island, New York intermediate school to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.