

46th Jamboree on the Air Report 2003

This year it was hard to believe it was JOTA weekend. Where was the frost, the howling gales, the pouring rain? What was this unseasonably warm weather, allowing for the erection of aerials without suffering frostbite not to mention tents for those opting to camp for the weekend.

While the weather was kind, conditions were poor. Many stations commented in their reports of fading, static and experiencing the sudden loss of contacts. Several causes were proposed including solar flares and electric storms over continental Europe. However it was clear that the contest caused the greatest irritation to many stations.

There was a slight increase in the percentage of stations reporting and once again the variety is amazing. While some stations have a handful of visitors others count over a hundred heads. The station at Linnet Clough Camp site where JOTA was part of a technology weekend must rate as the most developed. However a tiny station with time to give each visitor the best possible opportunity to explore all the possibilities may provide more operators for the future. This year JOTA fell just before the half-term holidays in most areas so fewer children were away. Even so stations are dependent on the goodwill of parents for transport and the lack of other competing activities to ensure reasonable attendance.

It seemed that fewer started up on Friday night and many stations operated on just one of the days. This can give a false impression of the number of contacts available at any one time. As most stations are keen to dismantle their equipment before nightfall on Sunday it makes it hard for those stations planning to operate only on Sunday afternoon to find a range of contacts.

Thanks to changes in the licensing structure in the UK this year we could welcome many new Special Event Call sign holders. No doubt some of these have been giving sterling service at stations before but it does mean there are more people to call on to run the station and it avoids the need for multiple calls to cover the eventuality of there being no Class A operators in the shack. It is also encouraging to see so many M3s listed, especially those identified as Cub Scouts or Scouts.

Assuming that the stations that sent in reports are typical of the 113 that took part, it would appear that approximately 3500 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers visited a JOTA station during the weekend and over 650 Scouters and over 550 Radio Amateurs made it all possible. The stations were also visited by 175 members of the Guide Association and 620 other visitors.

Many stations still depend on the generosity of their local Amateur Radio societies. Even those stations well supplied by Scout operators might benefit from close co-operation if they are running courses for the Intermediate or Advanced Licence. Everyone should remember that the subscriptions of RSGB members provide much of the service we enjoy for arranging the Special Event calls. Our thanks go to them.

Richard Gaskell, G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator

The front cover is based on the logo designed by Ms Maria Grazia Molle (IW0GAX) of the Scout Group of A.G.E.S.C.I. - Isoletta d'Arce 1 - (Zona Frosinone) - in Italy.

Station Reports

GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts

JOTA/JOTI for this station started with a night hike on the Friday evening and culminated with 80m unuseable due to QRN (static), possibly due to solar flares. Most of their contacts were within the UK, partly due to conditions and partly because of the German contest. They also had contacts on 2m, PSK 31 on 20m and packet. JOTI went well but there was a comment on the use of inappropriate language not being picked up.

GB0CBS - 2nd Twynning Scout Group, Tewkesbury

This was their first involvement with JOTA and they are already planning for 2004. The event was combined with JOTI and a Cub Scout sleep-over. During the day they worked JOTA stations on 40m and 80m both at home and abroad. In the evening there were games, food, a film and stories while the Internet was available through a network of 8 PCs. The Scouts worked for their Radio Communications badges, the Cubs gained their Nights Away badges and they were one of the stations with Guides visiting.

GB0CSG - 1st Colyton Scout Troop, Devon

Described as a first 'dipping of the toe', their radio amateur intends to be a major participant from 2004. They contacted several stations, especially in Portugal on 40m & 20m SSB.

GB0DSR - Dartmoor Scout Radio, Devon County Centre

This station was part of a weekend Cub camp operating on 80m & 20m SSB. JOTI was also available.

GB0FSA - Furness Scout Association, Barrow-in-Furness District, Cumbria

A JOTA station with Scout operators has an added bonus. Large numbers of all age groups tried Morse code, semaphore, quizzes and using

PMR radios as part of their Communications badges. Active on several bands, they were rewarded with Scout contacts in the UK and Europe.

