

47th Jamboree on the Air Report 2004

Another year and another JOTA. About half the stations returned a report, some more detailed than others. If these reports, summarised here, are typical of all the stations, then well over 4500 people took part in the UK. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network members numbered nearly 3000 and over 500 Scouters and some 500 Radio Amateurs made it all possible. The stations were also visited by 250 members of the Guide Association and over 500 other visitors.

The majority of those who report describe an event which offers a wide range of activities, some of which are technology based while others explore the International aspects of Scouting and the opportunity that JOTA provides for links round the World. Old hands are just as enthusiastic as the younger generation when a contact is made with a station worked in a previous event. They become old friends even if the operators may be different. Computer logging has made for instant recognition. The ability to exchange photographs by e-mail or by TV also adds a new dimension. Young people unfazed by modern technology still get a thrill from meeting another Scout in another part of the world and realising that the Scout Movement has almost no boundaries.

Once again the fly in the ointment was the German contest which spoilt the event for some stations. At least one station had to resort to contacting local club members on VHF so the children could at least pass a message to someone.

Blessed with reasonable weather, mild enough to camp and enjoy the outdoor life, several stations also combined the weekend with sleepovers and hikes, while some of these camps were specifically technology camps, offering a varied programme of which radio is but a small part. As the Foundation Licence gains ground some events have tried combining JOTA with a Foundation Licence course. The number of operators with a Foundation call sign is an encouragement to Radio Scouting and in turn they must be nurtured to continue, both in Scouting and in Amateur Radio.

Each report contains the names and call signs of a large number of people who have given up their time and lent their equipment for JOTA. They may have some connection with Scouting, even if as a Cub in the distant past but many do not and are simply happy to share their hobby to spread Scout friendship. In many places JOTA would not happen without them. Thank you all for taking part.

Richard Gaskell, G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator

The front cover is based on the logo designed by Scouts in Austria at O3M3J and OE75XSC.

Station Reports

GB0AJS - 12th & 22nd Andover Scout Troops

This station attracted Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and ran from Friday evening to Sunday. It was part of a wider programme that also included camping, cooking and pioneering. To avoid mike shyness the Scouts contacted one another using PMR radios before making their JOTA contacts. They had plenty of Scout contacts including stations abroad and five Scouts gained their Radio Communicator badge.

GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts

Despite a G5RV that worked a treat on all bands, the youngsters at this station found the HF bands too intimidating because of the contest and turned their attention to 2m where using just 5 watts several Scouts and Cubs were able to gain their communicator badges. JOTI, using a mobile phone, and Morse code kept the visitors busy too and undaunted they hope to have a bigger and better JOTA next year.

GB0FPS - 1st Pontefract Scouts

This station also had a JOTI station and with a sleepover, 24-hour internet access, crafts and International activities there was something for all tastes. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts contacted Scout stations at home and abroad and plenty of parents visited as well as the local press and radio.

GB0FSA - Barrow-in-Furness District and Duddow & High Furness Districts

With a Scouting team of licenced amateurs this station could offer plenty of expertise to the visitors from all sections. They offered Morse code, construction of crystal radios, quizzes and wordsearches and still found time for plenty of interesting contacts including N3L Loopers Strait Lighthouse and PA/DD4QE/P Breskens Lighthouse.

GB0GS & GB1GS - Gloucestershire Scouts

Another station active all weekend which combined JOTA with a Foundation Licence course - congratulations to Oliver Roberts! Ten Scouts gained their Communicator badge. They tried to contact their Group Administrator in Malta but like other stations found conditions poor and were further frustrated by the German contest.

GB0HDS - Horsham West and Horsham Weald District Scouts

Fifteen Cubs gained their Communicator badge helped by an enthusiastic bans of Scout operators. They had plenty of Scout and Guide contacts among their total of 109 in 32 countries.

