

# YOTA NEWSLETTER

IARU R1 YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND LATEST NEWS – MAY 2024



## Youth Activities at Ham Radio

Youth will once again be represented at the **HAM RADIO fair** in Friedrichshafen! We hope to see many of you there in June!

**More information** about the fair itself can be found on the organizer's website:

<https://www.hamradiofriedrichshafen.com/>

**Looking for a place to stay at Ham Radio?** It's now time to reserve your spot in Ham Camp with other young hams here:

<https://www.darc.de/en/der-club/referate/ajw/hamcamp/>

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## Happening at Ham Radio:

### Friday

13:00 YOTA Contest and December YOTA Month prizing ceremony

Youth dinner in the evening

### Saturday

14:00 International Youth Meeting

15:00 YOTA Summer Camp flag ceremony

## Meet the team behind YOTA!

**NAME AND CALLSIGN:** Hi, I'm Petar 9A7PP

**WHO AM I:** I'm an airline pilot, and amateur radio enthusiast living in Zagreb.

**WHAT DO I DO:** In YWG I am supposed to organize and help with the new Train The Mentor program which is still in development, also helping here and there.

**IF I WERE HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT:** If I were a piece of radio equipment, I guess I would be a band pass filter; I hear only what I want to hear :).

**BEST YOTA MEMORY:** The Best YOTA memory is probably the after-midnight swim in the lake at YOTA Finland.

**FAVORITE MOVIE OR A TV SHOW:** Favourite film is Top Gun (who would have guessed).



### Petar 9A7PP

**NAME AND CALLSIGN:** Claudia DC2CL

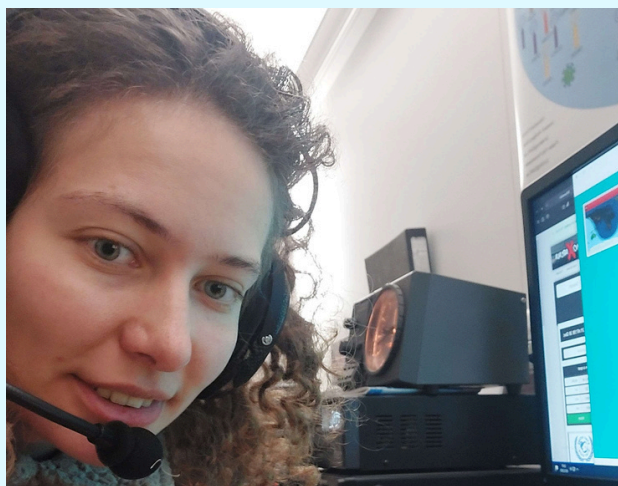
**WHO AM I:** I just finished my math and data sciences studies, based in Munich and holding my ham radio licence for more than 10 years already!

**WHAT DO I DO:** I'm helping with the operations part of the YWG

**IF I WERE HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT:** Probably the antenna, as it is a crucial part for communication and talking

**BEST YOTA MEMORY:** Best YOTA memory There are many good ones, but YOTA is in general about the people and Youngsters I got to know. If I have to pick one memory, then I'd say the intercultural evening at the camp in 2016 in OE, as it was the starting point of YOTA for me.

**FAVORITE MOVIE OR A TV SHOW:** not really watching much, but I love the movie "The imitation game"



### Claudia DC2CL



**June 2nd** - Monthly YOTA Discord sked

**June 28th to 30th** - HAM RADIO fair in Friedrichshafen

**June 30th to July 4th** - 6th IARU ARDF Youth World Championships

**July 7th** - Monthly YOTA Discord sked

**July 20th** - YOTA Contest round 2/2024

**August 4th** - Monthly YOTA Discord sked

**August 16th to 23rd** - YOTA Summer Camp in Prague, Czechia

Upcoming youth activities

# YCP 2024 - TM4Y

After many years of waiting, YOTA was back with the Youth Contesting Program! And we are here to tell you about it...

Thanks to Jules F4IEY and F6KOP's friends this time the event took place in Provins, France. A group of 17 youngsters from all levels of contesting experience were guests of the local radio club from March 29th to April 1st. During these four days they had the chance to use a powerful contest station, and to challenge themselves during the CQ WPX SSB contest.

## Day 1

On the first day, the participants arrived from all around Europe, some before others but with no rush as the contest started at 1:00 local time. The station was set up by F6KOP club members in advance. It was amazing to meet new friends, and finally get back in touch with the ones from the previous YOTA events!

Everyone had studied the rules of the contest on their own beforehand, so the only thing remaining on the checklist was for Jules to give us a guided tour of the site, and to show how to get our hands on the whole setup so we could use them by ourselves during the contest. The station consists of 6 rigs, one per band (from 160m to 10m), equipped with their own antennas (most of them Yagi) and amplifiers.



There was also a dormitory with bunk beds where we would take turns to sleep in (in fact the station was active at every hour!). In addition, there was a living room and a kitchen to use as a space to relax and have fun during the time when we were not on the air.

After everyone had arrived it was time for dinner! A delicious raclette gave us all the energy we needed to contest all night long and to get us charged up for the big start! Luckily even at night there was movement on the bands, especially on 20m in the early morning where Megan EI5LA had a lot of fun with a nice pileup coming from the US.

## Day 2

Day two started off great as many of the radio club members joined us at the station to check out our work. The site was full of people enjoying the event and making new friends.