GB0HDS - Horsham District Scouts, Horsham West & Horsham Weald Districts

Another station with Scout operators and plenty of JOTA experience, this station had an impressive list of contacts with other JOTA stations in all corners of the UK and across Europe with one Scout contact in New Jersey, USA. Active on HF bands 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 and also receiving PSK 31 and SSTV, they had nine cubs gain their Communicator badges. They also contacted Scouts at GB0FAS who will be attending WS2004 camp this coming summer.

GB0HS - Hindhead Scouts, 1st Hindhead Scout Troop, Surrey

Active on Saturday afternoon on several bands including 40m SSB, 20m SSB/SSTV, 2m FM and SSB and 70cm, Scouts who took an active part were presented with certificates. They tried designing QSL cards and had contacts with several Scout stations.

GB0LST - Ludlow Scout Troop

Scouts of the Ludlow Scout Troop and cadets of the 333 Ludlow Squadron ATC worked well together on a variety of activities including electronic construction kits and crystal sets. The leaders are looking into possibilities for future co-operation. Despite finding conditions poor, they did manage some JOTA contacts.

GB0MKS - Milton Keynes Scouts

Operating from the Quarries Campsite, this station was part of a Fun Day for District Cubs and a JOTA/JOTI camp for Scouts. In addition to radio and JOTI there was Morse code using both light and sound, a walkie-talkie wide-game

and the other camp-site activities on offer. The radio station was busy with 12 Scout JOTA contacts in the UK and more across Europe including Iceland, Italy, Norway, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. They also had an excellent contact with N5TW in Texas where their 10 year-olds were able to quiz their opposite numbers at Quarries.

GB0PSG - 2nd Pwllheli Scout Group, Dwyfor District

With a band of Scout MW3 among the operators this was a well-staffed station rewarded with Scout contacts across the UK and beyond. Six Scouts gained their Radio Communicator badges. Computers were used for Morse code training and for logging into a DX cluster.

GB0RSC - Radio Scouting Carmarthenshire

The operator describes his station as 'a low key event' held in his own home for 1st Llandoverly Scouts. There were contacts with a wide variety of Scout stations in Britain and Europe and a scout gained his Radio badge. This was one of the many stations delighted to contact G3BHK, Les Mitchell, the father of JOTA.

GB0RSG - 1st Ringmer Scout Group, East Sussex

This station operated both days on 20m and 40 m. From their station list it seems they were particularly successful in Portugal. Eleven badges were gained while the Scout leader was waiting for his own call sign. They also had a JOTI station.

GB0SSW - Salisbury and South Wiltshire District

Visitors of all ages at this station were kept busy building radio receivers, designing QSL cards and learning semaphore and the phonetic alphabet as well as making contacts with Scouts by radio.

GB0WHT - Wilson House Troop, S. W. Cheshire

Active on both days on most of the HF bands, this

station made several JOTA contacts at home and abroad. They also had a JOTI station and their visitors were able to gain badges for both radio and IT activities. Two boys have expressed interest in gaining radio transmitting licences.

GB2COS - Chester Oldfield Scout Group

This station celebrated 21 years of JOTA with a new QSL card funded by a former Lord Mayor who had enjoyed a previous visit so much. Working exclusively on HF bands they made contacts in over 40 countries and with JOTA stations in an impressive range of countries, in many cases renewing old friendships. The current Lord Mayor of Chester also visited and was among those passing greetings messages.

GB2ESG - 7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group

With visitors from every section and some Guides too, this station operated both days on a variety of bands. Among their overseas JOTA stations was one in Australia while they had an interesting contact with a maritime mobile station off West Africa. Four Scouts are now signed up for a Foundation Licence Course.

GB2FHS - 1st Histon Scout Group, Cambridgeshire

This station was part of a Global Challenge. The station had plenty of UK contacts and several in Holland. They operated on Saturday on the 40m and 80m bands.

