

48th Jamboree on the Air Report 2005

The exceptionally mild weather throughout the Jamboree on the Air weekend was perfect for combining some outdoor Scouting with the opportunity to discover how Scouts elsewhere in the World were spending the weekend.

Once again several stations commented on the German contest causing annoyance and frustration for much of the weekend. From discussions with the GB5EJ International team at Eurojam it appears that the situation is far worse on the near continent where some stations are left with no option than to close down. Following similar comments over the past few years the subject has been broached with DARC both informally and formally at the IARU meeting in September. Without the information gleaned from your reports it would be difficult to support those who have been more severely affected. Every three years European JOTA and JOTI organisers meet to discuss matters of interest and concern. The next meeting is to be held in Norway in June 2006. Your suggestions are very welcome.

Each year Scout JOTA stations are assisted by Radio Amateurs who offer their equipment, time and expertise for the benefit of youngsters. Each year some of the Scouts are keen enough to go further and become Radio Amateurs themselves. With the introduction of the Foundation Licence, it does not take too long to achieve an M3 licence but it can be a long time to the next JOTA station. It is hoped that some way of combining their interest in both Radio and Scouting can be organised in the near future. If your station has young M3 licence holders do make them aware of the Radio Scouting nets and the websites and encourage them to keep in touch with one another.

Two stations, both in Cheshire, were also technology camps. The opportunities provided by these events combine the best of the traditional and the new. It would be nice to see these camps more widely available and with the younger generation involved in the organisation and staffing.

In 2007 Amateur Radio will be involved in celebrating the Centenary of Scouting and the World Jamboree. The same year JOTA celebrates its 50th anniversary. In a year which promises to be full of exciting experiences this special JOTA will be a unique opportunity to exchange memories over the airwaves for Scouts of today and yesterday. If you have Scouts with Foundation and Intermediate Licences do encourage them to go further so that they can be responsible for stations.

Every year JOTA has members of Girlguiding UK among the visitors while some stations are operated wholly or in part by Guides. In many countries round the world Scouts and Guides are members of the same organisation or of a federation of organisations. JOTA and JOTI offer contacts with Guides and Girl Scouts that may be inadvertently denied Guides in the UK, for although WAGGGS members are officially welcome to join in JOTA and JOTI this may not have been widely appreciated in the UK. In 2006 the plan is to redress the situation by offering a more formal invitation to Girlguiding UK but it is up to individual stations to extend this invitation to local Guide units. It is not the intention to detract from Thinking Day on the Air (TDOA) each February but to offer an additional opportunity to both organisations to meet one another over the airwaves.

Thank you for taking part and for returning your reports with your comments and suggestions. As we go to press Ofcom are taking over the issuing of Special Event call signs. A very big thank you to the RSGB who have been very helpful and supportive to JOTA (and TDOA) over the years. We hope they will continue in linking would-be stations with willing operators even if their formal role is now relinquished.

Richard Gaskell, G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator

The front cover is based on the logo designed by
Edgarvin Ramazan of the Pater Paul Group 2,
Curacao, Netherlands Antilles

Station Reports

GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts

This station was active all Saturday and Sunday but struggled to find clear frequencies not dominated by the German contest. The station manager explained that it spoiled JOTA as the children were intimidated by the noise from the HF station and shied away towards the JOTI computers. The station struggled to make a handful of contacts and no communicator badges were earned. As a result they are planning a weekend under canvas in the summer with a radio station to compensate.

GB0HDS - Horsham District Scouts

This station managed to make plenty of UK Scout contacts which helped when 22 Cubs were working for their Communicator badge. They had some interesting Scout contacts abroad with Portugal in the majority and also Tanzania and South Africa.

GB0RSC - 1st Llandovery & Carmarthen-shire Area

Another station to feel the effect of the German contest, this station was active on Saturday evening and all day Sunday. They worked several UK JOTA stations and were pleased to contact Les Mitchell G3LHK, who was the founder of JOTA. They were also active on Echolink with contacts in Japan and the Netherlands Antilles.

GB0WSD & G1WSD - Wakefield Scout District

This station concentrated on contacts as the related badges are being offered as part of their weekly Scout programme. Active both days on HF and VHF they had several contacts in the UK as well as in America, Austria and Switzerland. With a Foundation Licence course in progress, we can expect some M3 calls next year!