GB0MKS - Milton Keynes Enigma District

An International Friendship Camp formed a framework for this station. Each Group had adopted a country for their International Friendship Awards and Global Challenges, giving ten bases. 178 Scouts of all ages had plenty of Scout contacts both in the UK and beyond. Most of those stations who take part in JOTA regularly make contact with the same stations and 9K2BI celebrated their 4th annual contact by singing in Arabic to the Milton Keynes Scouts.

GB0SJS - St John's Scouts [Staffs]

Members of South Derbyshire and Ashby Woulds Amateur Radio Group ran this station for the Scouts. Operating for 24 Hours they had contacts with some 14 UK Scout stations and another 7 further afield. They were pleased with contacts in Kenya and the Sudan. There was also a Weather satellite receiving station.

GB0SSG - 1st Stotfold Scout Group

The communications weekend is part of an annual event attracting some 90 Scouts from all sections and other visitors. When it became difficult to

establish contacts for message passing the local Shefford Club came to the rescue. This station also found the German contest spoilt their event.

GB0WDS - Ware and District Scouts

This station provided a press release that should have folk flocking to their event next year. They started with Beavers on Saturday morning then Cubs in the afternoon followed by Scouts in the evening when they worked for their Radio Communicator badge and made crystal sets. A sleepover meant they were on the spot for those contacts on the other side of the world and were rewarded with VK8CC in Darwin Australia.

GB0WS - Whitchurch Scouts

This station was active on both days. They had contacts with UK Scouts stations and also had JOTI chat rooms available.

GB0WSD & GB1WSD - Wakefield Scouts

Despite clashing with a training weekend for older Scouts, a score of members of all ages and their parents found their way to the station and were rewarded with Scout contacts at home and abroad.

GB1FDS - 1st Ferryhill Scout Group, Bishop Auckland

A large team of radio amateurs were on hand for this station which also offered Morse assessment for the Foundation Licence. They were active both days and had Scout contacts in the UK and Overseas. Three German contest stations gained some points from contacts with this station but since they are not on 'the list' there was no question of accepting greetings messages.

GB1SSC - Silverwood Scout Camp, Barnsley

Seventy Scouts of all ages and some twenty Guides attended this station. There were crafts on offer as well as radio games and the team have been asked to follow up with Communicator badge activities.

GB1WSG - Weddington Scout Group, Nuneaton

This station had prepared for the event by training with PMR radios and constructing aerials. They operated on Saturday and had contacts with other UK Scout stations.

GB2BDS - Bromsgrove District Scouts

This station was active on Saturday with the main purpose being to help 20 Cubs gain their Communicator badge. They had JOTA contacts in the UK and Switzerland and also tried Morse code and made QSL cards.

GB2COS - Chester Oldfield Scout Group

This station could draw on help from a large number of Radio Amateurs who managed some 250 contacts in 42 countries. Their 22nd JOTA gave an impressive list of Scout contacts overseas that really does illustrate the international aspect of this event and their best contact was with KH0AC on Saipan, North Marianas Islands. They had quite a number of visitors including the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Chester. They also comment on the excellence of the food with G7BQY getting 5 & 9 for his apple crumble!

GB2ESG - Epsom Scout Group

With three Scout Foundation Licence holders on the team this station had plenty of contacts with other Scout stations in the UK as well as a few overseas.

GB2FSS - 12th South West Cheshire (First Shavington) Scout Group

With Cubs forming the majority of the visitors to this station they could take part in the Morse competition, the QSL card competition, try semaphore signalling and PMR 446 games. There were plenty of JOTA contacts within the UK and three abroad.

GB2GCS - Grimsby and Cleethorpes District

Various forms of communication were included in the activities on offer at this station including sign

language, secret writing, Morse code and a DF hunt. A quarter of the 72 visitors were Guide Association members and both Scouts and Brownies featured in the Grimsby Telegraph newspaper report.

GB2GP - Gilwell Park

Gilwell Park is always a popular contact for JOTA stations so a long list of contacts is always assured. More difficult is offering activities to those who happen to be on the site over the weekend. JOTA weekend had Cub Pack 175 from the American School in London on their Autumn Family Camp. They adjusted their programme to include JOTA and several of the Cubs were able to send messages and talk to K2BSA /P4. Even Gilwell Park had to be patient waiting 3/4 hour to contact HB9S in Geneva.