GB2FNS - 1st Newick Scouts

With a family of radio amateurs to swell the ranks of operators, this station had plenty of contacts. Their test call hooked the World Scout Bureau in Geneva! They comment on the enthusiasm of the Scouts with six gaining their Radio Communicator badges. They too were affected by the contest and the poor conditions but managed numerous contacts, especially in Holland. When there was a lull they tried Morse code which proved popular.

GB2FSS - 12th Southwest (1st Shavington) Scout Group

Another station who commented on the German contest reducing their contacts on a weekend when conditions generally were poor. They did contact eleven UK Scout stations and three in Italy and Portugal. Shortwave listening, an electronic construction project and a computer Morse game were also on offer and 16 Cubs worked for their Communicator badge while 11 Scouts were involved with the Global Challenge.

GB2IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts 10th Ipswich, 1st Earl Soham and 1st Needham Market, Suffolk

This station returned a very detailed report, of which this is only a brief summary. With their station in a marquee adjacent to the camp site climbing wall, they had an extra 15m for their aerials, but 85m to their power supply. Taking advantage of the changes to the licensing regulations, they were able to run the station from within their own ranks of young amateurs and to give them plenty of operating experience. Fifteen of the visiting Scouts either completed or started their Radio Communications badge while the Earl Soham Scouts were completing part of their Cyclist badge. All three troops camped and were involved in camp activities too.

GB2JAM - Birkenhead District

Another station with Scout operators, this station contacted 22 UK Scout stations and 12 overseas on 80m, 40m, 20m and 15m SSB. Some of their visitors worked towards badges and PMR sets provided training for the SSB contacts.

GB2LC - Linnet Clough Scout Camp, Cheshire

This was a very ambitious Technology Camp with about 148 Scouts camping and another 50 staff. With 23 licence holders available, including M3 operators from an earlier course, 106 badges were awarded for various radio and technology skills. 78 Scouts in 20 teams tried Radio Orienteering with varying success. Media skills



GB2LC - Matthew M3CYB operating the VHF station

were also on offer with video and digital photography, sound editing and web design. Internet chats with Brazil, Romania, Australia and New Zealand among others added to the international flavour of the 25 countries contacted by radio. A total of 43 UK JOTA stations contacted and another 12 abroad contributed to their best JOTA to date.

GB2LDS - Lonsdale District Scouts

This station had the RSGB Fun Bus on site for the weekend. with the added interest of aerials and satellite facilities. A headset with camera and microphone could be used to send sound and pictures from the Scout hut to the Fun Bus which was very popular. Members of Morecambe Bay ARS assisted the three Scout radio operators make plenty of contacts with both Scout and non-JOTA stations, including II1D '2003 Disabled European Year' and KG4SVX Guantanamo Bay.

GB2MSG - Mundesley Scouts and Guides, Norfolk.

Due to an unfortunate clash of events arranged for the same weekend, this station was without visitors. However the operator pressed on and provided contacts for JOTA stations both at home and abroad.

GB2RCF - Romsey and Chandlers Ford, Hampshire

All 14 Cubs and 24 Scouts visiting this station gained badges including Radio Communications clauses.

GB2SPX - Spixworth Scouts, Norwich North

A quieter weekend than usual due to changes within the Scout Movement but not without its successes, especially their first SSTV contact. After a night exercise and sleep-over on Friday most stayed the whole weekend and enjoyed 22 UK Scout contacts and another 5 abroad.

GB2TDS - Tryst District Scouts

Another station experiencing poor band conditions which did manage contacts with some eight British stations and HB9BSL/J in Switzerland. They also contacted GB2 GM, the Marconi Museum and DF0MF the Emden Lightship. Scouts had to find the location of stations and mark their position on maps and worked towards their Communications badge.

GB4CNS - Central Notts District

Contacts with numerous Scout stations in all corners of the world kept the many visitors to this station occupied. Cubs worked for their Communicator badge while in addition there was a night hike and camping.