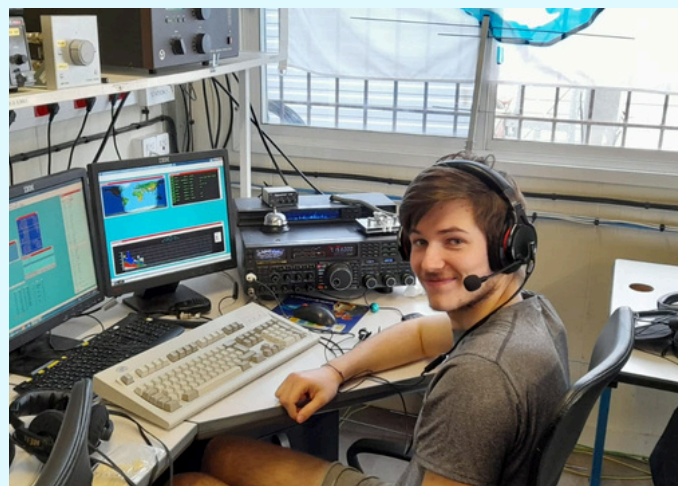
Of course, during mealtime we took turns for eating because as in a serious contest station leaving the radio unattended was not an option but luckily (and thanks to good scheduling) every shift ended during lunchtime, so everybody always got their food.



<https://discord.gg/cJQWWZz3wG>

The weather was not kind to us, as it rained most of the time, and unfortunately some antennas were not so amused, which probably caused some SWR problems during the contest that were easily resolved by switching antennas, and so we were back on track! We heard a lot of bells ringing during the day, in fact every station had its own bell that had to be rung every time a new multiplier was logged. Due to the massive amount of mult prefixes, it's easy to tell there was a lot of ringing in a contest like WPX but that was part of the fun!

Everyone was concentrating on having a good time, either operating or enjoying the free time. Tsuf IUORBC brought his accordion and did a spontaneous live performance for everyone in the living room, later Manoel ON6RF and Fred ON4PFD explained to us some of their latest technical projects regarding TETRA and M17, the latest digital communications protocols being experimented in amateur radio. Some of us also went sightseeing in Provins, the town where the station is located. It's very well known for the historic center of the town, with a very well-preserved medieval architecture. Bastien ON4BCY spent a few hours in the kitchen to treat us with delicious waffles from Liège, Belgium! Generally speaking, we were never hungry and had amazing meals, courtesy of José, F4IEL. The club's president (Frank - F4AJQ) offered us all to register, for free, as members of F6KOP. By the end of the day, we were all registered.



### Day 3

Sunday was way more relaxed as most prefixes had already been logged and everybody was a bit tired after the night shifts (what is sleep anyway?). The weather was getting better so we decided to go outside to take some group pictures in the sun and some inside the radio station with all the operators and organizers as well, everybody wearing the TM4Y t-shirt that was gifted to us. During the afternoon, we did a small live stream on both YouTube, Facebook and Instagram where the operators could be seen at work while other youngsters were roaming by, checking on their friends. The ones that were not on the air could be found in the living room trying their luck to get the US license, thanks to Mario EA1JAY/AL6M, Jules F4IEY/K4IEY, Maxime F4IQN/K4IQN, Dario EA1MZ/AK6EA and Santi EA4HQF/KO6BHP that examined us and almost everyone managed to get at least the technician level and three of us (Manoel ON6RF, Bastien ON4BCY and Fred ON4PFD) reached the extra level.

At the end of the exam session, it was almost dinner time, so we sat all together to eat, and it was finally time for the final rush. Even in the last hours we could still hear some bells ringing and 80m still provided some good pileup. At the end everyone was super excited, and we celebrated the good results with bread and Nutella.

## Day 4

All good things must come to an end! The contest finished officially at 2AM, but most of us decided to stay up later to keep on chatting. The Belgians, who did go to sleep as they were leaving the earliest, were quite surprised to see the station still active at 5AM!

After catching some sleep and a Nutella-fueled breakfast (again), it was time to pack our stuff and prepare for the trip home, some went straight to the airport while some decided to spend a few more days in Paris to visit the city. Little by little, we all said our goodbyes and left. Everyone returned home safely, with the promise of meeting again, either at Friedrichshafen or elsewhere.

## In conclusion

To sum things up, this Youth Contesting Program session was a complete success! A great experience all around. We got to meet long-time friends and make new ones.

For some of us, this was the first contact with the contesting world, even more so using such a well-equipped station. The CQ WPX SSB raw scores puts us first in France, 6th in Europe and 9th worldwide: 18 million points for more than 5000 contacts.

We cannot thank Jules F4IEY and Frank F4AJQ enough for their hard work in imagining, organizing and making sure everything goes smoothly during this event!

Do you feel like you could host such an event at your local radio club? No matter which scale don't hesitate to reach out!



Do you have any feedback, ideas or other comments about the YOTA Newsletter? Please let us know through this link:

<https://forms.gle/pKTPcgYNBE6ry94H6>

## Organize a YOTA event!

Do you want to organize an event? We want to help you! If you are looking to arrange a YOTA Subregional camp, or a Youth Contesting Program event, please **contact us through [youth@iaru-r1.org](mailto:youth@iaru-r1.org)** at least 6 months before the event would take place.

## More YOTA Content!



Craving more YOTA content in your everyday life? **Follow our social medias!** Visit our website at [ham-yota.com](http://ham-yota.com). And join our Discords server!

<https://discord.gg/cJQWWZz3wG>