GB1ASG - 1st Astley Scouts

This station had a varied programme including pioneering and opportunities to learn how to use bow saws, hand axes and felling axes. Twelve Cub Scouts gained their Communicator badge, four Scouts gained their Radio Communicator and four their Hobbies Badge. The station was well supported by ten members of West Manchester Radio Club who are running a Foundation Licence Course with Scout participants.

GB1PS - 1st Pontefract Scout Centre

Every Scout section was represented along with one Rainbow Guide at this station. Cubs and Scouts had a sleepover both nights and enjoyed a range of activities including a film show and JOTI. Radio activities on offer included Morse code, Phonetic alphabet and Q-codes. The station had several Scout contacts around the UK.

GB1SSC - Pennine District, South Yorkshire

Over forty Beavers, Cubs and Scouts spent the weekend making Radio contacts, learning Morse code and solving a JOTA quiz. Some time was spent working towards badges which will be completed later.

GB2ATS - 1st Tidworth and 22nd Andover

The leader of 1st Tidworth ran his first JOTA weekend assisted by Radio Amateurs from Andover Radio Amateurs Club with previous JOTA experience. Their Beavers were featured on the Scout Association Website and they and the Scouts in the Andover Advertiser. 22nd Andover Scouts hiked from Castledown School to the event and on to Bulford. With badge work well on the way to completion, they also found time to make plenty of contacts in over thirty countries.

GB2BDS - Bromsgrove District Scouts

Some fifty Scouts of all ages visited at this station active on Sunday. They had several Scout contacts in Britain and spoke to a former Scout from Croatia as well as to a contact in America. They also played games, took part in a hike and tried their hand at QSL card design.

GB2COS - Chester (Oldfield) Scout Group

Although they had fewer Scout contacts, this group felt their event was the best for several years. Scouts camped and cooked for the operators. They had a visit from the Lord Mayor of Chester who had three contacts with stations in the USA including a JOTA station who were running 'Pumkin Chunkin' contest which appears to involve firing ballista-like machines. They had a pile-up on Saturday evening, working almost 100 US stations in two hours!

GB2IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts

Operating from Hallowtree Campsite, Ipswich, this station can call on plenty of experienced licensed Scout operators. As a result they had a very busy and successful station with plenty of activity both radio related and traditional Scout pursuits. Five Scouts gained their Radio Communication Badge and if they follow the trend they will be licenced by next year. This station also uses alternative energy, known as Scout or Cub power to run rigs. With plenty of operators they can try new methods with a successful AO51 contact and take advantage of good VHF conditions with contacts in Germany and Holland on 2m and 70cms! One Radio Scout (2E1) asked why he had to wait another year to do it all again and was offered a range of opportunities throughout the year without waiting for October.

GB2LC - Linnet Clough Technology Camp

Without doubt the biggest event in the UK, Linnet Clough Technology Camp had 247 campers and 10 day visitors. Amateur Radio is only part of a much wider programme that includes a Sound Studio, Digital photography,

JOTI, Radio Orienteering, Web Design and electronics. The team of Radio Amateurs running three stations made 283 contacts including 40 UK JOTA stations and 14 abroad. There were plenty of badges gained, 16 Radio Communications, 62 IT Stage 1, 38 IT Stage 2, 2 IT Stage 3 and 28 Electronics.

GB2LSS - Limekilns Sea Scouts 81st (1st Broomhall) Sea Scout Group

Fifteen Cubs gained their Communicator Badge at this station, learning the use of field telephones, the phonetic alphabet, how to use a telephone and make an emergency call and how radio signals are received. The station had Scout contacts both in the UK and abroad and are keen to try again another year.

GB2ODS - Odiham District Scouts

With a team of Radio Scouts, this station was able to offer a variety of modes, including SSTV, RTTY and Echolink as well as SSB on several bands. They were rewarded with some interesting contacts including HB9S, the World Bureau in Geneva and RTTY contacts in Greenland and with a JOTA station S21SHQ in Bangladesh.

GB2RST - 2nd Bengeo Scout Group

Every Scout section was represented at this station which also contributed to the Group's 60th Anniversary celebrations. The team of five Scout operators were kept busy from Friday evening until the station closed on Sunday and had 22 Scout contacts in the UK as well as 19 in other countries.