GB4FS - 5th Fleetwood Scouts and Wyre District

This station had too many UK Scout contacts to mention! They also contacted 4 Dutch Scout stations and had an interesting contact with KH6FV in Hawaii. Scouts had a sleep-over and 13 people built AM receivers, all of which worked except for that built by the DC! Eight Radio Communications badges and seven Electronics badges were gained.



GB4FS - Badge work

GB4JLC - John Lowther Centre, 1st Earls Barton (Jubilee) Cub Scouts

Thirteen Cub Scouts on an indoor pack holiday combined JOTA with other activities on offer at the John Lowther centre including swimming, archery and shooting. The Cubs followed a course of instruction leading to their Communications badge. They were in contact with several Scout stations in the UK and further afield.

GB4KSS - 1st Kirkby Stephen Scouts, Cumbria

Operating on the Saturday this station included fire lighting and cooking marshmallows on sticks among their activities. They produced an informative participation card for each visitor and worked towards Communicator badges. They were delighted with their contact with LA1CI, Aage in the far north of Norway who entered into the JOTA spirit and was happy to spend time talking to them.

GB4SAS - 2nd Atherton Scouts, West Manchester

Supported by West Manchester Radio Club, this was their first JOTA experience and they plan to do it again. The Scouts were able to work towards the Radio Communicator Badge and the Global Challenge. They had plenty of interesting contacts but give special mention to KM1CC in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a JOTA station near to the Marconi site which many of the Scouts were able to talk to.

GB4SDS - South Downs Scouts, 1st Hurstpierpoint Scout Group, West Sussex

Operating both days and including a curious passer-by among their visitors, this station was part of a programme leading to the Radio Communicator badge. Morse code was also on offer.

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout and Guide Radio

This station, operating from Youlbury Scout Camp, draws its visitors from those on site as well as from local units. It always has Scouts for

Thinking Day in February and Guides for JOTA and this year was no exception with both organisations on site for the weekend. With a steady stream of visitors all eager to pass their messages the operators found their QSOs were lengthy affairs. The youngsters were encouraged to describe the high spot of their weekend to add variety for the long-suffering recipients! The station operates from the same building as the Scouting Museum with a chance to make a satisfying noise on a koodoo horn as respite from radio.

GB5PSG - 25th Purley (St Mark's) Scout Group, Surrey

This was the first time they had taken part and they found setting up the station was quite challenging, using a mast borrowed from a local TA unit. Undaunted, they are already planning 2004 with a sleep-over!

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group, North Somerset

Some of the Scouts took part in a sleep-over at the Scout HQ and were joined by others working towards the Radio Communicator badge. Also on offer was electronics construction projects. The station had some interesting contacts both within and beyond the UK.

GB8GEU - Griffin Explorer Unit, Newcastle Western District Explorer Scout Unit, Northumberland

The Explorer Scouts spent a night under canvas towards their Dragon Camping Award but were up at 6.45 am when a contact with New Zealand was made. The station was active both days and made plenty of Scout contacts. They are planning a Foundation Licence course after Christmas.

GB8IBM - 1st West Heath and 81st Birmingham Scout Groups

A station with visitors from every section and on air both days, this station had the majority of their contacts with Scout stations from outside the UK. A JOTI station, a creative challenge and radio kit construction kept everyone very busy.

GX0MIN - Richmond-upon-Thames District Scouts, Greater London South West

Whitton ARG provided this station for local Scouts, although the Scouts have a collection of M3 call signs amongst their ranks including a Cub Scout. They were active on the Sunday only and had Morse code and computer based communications available.

GX0SCR - Caterham Guides and Brownies

This station has a distinct advantage as it takes place in the home of the organiser with the equipment guaranteed to function. However they do have to make room in their home for the visitors so while the other stations are shipping



GX0SCR - 9th Caterham Guide, Laura, giving instructions to one of the Brownies.

stuff in they are shipping stuff out. They also produce a very detailed report. Despite poor conditions they still managed an interesting list of contacts. They also provided a wide range of related activities, construction, Morse code etc, enabling Brownies to complete their Radio Communications Badge and Guides their certificate. Although operating for Saturday only, they received 68 greetings messages and sent 203, certainly fostering friendship through amateur radio.