GB2HDS - Halifax District Scouts

JOTA was part of a wider programme including hostelling, hiking, sign language, Global Challenge badge and the Radio Communicator badge, which all 22 Scouts gained. Most of the operators have Scout connections and they made plenty of Scout station contacts both within the UK and further afield.

GB2IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts

This station can field a very strong team of Scout radio amateurs and is constantly adding to their numbers. JOTA weekend saw 5 Scouts not only gain their Scout Radio Communicator badge but also their Foundation Licence. Congratulations to all involved. The list of Radio related activities covered many aspects of the hobby often in original and entertaining ways, such as working pedestrian mobile and generating power from a bicycle. See the Radio Scouting Website for more detail. They also commend Jen, their cook, as vitally important to the success of the weekend as the radios.

GB2LC - Linnet Clough Technology Camp

This report cannot do justice to the scope of the third Linnet Clough Technology Camp. 124 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers took part along with

29 leaders. On offer were Radio stations, Internet, Web design, Radio Communicator badge, IT badge to level 3, Electronics badge, Electronic construction (including 117 xylophones which drove everyone mad with the noise), media skills and Radio Orienteering. The three radio stations staffed by Scout radio operators from near and far and made 256 contacts. They name their most interesting contact that with KB2FB / DU7 on Panglao Island in the Phillippines. The size of this operation dwarfed Linnet Clough.

GB2LSS - Limekilns Sea Scouts

With their own newly licenced Scout operator to take care of the VHF station and an old hand on the HF station Limekiln scouts made contacts in Scotland and the rest of the UK as well as in 24 other countries.

GB2SBS - 6th Bilston Scouts

Part of a wider programme, this station had plenty of contacts with Scout stations round Britain and abroad.

GB2TDS - Tryst District Scouts

The station was open to Scout groups in the area and was well-attended. They were amazed by the coincidence of working GB0WHT at exactly the same time, 10.32 as their contact in 2003. Also on offer was a display of Scout memorabilia described as 'super' by the radio amateur.

GB2TSG - Twynning Scouts Group

Operating on the Saturday there was plenty of opportunity to exchange greeting messages with other JOTA stations in the UK. Morse code was also on offer and some of the contacts were using Morse.

GB2WS - Wingerworth Scouts

With a station operated by Chesterfield and District Scouts Amateur Radio Club it is to be expected that the operators were almost exclusively Scout Association Members. They contacted 11 UK JOTA stations and two elsewhere.

