



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Youngsters On The Air Italy

18 – 25 July 2015



5th Edition of Youngsters On The Air took place in Marina di Massa, Italy. 76 Participants from 24 countries travelled to Italy to take part. The event is organized by ARI and handled by ARI Tuscany Regional Committee under the lead of Silvio Gaggini IZ5DIY and Alex Carletti IV3KKW. Many radio amateurs helped in organisation and practical needs, the document in the end of this report is showing an overview of these hams. Without them it was impossible to have such a great event

In the IARU R1 conference in Varna 2014, it was decided that YOTA will be part of the Youth Working Group of IARU R1. This was the first YOTA summer event under the wings of IARU R1.



This is the first YOTA with participants outside Europe. Oman, Tunisia and South-Africa took part. Those three countries send wonderful participants which were completely involved in the program. These participants showed a great example of being part of amateur radio, no matter what your cultural background is.

Oman told us they need help with activities for YL radio amateurs and Tunisia mentioned that they need help with gaining personal callsigns.

Location

Location: Marina di Massa, Tuscany, Italy.

Accommodation: Torremarina <http://www.torremarina.it/>

This is a simple hotel, perfect for YOTA activities. We had 3 meals a day. Morning breakfast was not that good (cookies and dry bread, but that seems to be normal in Italy), for lunch and dinner we had a warm meal which was OK. Unfortunately the food for the Muslims was not very well. The food was good enough for a week of YOTA.

The place was close to the beach and sea, there was a swimming pool, place for presentations and radio shack. Sleeping rooms were divided per 3-4 persons. One disadvantage was that there were 500 children for a camp.

Overall this was a good location for YOTA. The price is low, so we cannot (and don't want) to expect a luxury place.

Participants

75 Participants are invited to take part in YOTA. This limit is set due to financial and organizational reasons.

We asked member societies to apply to take part with a team of maximum 5 participants, with the age 15-26 years. One of them will be the team leader, with the minimum age of 18 years. The team leader could also be an older person, but it is preferred to select a younger team leader.

We received much more applications than the maximum of 75 places, we decided to make teams smaller, so all applying member societies could take part.

Two weeks before the start of the event 4O decided not to come, 2 days before the event E7 told us not to come, but came in the end with 1 person. 3 persons of 3V did not obtain their visa. This was stressful for the organisation because the accommodation was already booked and paid. Luckily we could find new participants with a last minute call.

ZS: Koos Fick ZR6KF, his travel costs was funded by IARU R1. Koos had a great week and I believe this could be a start of more youth activities in Africa and Africa being part in YOTA.

Prefix	MS	# of participants	comments
3V	ARAT	1	obtained 1 visa out of 4
4O	MARP	0	applied for 2 participants, cancelled
9A	HRS	4	
A4	ROARS	2	
E7	ARABiH	1	applied for 3 participants, 2 cancelled
EA	URE	5	1 participant replied on last minute call
EI	IRTS	3	
ES	ERAU	3	
G	RSGB	5	1 participant replied on last minute call, 1 from Cyprus
HA	MRASZ	4	
I	ARI	5	1 participant replied on last minute call
LZ	BFRA	4	
OE	OEVsV	3	
OH	SRAL	4	
OK	CRC	4	
OM	SARA	4	
ON	UBA	4	
PA	VERON	5	1 participant replied on last minute call
SM	SSA	4	
SP	PZK	4	
YU	SRS	4	
OZ	EDR	1	replied on last minute call
ZS	SARL	1	travel costs funded by IARU R1

Teamleaders

The call to send team leaders under 30 years was denied by many MS. It is not wrong to send an older team leader if this person is a great help for the event. However, most troubles we had in YOTA was because of the older team leaders which should be an example for all young people!

We had to ask many times to (older) team leaders if they could attend the program. While this was clearly told in the everyday team leaders meeting.

- SP: this team leader broke the youth policy. He placed a radio station at a girl's room and made QSO's in the night. After notifying he placed the radio back to his own room, but made also QSO's in the night while the boys wanted to sleep. The boys came to the organisation because they were afraid to tell this to the SP team leader. One night he went

with to the girl's room and asked if they wanted to play guitar, while they were trying to sleep. He seemed to be drunk according the girls.

The team leader was not attending activities. After I told him personal that he should attend, he was not agreeing with this, he attended the rest of the program.

The team leader could not take part in the day trip to Florence because of health problems. A person with such kind of health problems shouldn't be a team leader.

