

Perry Pushes Amateur Radio for Youth Around the World

By Sandra Wendelken

Carole Perry is an advocate for teaching students about the benefits of amateur radio. The American retired middle school teacher is expanding her U.S.-based efforts globally.

Perry spoke in 2014 at the world's second-largest amateur radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany. She described how she taught amateur radio for 30 years in middle schools in New York and how others could use similar curriculum to recruit amateur radio operators. Perry and her counterpart in Germany set up an exchange program where for one year, three young ham operators received technical magazines from each country. U.S. kids were getting the German version of CQ magazine and German kids received U.S. CQ and QST, the monthly magazine of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL).

“The idea was for them to get on the radio and communicate with each other,” Perry said.

Last year at the Dayton Ham Convention in Dayton, Ohio, USA, Perry conducted a session with young presenters, as she has for 28 years. She had eight young U.S. presenters in the session, in addition to a 16-year-old ham from India. Tom Jose was escorted by the Indian National Amateur Radio organization during his 38-hour trip to speak at the youth forum.

“He was extremely personable and spoke so beautifully,” she said. “His resume is long. He helps during weather-related disasters in India.”

After his presentation, one of the members of the Radio Club of America (RCA) Youth Activities Committee who had donated to other young presenters, gave Jose a US\$100 bill, she said. He also received a JVCKENWOOD handheld radio.

U.S. astronaut Mike Fincke came to Dayton to present a forum and speak during a luncheon. The eight young licensed hams from the audience were invited to go with him, along with Jose. The Indian escort invited Perry to go to India to visit schools and see how they are teaching amateur radio, and she hopes to visit this year or next.

Perry has another connection to India through Yamini Sadineni, a young Indian woman who she met in mid-2014 at ARRL's centennial celebration. “She and I are in communication,” Perry said. “Yamini and Tom are very interested in radio communications during weather disasters. She is from the same area of India as Tom.”

In another positive move for females in amateur radio, the first licensed female Palestinian contacted Perry and asked for suggestions for recruiting. They are in communication.

In October, the RCA Youth Activities Committee, which Perry chairs, made a substantial donation to a group of ham radio operators who went to Cuba to introduce amateur radio at several venues, including to an elementary school.

Perry feels strongly that youth education about amateur radio can bring help during international and other disasters and boost global harmony. She would like to establish a global recruiting network for youth hams.

“The ripple effect for the past 40 years or so that I’ve experienced with young people is amazing, along with their networking and communicating worldwide,” she said.

For more information, contact Perry, WB2MGP, at wb2mgp@gmail.com.