

Christopher Tate, KJ4UBL, of Burlington Receives “NC ARRL Public Information Officer of the Year” Award

HILLSBOROUGH NC -- Christopher Tate, KJ4UBL, of the Alamance Amateur Radio Club became the first recipient of the newly created “NC ARRL PIO of the Year” award at a ceremony held on August 13th at the monthly meeting of the Orange County Radio Amateurs where Tate was in attendance. Presenting the award was NC ARRL Public Information Coordinator Raymond "Woody" Woodward, K3VSA. “Christopher's enthusiasm for ham radio is incredible, and he's an outstanding example of the sort of friendly, outgoing, technologically savvy kid who gets involved in it,” said Woodward. Only just approaching his teenage years, Tate is believed to be the youngest officially appointed ARRL PIO in the country, and quite possibly the youngest ever to hold the office.



[Christopher Tate, KJ4UBL, (left) receives “NC ARRL Public Information Officer of the Year 2012 award plaque from Raymond Woodward, K3VSA (right)
Credit photo: Mary Lisa Woodward, KG4PFB]

As an official Public Information Officer, it is Tate's job to educate people about the value of Amateur Radio, both as a technical pursuit and for its ability to provide emergency communications “when all else fails.” He has been featured on local television and newspapers on numerous occasions since his appointment and is an enthusiastic and effective spokesman for us.

“People might think it unusual that someone so young could be given such responsibility,” explained Woodward, “but actually, Amateur Radio has a long tradition of that.” He went on to say that, in the beginning, the only way of communicating wirelessly was by Morse code. “You had no idea how old the operator at the distant end of your conversation was, so you formed your opinion of someone's maturity based on the person's “fist,” that is, the speed and precision with which he or she sent the code.

“That sort of acceptance is still a tradition, and any ham radio operator, just by virtue of having earned a callsign, is immediately on a first-name basis with every other ham, regardless of whatever differences in status might otherwise exist between them,” Woodward went on to say. “It's genuine equality.”

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