Positive fact of this leader was that he was doing every days Good Morsing activity very well and this was much appreciated by all participants.

- EI: this team and team leader were not attending many activities. When I approached the team leader and told him that they should attend he got really angry on me and wanted to spread bad words about YOTA. Next day the team was again not attending an activity, someone else told this to him, and he was again really angry.

- LZ: team leader was not attending. After I told him personal that he should attend, he was not agreeing with this, he attended the rest of the program.

Next year we should have more strict rules about team leaders. It is the responsibility of a member society to select a good team leader.

A team leader should take part in the entire program and should be in a good health condition.

Program

The program was a big improved compared to last year. Without European Commission as main funder, we could completely focus on amateur radio activities. PR, sightseeing and some cultural exchange are also part of the program. This should remain in the future programs.

In next years it would be better to have more workshops in the program and activities where participants are more involved in the program. To name some activities which participants mostly liked: PSK kit building, off-air contest, treasure hunt and trip to Florence and Pisa. There were too many presentations, the warm weather didn't help out with this.

Overall the program was good and the Italian organisation had many last minute ideas to make this week more special. (flag hoisting, Chinese lanterns on the beach, etc..)

The entire program is at the end of this report.

The Italians took care of a VHF/HF station. We could use 3 radio stations with the call I15YOTA. Many youngsters had their first QSO's and were taught by the more experienced youngsters.

YOTA booth Ham Radio Friedrichshafen

The Italian organisation took over the ARI booth at Ham Radio Friedrichshafen. This became a meeting point for many young radio amateurs but also a perfect place to promote YOTA. I think this is a great opportunity to continue with in future. We could have an annual YOTA booth with a team of young YOTA participants sharing the word.

YOTA 2016

When writing this, it is unfortunately not decided where YOTA 2016 will take place. I received only 1 application from ERAU Estonia. YOTA 2013 took place in Estonia and we would like to go next year to a new country.

Currently we are talking to RSGB and OEVS which could be a candidate for hosting YOTA 2016.

Conclusion

Silvio and Alex, together with the Italian organization, did a great job. I am really impressed in what they did and also having in my mind that they never have been in a previous YOTA.

It is a huge advantage YOTA is not part anymore of the European Commission and having IARU R1 as main funder. We didn't had to write difficult paperwork for the European Commission and could focus entirely on organising a YOTA focussed on amateur radio. Besides this we did know from the beginning that YOTA was going to take place (with EC as funder, we knew this only around a month in forehand)

Team ON was helping out the organisation and building the website. In future it would be preferred to have a dedicated staff team, which could help the entire week and could also work on YOTA related things as the website, YOTA month, PR and so on.

All participants worked the entire week on making pictures, blogs and videos. In the coming weeks this will be published. In the next YOTA's we should schedule this again and give all participants more time to work on this, as this is the only week that so many young radio amateurs are gathering together. We should use this opportunity to show amateur radio to the world.

It is important to have (scheduled) discussions in this week with youth coordinators. We had one youth coordinator workshop which was that interesting that we had to schedule a second one. In this week all youngsters and coordinators are sharing their own experiences.

I would like to mention that YOTA is currently bigger then youth HST and ARDF championships, comparing the participating number of member societies. MS spread over entire Europe (and now also outside Europe) are taking part. The YOTA group is growing fast, this brings also more activities on national and local level, as the youngsters become more active in amateur radio and want to have more activities at home. In YOTA they meet new friends with which they develop new activities. All youngsters are throughout the year in touch via social media and radio waves.

In future we could think about a second YOTA summer event, as we are receiving currently much more applications then participants.

To get a feeling about YOTA, check the website where you will find blog posts, pictures and movies: www.ham-yota.com

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Italian organisation

Leader

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Team

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Sponsors

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Piero Begali - www.i2rtf.com
Ten Fifty Contest Group – www.io5o.net
4O3A – www.4o3a.com

Program

Saturday 18.7

When	What	Where	By Who
	ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS		
	Presentation of TorreMarina to all participant.		IZ5DIY
13.00	Lunch + free time	Canteen	
15.00	PR and Media	Gazebo hall	PA2LS
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
20.30	Preparation	People's hall	
21.30	Name Games	People's hall	EI4GXB
23.00	Cleaning	People's hall	


BE ON TIME!