47th JOTA

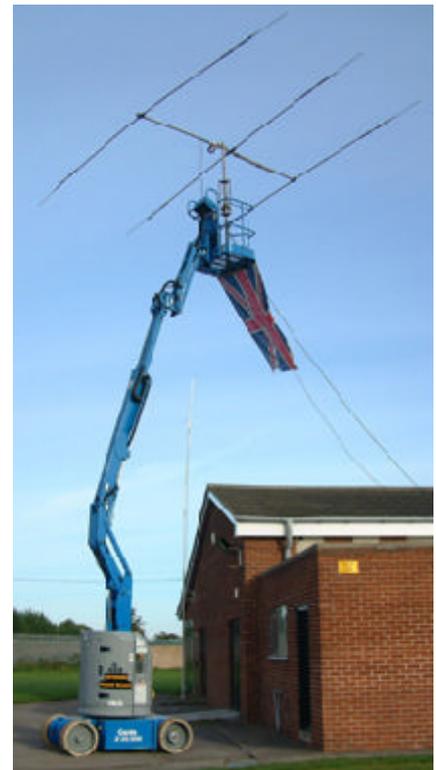
16 - 17 October 2004



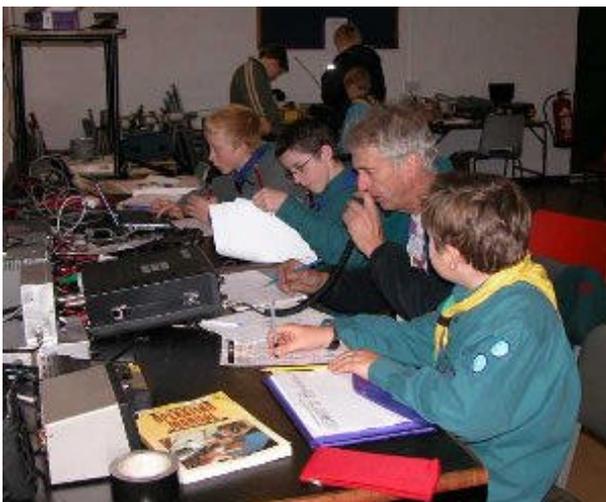
GB2LC - Electronic construction



GB4COS - This year's badge



GB4HDS - HF beam and flag atop a 45' cherrypicker



GB2IRS - Peter G8BLS and Ipswich Radio Scouts



GB4FSS - Andrew G4TCC and Beaver Scout Robert



GB4MHD - Ann G1PRM of the Mid-Herts Raynet supervising Rachael of the 1st Hertford Scout Group passing a greetings message.



GB4YOU - Paul M3JFM juggles microphone and the controls on the transmitter while a Scout from the 1st Maids Morton Scout Troop passes a greetings message.

GB4BDS - Banstead District Scouts

It seems that everyone who attended, Cub, Scout, Brownie or Guide went away with something towards a badge achieved. Radio activities on offer included kit-building and Morse code and two leaders have signed up for a Foundation Licence course.

GB4CNS - Central Nottinghamshire District

Over 75 Scouts took part in a JOTA weekend which also included a night hike, Global and Outdoor Challenges. Scout radio operators supervised the passing of messages to many of the hundred contacts in the UK and further afield.

GB4FSS - 86th Birmingham (1st Standbourne) Scout Group

Open for the Sunday afternoon and combined with a JOTI station, the dozen visitors to this station had most of their contacts abroad.

GB4HDS - Hartlepool District Scouts

Not every station has access to a 45' high 'cherry picker' on which to mount their 3 element Tri-bandier. The Mayor of Hartlepool and the Chairman of the local Council may well have been impressed along with the 80 visitors to the station. They logged plenty of interesting contacts at home and abroad and 40 Cubs and 2 Scouts gained Communications badges

GB4MHD - Mid-Hertfordshire District

This was their first JOTA and they plan to expand for next year. All 18 Cubs and 6 Scouts who attended gained a communications badge. A display of communications equipment included a WWII signals wagon.

GB4SEB - 2nd Bracknell

A Communications Badge Day offered Cubs from several packs a chance to try a variety of activities including Makaton, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Walkie Talkies as well as a chance to use Amateur Radio to pass messages.

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout and Guide Amateur Radio Station

Like other stations on Camp sites, visitor numbers can be affected by the campers, or lack of them. This year fortune smiled and it was the busiest JOTA ever due to the enthusiasm of the 1st Maids Moreton Scout Group who had their entire group plus some Brownies camping almost outside the shack door. About a hundred visitors were given the opportunity to pass a greetings message.

GB5CB - 1st Chesham Bois Scout Group

The Scouts slept out in cardboard boxes on the Friday night, raising £800 for Crisis and still had the energy to stay on for JOTA where most of them achieved part of the Radio Communicator badge. They worked stations in some 20 countries and had the Kuwaiti Scouts sing to them. JOTI was on offer too.

GB6CHE - Cheshire Scouts

JOTA was run as a technology camp at Tatton Scout Camp Site by C-CATT Cheshire Communications and Technology Team. C-CATT Network Scouts ran JOTI and other technology based events and games. During the weekend 11 people successfully passed the Foundation Licence exam.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

The weekend included a night hike where the patrols on separate routes were linked by PMR radios and a sleepover at Scout HQ from Saturday to Sunday. There was still time for lots of radio contacts in the UK and abroad and six gained the Radio Communicator badge.