GB2SAS - 14th Worksop (St. Anne's)

This station was active for a short time on Saturday but long enough for three Scouts to gain Communications badges.

GB2WBS - Whitley Bay District Scouts

About one hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers found their way to this station during Saturday and Sunday. They learnt about several methods of communication including Braille

writing and signal flags as well as more conventional radio associated activities such as the phonetic alphabet and Q-codes. They had radio contacts in the UK and overseas including HB9S, the World Bureau.

GB4CHE & GB6CHE - Cheshire County

Another Technology camp offering a variety of activities with some preparation needed by the individual Scouts to make the most of the weekend. The Cheshire Scout County Radio Communications Team had the station up and running when the Scouts arrived to pitch their tents at 6pm on Friday. There were plenty of radio contacts throughout the weekend with several Scout stations in the UK. Non Scout stations were interested and encouraging in what the Scouts were doing. PSK31 was successful in demonstrating a digital method of communication including Johnson Island in the Pacific.

GB4CNS - Central Notts District

The six Scout operators at this station could offer a wide variety of modes to the 26 visiting Scouts including PSK31 and Echolink as well as FM bands and RTTY. They made an impressive number of contacts with JOTA stations abroad as well as a contact with a special station on board the SS New Jersey, a WWII battleship.

GB4FTS - 1st Tiddington, Stratford District

A sleepover and opportunity to provide the operators and themselves with a full English breakfast were also on the programme for this JOTA station. Personal fitness, sports and fun activities as well as Radio kept participants busy but those wishing to complete the radio Communication Badge will have another opportunity at a follow-up meeting.

GB4GIN - 77th Northampton for Girlguiding, Northamptonshire

This Guide station, a JOTA regular, had two Scouts as well as 18 Guide visitors. There was a nature trail and a variety of crafts on offer

and their Guide Radio Amateurs have encouraged six more to take the Foundation Course in the near future. They were very pleased with a contact with Prince Edward Island, Canada.

GB4HDS - Hartlepool District Scouts

There were plenty of operators on hand at this station to help 22 Cub Scouts gain their Cub Communicator badge and four Scouts their Scout Communicator badge. A Beaver Scout swam up to Cubs during his visit to JOTA and a Cub Scout from the same group was invested. The local press visited twice giving excellent coverage and publicity for Scouting in the following week's papers. They had contacts with JOTA stations both at home and abroad as well as contacts in the US Virgin Islands, St Lucia, Japan, Nicaragua, New Zealand and Argentina.

GB4MHD - Mid-Hertfordshire District

This was their second JOTA and they are already planning the third! They had members from all sections and everyone gained an award, the Beavers their Experiment Badge, the Cubs their Communicator Badge and Scouts their Radio Communication Badge. Everyone passed greetings messages and they had Scout contacts in the UK and in the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway.

GB4SBS - 2nd Bracknell Scouts

This station had some very interesting Scout contacts particularly around the Mediterranean Sea including two stations in Malta, 9H3SGS San Guan Scouts and 9H3XSJ Xghajra Scouts, 3V8SJ in Tunisia, and stations in Italy and Portugal. About twenty youngsters and their parents visited over the two days.

GB4TSG - Todmorden Scout Group

Cubs and Scouts were joined by Guides and Brownies and the Mayor of Todmorden at this station. They had contacts with several Scout stations in the UK, Eire and Holland and sixteen badges were gained.



GB2IRS - Felix 2E0KNO, Colin 2E1RCL and two other Scouts decoding morse



GB4MHD - Cubs decoding ciphers



GB2ODS - Winding coils for the crystal radio. So relaxing!

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GB2ODS - Group Scout Leader, Les G1KEX, operating the main radio station



GB2COS - 2005 badge



GB00PZ - Morse code - always popular



MX0RSC - Joseph M3JCU with Jack M3IYS operating 2m



MX0RSC - Sam M3FIV operating HF with John G6PBW

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout Activity Centre

The Scout operators were joined by members of the local Radio Clubs to provide plenty of contacts for local Scout groups and visitors to the Campsite. Four Scouts worked towards their Radio Communication Badge which they will complete later and possibly go on to the Foundation Licence. The warm weather lured participants out of the shack to try Radio Orienteering. All fifty Cubs passed greetings messages with the shyest eventually overcoming her nerves to return every time a new contact was available. When passing messages, Scouts were encouraged to tell about the high spot of their weekend with the climbing wall the clear favourite.