Sunday 19.7

When	What	Where	By Who
8:00	Breakfast	Canteen	
9.15	Energizer	Outside	ON Team
9.30	ham-yota.com	Gazebo Hall	ON3YH - ONL11943
10.00	YOTA month QSL's	Gazebo Hall	OM4CX
10.30	Radio station info and opening	Radio Station	IZ5DIY, IK5DHM
11.30	Italian DXpedition Team in Africa	Gazebo Hall	
13.00	Lunch + free time	Canteen	
15.00	US Amateur Radio License Exam	Gazebo Hall	IK2CIO
17.00	Beach Games Tournament	Beach	
19.00	Team Leaders meeting	Gazebo Hall	
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
20.30	Preparation	People's hall	
21.00	Intercultural evening	People's hall	
23.00	Cleaning	People's hall	

BE ON TIME!

Monday 20.7.

When	What	Where	By who
8.00	Breakfast	Canteen	
9.15	Energizer	Outside	Team G
9.30	Good Morsing	Gazebo Hall	Team SP
10.00	Introduction to ARDF – (Group 1)	Outside	Team LZ
11.30	DX Activity and Contesting (Group 1)	Radio Station	OE3FTA
10.00	<i>Radio Activity and Beach Games (Group 2)</i>	<i>Radio Station/ Beach</i>	
13.00	Lunch + free time	Canteen	
15.00	Presentation - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)	Gazebo Hall	Amsat Italia 
16.30	Geocaching Foxhunting with your GPS or smartphone	Gazebo Hall/ Outside	ON2TD
18.00	Building HF wire antenna to use at camp	Gazebo Hall/ Outside	GW1YQM
19.00	Team Leaders meeting	Gazebo Hall	
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
20.30	All together on the beach	Beach	

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Tuesday 21.7.

When	What	Where	By who
8:00	Breakfast	Canteen	
9.15	Energizer	Outside	Team EA
9.30	Good Morsing	Gazebo Hall	Team SP
10.00	Introduction to ARDF – (Group 2)	Outside	Team LZ
11.30	DX Activity and Contesting (Group 2)	Radio Station	OE3FTA
10.00	<i>Radio Activity and Beach Games (Group 1)</i>	<i>Radio Station/ Beach</i>	
13.00	Lunch + Free Time	Canteen	
15.00	Presentation – Coaxial Cables: what do you know about them?	Gazebo Hall	Messi & Paoloni
16.30	How to solder a cable connector.	Gazebo Hall	Messi & Paoloni
18.00	Handheld 2m Contest	Gazebo Hall /Outside	Team ES
19.00	Team Leaders meeting	Gazebo Hall	
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
23.00	Treasure Hunt	Outside	Team PA

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Wednesday 22.7.

When	What	Where	By who
7:00	Breakfast	Canteen	
8.30	Leave for a Tour in Florence and Pisa	-	YOTA Team
18.30	Back to the YOTA Camp	-	
20.30	Dinner	Canteen	
21.30	Team leaders meeting	Gazebo Hall	
21.30	Relaxing on the beach	Beach	

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Thursday 23.7.

When	What	Where	By who
8:00	Breakfast	Canteen	
9.15	Energizer	Outside	Team OH
9.30	Good Morsing	Gazebo Hall	Team SP
10.00	SDR	Gazebo Hall	Team EA
11.00	Off-air Contest	Outside	ES7GM
12.00	Presentation PSK receiver kits and first step	Gazebo Hall	GW1YQM
13.00	Lunch	Canteen	
15.00	Presentation – What is a yagi and how it works.	Gazebo Hall	IV3KKW
16.00	Youth Contesting program	Gazebo Hall	PA2LS
17.00	9A1RBZ youth program and YCP at 9A1A	Gazebo Hall	9A9A
19.00	Team Leaders meeting	Gazebo Hall	
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
21.30	Night game : Don't Fear The Reaper	Outside	Team I

BE ON TIME!

Friday 24.7.

When	What	Where	By who
8.00	Breakfast	Canteen	
9.15	Energizer	Outside	Team SM
9.30	Good Morsing	Gazebo Hall	Team SP
10.00	Youth Coordinators Workshop <i>(only youth co's and team leaders)</i>	Canteen	PA2LS
10.00	Pile-up Skills Test <i>(all the others)</i>	Gazebo Hall	IV3KKW
11.30	Presentation: D4C : a Contest Team on top of the World.	Gazebo Hall	I4UFH, IZ4DPV
13.00	Lunch	Canteen	
15.00	Beach Games Tournament	Beach	
17.00	YOTA Open DAY	Gazebo Hall/Outside	IZ5DIY & Co.
19.30	Dinner	Canteen	
21.00	Farewell Party	Beach	

BE ON TIME!