GX0WOI - Avon County

This station operating from a campsite contacted fifteen UK and two overseas JOTA stations. The

visiting Beavers and Scouts were also able to use the other camp site facilities.

GX4FBS - 70th Portsmouth Scout Troop

Horndean and District ARC operated on Saturday for this first attempt at JOTA by 70th Portsmouth Scout Troop. They made several UK Scout contacts on 40m and 80m SSB and 2m FM. They also tried Morse code using straight and paddle keys and computer programs. They plan to expand for future events.

G3BHK

The first report to arrive is always that from G3BHK, Les. His comments often give a taste of things to come and confirm suspicions about band conditions and contest traffic. He could be said to fulfill the function of a check-log in that all stations contacting him, never fail to mention the QSO. Apparently, even he calls CQ JOTA and gets no reply occasionally. His suggestions, founded on years of experience, take into account a fast changing world and modern youth. Thank you for your wisdom.

RADIO SCOUTING GATHERING

7 - 9 May 2004

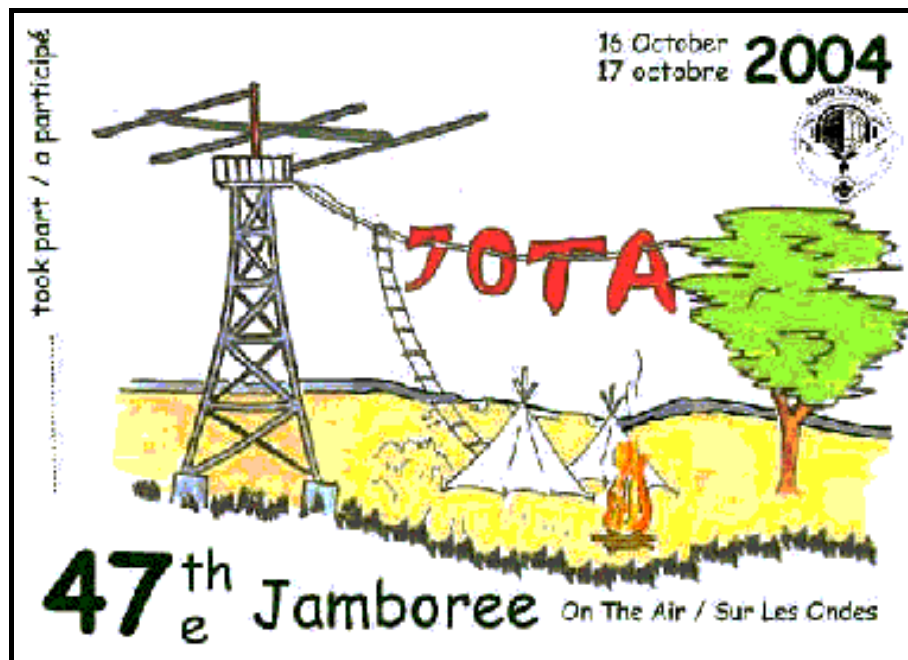
Overstone Scout Campsite, Northampton

The programme has yet to be finalised but the following ideas have been suggested:

- Radio Orienteering
- Portable operation & mixing radio with hikes
- PSK31, SSTV demonstrations and workshops
- Simple antennas for JOTA and camp, portable masts etc
- How to use licence free radios to support Scout programmes & training
- The new incentive licensing scheme
- Echolink workshop
- Practical radio games workshops
- Big station operation - thinking about 2005/7
- Plans for 2005 & 2007
- Wider technology aspects related to the Scout training programme
- DoE and radio scouting (for Explorers)
- How to promote JOTA and involve new groups
- Kits for Cubs, Scouts etc

For more information contact: frank@2LO.info

47th JOTA



16-17 October 2004

The logo for the 47th JOTA is a design based on the QSL cards of Scouts in Austria at OEM3J and OE75XSC.