

Wyatt Law, AI6V, 2018 winner of the Young Ham Lends A Hand 2018 Award

By Devon Day, KF6KEE

News broke on May 21st that Wyatt Law was nominated as the winner of the Young Ham Lends a Hand Award for 2018 by the Radio Club of America and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). The prize was announced at the Hamvention Youth Forum in Dayton on May 19th. It is no surprise to those of us who know Wyatt that he has been recognized for his excellence in amateur radio service to the community and other ham radio operators. Wyatt will also receive a check for \$100.

Wyatt Law, AI6V, has been involved in amateur radio for four years. In that time, he has gained respect from the amateur radio community. He is an active member of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (ARALB) and CARA. When a volunteer is needed for an amateur radio event, the local adult radio clubs call on Wyatt because he is mature, he is dependable, he is knowledgeable, and he is a wonderful problem solver. He embodies the ideals of dedication, skills, and knowledge that ARRL and all amateur radio operators value. He offers his assistance to not only all of the students in the McBride and Sato Amateur Radio Clubs but to adults as well. He has taught amateur radio every summer for the past three years at the Boy Scout Sea Base in Long Beach.

Wyatt is unique because he builds nearly everything he can. To start with, Wyatt Law, AI6V, comes from a unique home. His family is very active. Wyatt's Dad, Ray, has had a huge influence on Wyatt and his twin brother, Austin. A passionate outdoors man, Ray introduced Wyatt to camping and hunting as a boy. From that, Ray, began building off road vehicles. He learned how to rewire his off road vehicles and taught Wyatt and his brother how to do electrical wiring, which led to Wyatt learning how to weld, braze, solder, and later create parts with a 3d printer. He joined the Scouts as an 11 year old and has continued to gain skills over the past six years. He became an Eagle Scout as a freshman and has many certificates for skills achieved and leadership positions. Last December, for his birthday, Wyatt asked for the parts to make his own drone with GPS capabilities. This Spring he built his own HF Hex beam antenna using fishing poles as the arms to this home made antenna. He will use it this summer for the 20 meter voice band with ARALB. He was named band captain by Field Day Chairman, Dr. Mark Chung for the second year. This is an example of Wyatt's high regard with the local adult radio club. This was the first time any teenager was given the honor of being a band captain in our club. Wyatt is an active member of this club as well as the Catalina Repeater Club, CARA). The club will also have radio band captains for 10 Meters, 15 Meters, 20 Meters, CW, 40 Meters voice and 40 Meters, CW. One of Wyatt's many projects was home made CW paddles that he uses when he works amateur radio in the field. He created the parts and made them using a See Me CNC 3D printer that he also built in 2016.

Another quality about Wyatt is his amazing technical memory. If he reads it, he remembers it. He purchased a Buddipole four years ago as a freshman. He joined a Buddipole group and read nearly everything the group posted. He began experimenting with configurations for different environments and is now an expert in the use of that antenna. He has had such a big impact on all of us, John Jacobson, KK6JBA, co-advisor for the club bought one for the club for their field activities. I bought one to take from school to school, event to event because it is such a fast antenna to set up and the results are so predictable. As result of Wyatt's influence I have been able to use the antenna at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) event at the Downey Space, at the Freshman Orientation at Sato Academy of Math and Science, and at beach activations. The Vice President of the club, Isabel Guzman, KK6SVB, bought one for her home station, next to the beach where a permanent antenna installation would be impossible.

During one of ARALB's club meeting, the guest speaker's talk was all about ARPS using a Blackberry. Wyatt sat beside me and explained how APRS worked and what its practical application is for maritime industries, recreational boaters, and search and rescue agencies. Our student has become my mentor.

I have worked with young people in radio for the past 20 years. I have never run across a student more deserving for a Young Ham Lends A Hand Award than Wyatt Law, AI6V.