GB5CB - 1st Chesham Bois Scouts, Misbourne Valley District

Active Scout groups do not have enough weekends for everything. This station was competing for visitors on Saturday with the County Orienteering Championship. The good weather on Sunday tempted people outdoors but those Beavers. Cubs and Scouts who did visit were able to contact plenty of UK stations. During a contact with HA5YI/J one of the visiting Beavers surprised the operator by counting to ten and saying 'thank you' in Hungarian.

GB5FBS - 1st Burwell Scout Group, Newmarket District

This JOTA station ran from noon on Saturday until 4pm the following day combining radio activities with more traditional Scout fare of a sleepover with cooking and a campfire.

GB5SRT - Surrey Scout Radio Team

JOTA was part of the Radio team's fifteenth birthday celebrations and Scouts and Guides had lots of fun and games as well as some radio contacts. Party games, a cake decorating competition and treasure hunts were also on the programme together with the construction of an electronic moisture sensor. Ten members of the local Radio Club also joined in the festivities. The station enjoyed some Scout radio contacts

with other UK Scout stations and tried Morse code.

GB8FBS - 1st Bilston Scouts

Swimmers, Hobbies, Entertainer, Home Safety and Home Help were all badges gained during this JOTA weekend. Cubs and Scouts tried Morse Code and learnt the phonetic alphabet and sent greetings messages to UK stations and to Alderney in the Channel Islands.

GX0SCR Caterham Guides and Brownies

This Guide station is always active for both TDOTA and JOTA and they estimate that almost 500 have visited the station over the past nine years. Some of the girls have not missed one of the eighteen occasions they have been on air. With several members of the usual team unavailable the station called on their young Guide M3 licence holders to help the Guides and Brownies through their programme. They had some splendid Scout contacts especially with HZ1SBS in Saudi Arabia and YB0ZS in Indonesia. They were able to enjoy their traditional barbecue in the beautiful weather

G00PZ - Central Yorkshire Scout Radio Fellowship

This station was on offer to Scouts attending a selection weekend for the 2007 World Jamboree to be held here in England. Radio construction, Morse code and learning the phonetic alphabet were on offer while other activities included archery, climbing, pioneering and cooking. Over fifty people visited the station and passed messages to various stations round the UK.

G3WNS - Prestwood Scout Group, North Chiltern District

Operating from the local Scout hut on Friday and Saturday and using the operator's call sign, this station had plenty of contacts in the UK but the visiting Scouts were a bit shy when it came to passing greetings messages. They also has some Scout contacts abroad and were surprised when the operator at a Norwegian

JOTA station proved to be English. Later on Saturday evening and on Sunday the operators continued at home using Echolink which meant contacts in far-flung places with old friends.

**MX0RSC Chesterfield and District Scouts
Amateur Radio Club**

This station has plenty of Scout and Guide M3s to call upon to staff their station and had plenty of contacts round the UK. They operated on several bands and also digital modes which gave

some rewarding European and long distance contacts.

**M1EPX - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group,
Northampton**

Another station using the call sign of their operator rather than apply for a Special Event callsign, the Scouts at this station had contacts with other Scout stations in the UK. Two Scouts gained their Radio Communication Badge.

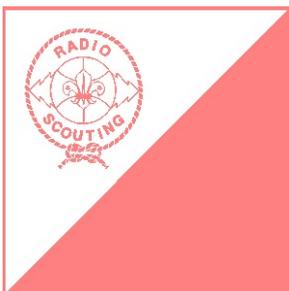
49th JOTA

21 & 22 October 2006

Each year, Scouts are invited to submit designs for the JOTA logo. As far as I am aware, no UK design has been used so please encourage your Scouts to design a logo for a future year.

Radio Scouting UK

Visit <http://www.radio-scouting.org.uk/> for information about Radio Scouting - news, ideas, history, etc.



Have you tried Radio Orienteering?

For more information, contact Richard,
GOREL.