GB0GEU & GB8GEU - Griffin Explorer Unit, Morpeth

This station operated for 26 hours continuously contacting 17 other UK Scout stations and several overseas. They found it 'good fun' and are working towards Foundation Licences.

GB8IBM - 1st West Heath Scouts

Operating on Friday evening and Saturday, the station was part of a Community Activity Day with

activities for the Global Challenge and World Friendship Award. JOTI was also on offer using two laptops with Scout contacts in a wide range of countries, including The Philippines, Puerto Rico, New Zealand and Australia. They made Scout radio contacts in several countries, especially within Europe. Kit building was also on offer. A total of 18 badges were gained and all sections were represented.

GX0SCR - Caterham Guides and Brownies

With 25 Guide Association participants and not a Scout in sight, this station also provides a very detailed report. Held in the operators' home, the full panoply of their available modes are put at the disposal of their increasingly large team and the visitors who all work towards a badge or a certificate. It is a masterpiece of planning and co-operation. Their barbecue is also a popular part of the tradition.

GX0WOI - Avon County Scouts

Another Camp site station with a permanent shack manned by a team of Radio Scouts, they made some 37 contacts despite having a problem with their aerial.

G4HQB - 1st Ludlow

Scouts and Explorers took part in a Group Hike and sleepover with some camping as part of Nights Away. The JOTA station was active on Sunday with several contacts in the UK.

LATE NEWS

GB4SPX - Spixworth Scouts

Ten Scouts and their leaders spent the weekend setting up the station, testing it, making Scout contacts both at home and abroad. As part of the activities, they also cooked the food for the event.

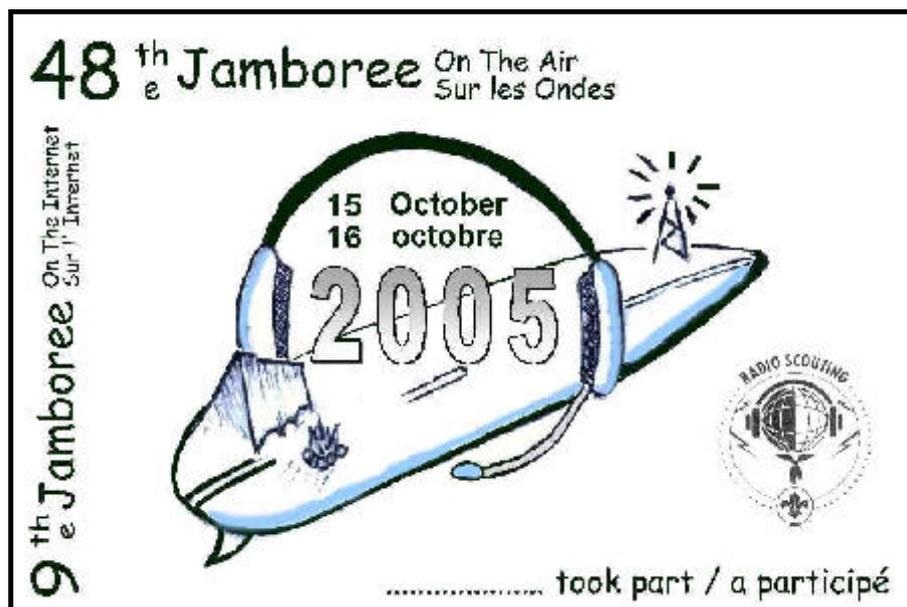


The Radio Scouting team want to put Scouts at the Eurojam camp in contact with other Scouts and Guides all over the country.

Are you running a Scout event at the same time as Eurojam, from 29 July to 10 August? If you plan a camp or activity day, could an Amateur radio station be part of the programme?

If so, you could put your Scouts and Guides in direct contact with Eurojam. Please let the radio team know about your station so that they can listen out for you.

48th JOTA



15-16 October 2005

The logo for the 48th JOTA is based on the design of Edgarvin Ramazan of the Pater Paul Brenneker Group 2, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.