



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany



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Subject:	YOTA CAMP 2016 Austria		
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1. Introduction

The future of Amateur Radio is dependent on getting the next generation excited about radio experiments and Ham Spirit.

2. Background

The currently acting Youth Coordinator Lisa Lenders, PA2LS, is passionate about her task. The YOTA program (Youngsters on the Air) is already very well-known and demonstrates the success of such activities. YOTA highlights are the YCP (Young Contesters Program), the YOTA-Month December and the yearly YOTA-Camp. Significant funding comes from IARU Region 1. In July 2016, the YOTA Camp took place in Wargain, Austria and Austrian Amateur Radio Society OeVSV hosted the camp as part of its 90-years anniversary celebrations.

3. Key points and proposal

Already the 6th edition of Youngsters on The Air took place in OE2. More than 110 youngsters from 30 member societies, including an IARU Region 2 team from USA, travelled to Wagrain (near Salzburg) to Hotel Oberwimm in the Austrian mountains.

The youngsters did have a lot of fun with amateur radio, there have been many workshops, they did optimize their skills in electronics and contesting and made new international friends. To name some activities from the exciting program:

- SOTA hiking with their radios on top of 3 different mountains making contacts on HF, VHF, UHF and HAMNET
- COTA visiting and getting on air from ancient castle Hohenwerfen
- Testing propagation in an ice cave (compare VHF versus UHF)
- Workshops to homebrew HF and VHF antenna and using the same antenna in the mountains as a SOTA station, HAMNET, working with a Raspberry Pi and making a WSPR beacon out of this or use it with DV4mini for digital voice.
- Emergency communication exercise
- Famous intercultural evening where everyone brings food and drinks from their home country.
- 24/7 special event station OE2YOTA has been on air on most bands in several modes
- 45 m high tower and antenna on mobile truck from DP6T
- EME Moon bounce and Meteor Scatter contacts 8 first time at YOTA)
- ARDF fox hunting event on 80 m in nature

On Monday 10:25 UTC, there has even been an **ARISS contact** with astronaut Jeff Williams KD5TVQ, which has given the youth an unforgettable experience.

All this is only a small selection of the program. More info and real live updates of the event are available here <http://www.ham-yota.com/category/yota-2016/>. Some videos are available here: <https://vimeo.com/channels/yota2016>

4. Conclusion

A high number of youngsters did experience a week of their life time. They had fun by learning a lot about different aspects of Amateur Radio and made friends with youngsters from different countries and cultures. More than 100 of them subscribed to a social media channel and are in daily contact by exchanging information about radio experiments and arranging for radio contacts among each other. The network is growing constantly and the spark of excitement is jumping over to others.

For the organizers team (including youngsters Florian, OE3FTA and Monty, OE3VVU) it has been some work but in return they got to know many very talented and skilled young people.

For the first-time participants from Region 2 (ARRL) have been invited and joined the fun. This seems the first important step to spread the idea of YOTA camp to other IARU regions.

5. Words of Thanks

Special thanks have to be given to some EC members, to the crew of DP6T, to all our sponsors, and many private persons, that contributed significantly to the big success of the event.

PS: Please also support following similar YOTA events! Thank you!