

# Honor Roll of Ludwig F. Drapalik, HB9CWA.

A «Wetziker», means a HAM in the little town Wetzikon in the eastern area of Canton of Zurich, explains his fascination for amateur radio.

HB9CWA or for non-radio players Ludwig F. Drapalik from Wetzikon has connected as amateur-radio-operator with people from almost every country in the world. He has now been awarded for this.



“My house is a bit hidden away in Robenhausen, but I’m sure you’ll like it – it’s the only one with an antenna on the roof”, says Ludwig F. Drapalik on the phone. He’s right. Even if the amateur radio operator will later describe the antenna as “rather too small for my needs.”

Ludwig F. Drapalik, better known in radio circles by his call sign “HB9CWA”, sits at the top of the winding Flarzhau in his shack: From his office, he transmitted all over the world. « My call sign is like another first name, so please always add it to it – it belongs to me like my initials”, says the 79-year-old.

## Honoured with distinction

Ludwig F. Drapalik broadcasts all over the world and was awarded Honor Roll Status by the American Amateur Radio Association (ARRL) at the beginning of June 2017, which means nothing less than that he has radioed to up to nine countries in every country – or territory, as the amateurs say.

Meaning: From Africa to America, from India to Bermuda. “In contrast to South Korea, I



couldn’t make it, for example, because amateur radio is no longer allowed there”, says the award-winning radio amateur. But he doesn’t give up: “My next goal is to have all countries radioed and who knows: Maybe someone more reasonable will come to power in North Korea.»

It took him over 20 years to earn this rare award. How many hours a day he radiates, he can’t say: “Today night I radioed with

an American until two o’clock in the morning, until I had to say, Well, now I have to go to bed. But sometimes it takes less time.” What is certain is He sits on the radio every day. He even had contact with astronauts from the ISS, as they are also enthusiastic amateur radio operators, as HB9CWA explains. “They told me how beautiful the earth looks from above.»

## World trip to radio colleagues

He is screwing on the radio and a radio call creaks into the room in Robenhausen: A Chinese



man is looking for a German radio operator to exchange. They are mostly spoken in English, explains Drapalik, who would like to speak even more languages: “We are often in Tenerife, where I have a second radio set – if my Spanish were better, I would have other ways of communicating with the radio operators there. »

We are talking about God and the world, but also about technical issues. “There are also friendships that go beyond sparkling”, says the Zurich-born. From 1996 to 2003, he and his wife Lotti had a

World trip with a sailing ship and is sailed from radio colleague to radio colleague.

### «ILT-school for radio-amateurs» founded

The electrical engineer also founded the most famous amateur radio school in Switzerland, the “ILTSchule”, and ran it for about thirty years. Today it is run by a former student. In addition, he recently developed an app with friends to learn the Morse alphabet.

The app, which is now being downloaded worldwide, is based on his invention, the “Morsix”, which he has already sold to the Swiss military. With the inconspicuous bevelled device you can quickly learn the Morse alphabet. “Morsen is a language of its own that we amateur radio operators speak, but it’s not easy to learn – my apps and my Morsix help”, he says, adding: “Even if amateur radio is my life – it’s even more important to connect with people. »

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