

Ten-Ten International 2014 Scholarship Award Winners



My name is **Christos Kakoutas, 5B4AIP** from the island of Cyprus, in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea. While attending the English School of Nicosia, I joined the English School Radio Club, 5B4ES, where older students taught the electronics and operating theory behind this exciting and mysterious hobby. With the help of some alumni of 5B4ES, I managed to acquire my CEPT (The

European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations) license (the European equivalent of a United States Extra Class license) at the age of 15. I received my 5B4AIP callsign and C46W special contest callsign, and

have been an active Radio Amateur ever since. I enjoy communicating with people using transceivers and aerials and constructing such equipment. I am most fascinated by contests, where the feeling of competing against everybody else in the world thrills me.

At 5B4ES, as members of the Cyprus Amateur Radio Society (CARS) we co-operated with the Cypriot Scouts Organisation and introduced boy scouts to Amateur Radio, helping them make their first QSOs during Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), an annual around the world scouting event. Furthermore, while continuously collecting funds and improving our QTH, we organized various equipment projects and participated in many contests. Our most glorious moment was the 2011 All Asian DX Contest where I scored 2nd place in the world and 1st in the under-18 SOSTAB HP category.

Upon graduation from high school, I was enlisted for my compulsory national service. When I am discharged from the army, in September 2014 I will enter Trinity College of the University of Cambridge, England, as a freshman to study Engineering. At the university I look forward in becoming a member of G6UW, the Cambridge University Wireless Society. I am currently a member of the ARRL, CARS, the Nicosia Club (5B4NC) as well as the Nicosia Contest Group (C4A).

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the Ten-Ten International Net and all the people behind it, for offering me this scholarship.

My name is **Gary Pike, KA4KBX** and I wanted to drop you a note to let you know just how much I appreciate the scholarship award from your organization. Many years ago when I was five years old, a man in my neighborhood, Charles Worth Jordan K4JTW befriended me and showed me his ham shack. I was hooked on ham radio the first time I made a contact. He took me under his wing and became my mentor teaching me Morse code using a record player. I was so happy when I passed my Novice license, but I never would have guessed that someday that beginning would make my future brighter.



After more study my father took me to the FCC building in Atlanta where I sat in a room of what looked like a hundred people back then. It was intimidating, but I passed the Technician test. The next month I received the reward for my hard work, an FT-207R (it was state of the art at the time). That radio became my companion for the rest of my middle school and high school years.

I was on my way to a career in electronics when Eastern Airlines recruited me at nineteen. That changed my career path and for many years, I was very successful in that career.

When I met my wife, I told her I would not get married until she had a radio license. I helped my wife and our children obtain their Amateur Radio licenses. Our entire family took and passed the Extra exam together. We have volunteered as a family at so many events since then. Ham radio has been a positive influence in our family.

During the economic downturn, my company laid people off and closed their East Coast operation. Unemployed with three sons in school and no work available, I took advantage of the back to work program to train for a different career path. Unfortunately, I have several years to go and the program has been cancelled.

I am faced with limited work options due to having to have a job that allows schedule adjustments to allow class attendance. I cannot tell you how meaningful this money is to my continued education. Thank you so very much for providing me with assistance in continuing my education and pursuit of my degree.



My name is **John "Jake" Eckardt, N3FU** and I was born in Florida and was interested in radio and electronics ever since I was a kid. I grew up working in marinas and boat yards. When I got older, I was working on Naval Research vessels and then Tankers with the National Maritime Union. That's where my interest in electronics and radio was rekindled. Our Radio Officer, "Sparky", told me about a book called "Now You're Talking". I got a copy of it and the Morse code tapes by Gordon West, WB6NOA. I received my first license in 1994. Thanks to the encouragement of friends in the Key West Amateur Radio Club, I really got interested in

Amateur Radio and passed my Extra Class license a few years later.

I really enjoyed working stations along the Florida Keys with the IOTA, Islands on the Air program. Ham radio was the ticket; and, I didn't know why I hadn't gotten into it sooner. Thanks to some good teaching and Elmering from club members, some of whom were Ten-Ten members, I got my station going and wanted to learn more. I didn't realize, at the time, that I was actually building the foundation for a career change.

The years of working on-board ships and doing carpentry and construction were starting to catch up with me. My back wasn't what it used to be. I couldn't make a living doing heavy lifting anymore. I was going to have to change careers, or, go on disability. So, I decided to go back to school. I needed to change careers; so, I picked electronics. I'll be finished with school in the spring. The schooling has really helped develop some fun extracurricular activities.

I've been having some fun rebuilding and restoring AM table top radios. My gardening skills have gotten better. I even enjoy dragging the telescope out in the backyard and spotting a few of the planets. The

point is, none of this would be possible without a good education. I would like to thank Ten-Ten again for the much needed help. An education is the greatest gift someone can give.

Amateur radio operator **Bill Freeman, N4NJJ** is a proud recipient of the 10-10 Net Scholarship. Bill currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada where he is a graduate student of Music Performance and education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a December 2013 Music Business graduate of The Canisius College of Buffalo.



Bill N4NJJ has been an amateur radio operator since he was twelve years old. He initially was licensed as KC2NWU. At the age of 12, Bill became very active and joined the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, W2SO. Following Hurricane Katrina, Bill had his first experience with emergency communications.

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) teamed up with WBEN-AM to collect donations for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. At the collection site, the radio club to pass health and welfare reports from Western New York to the disaster site.

In 2007, Bill N4NJJ upgraded to General. Bill became N4NJJ in 2010 while a student at George Mason University. Since becoming a ham, Bill has been active in a variety of radio activities including: Field Day, International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, Jamboree on the Air, VHF/UHF contests, the two annual hamfests sponsored by LARC (Batavia, NY; Lancaster, NY), and ARRL Sweepstakes.

In 2013, Bill N4NJJ became president of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. Under his tenure, the club saw an increase in membership participation through a weekly workshop series and more on-air activities. In addition, Bill was also an Assistant Section Manager and Public Information Officer of the Western New York Section of the ARRL.

Bill wishes to thank the 10-10 International for the scholarship opportunity, and his sponsor, Ron Gilson WA2WWK. Bill wants to thank members of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club for their support last year during his presidency. He also wishes to specifically thank the following hams for their help over the years as his elmers: Ross KB2TIN, Luke N2GDU, Kevin K9KVN, Paul K4PEW, Ed N2NJJ, Austin N2CAT, Scott KB2TRQ, Ron WA2WWK, Jim N8GXR, Steve AG2AA, Joe N2ZDU, and Pam AB3PW.