

# Jamboree on the Air 2015

## UK National Report



This year the number of enquiries before the event suggested that again there would be plenty of UK stations. There is no shortage of stations planning their first JOTA, and they are offered every encouragement including registering their station so that a comprehensive list of stations is available. It remains regretful that not everyone does. Once again the number of stations taking part cannot be 100% accurate. The final list had 57 entries.

As last year, the mild autumn continued well into October so those camping were not met by frost. Stations on campsites are often well attended as the event coincides with school holidays and outdoor activities such as Radio Direction Finding are popular.

The difficulty of persuading stations to remember to file a report is a problem that has not eased despite being able to do so online. From the reports many are most grateful to the Radio Amateurs and Clubs who have helped them. Once again it is encouraging to learn of young operators who have gained Licences as a result of taking part in JOTA

From those stations reporting it seems clear that there are plenty of rewarding contacts around. Those who can call on better aerials have an improved chance of those Scout contacts abroad but even quite modest antennas can produce unexpected rewards and youngsters are not always bothered by the distance of the contact - it's enough being on the radio. Modest stations seem most reluctant to report but there is plenty to be learnt from a small station and without some feedback it is hard to offer help for the future.

The December issue of RadCom, the magazine of the RSGB, had three pages of reports from UK JOTA stations, the majority of which did not send in reports to the Co-ordinator. While the publicity is welcome it is a pity their contribution and statistics could not be included in the national report.

### **GB0GDS - Greenock and District Scouts**

This year the event clashed with the school half term holiday which always results in reduced numbers. They ran a 'drop in' station and those who did were rewarded with some interesting contacts with Scout stations at home and abroad.

### **GB2COS - Cestrian Scout Group**

This station is always one of the largest stations to report with over 200 visitors. They were overrun with Brownies but every Scout section was also well represented. General public visiting during the weekend, including the Lord Mayor of Chester and the Lady Mayoress.

With a wide range of activities including a 3D printer, whistle and woggle making and supervised piloting of a drone they had a happy mix of the traditional and the new on offer. Radio was not forgotten and they enjoyed some excellent Scout contacts. There was also a Celebration cake cut by the Lord Mayor.

### **GB2LC - Greater Manchester East -Technology Camp**

This Annual event is one of the largest UK JOTA-JOTI stations. 2015 had 147 Scouts from Greater Manchester East again at Linnet Clough Campsite for a weekend of Technological activities. At least 146 badges were gained.. Such events need plenty of help and some 60 adults with another 10 Explorers and Young Leaders were on hand to run the event. They had plenty of Scout contacts at home and abroad..

### **GB2SPX - 1st Spixworth Sea Scout Group**

The radio Amateur responsible for this reports that they had some 26 UK JOTA stations contacted and another 10 abroad but with no details or numbers.

### **GB2TSC - Tolmers Scout Group**

This station, on a campsite, started up on Friday evening and worked all day Saturday and Sunday morning. In addition to the usual Communicator badge activities they offered British Sign Language again.

### **GB4OXF - 4th Oxford Scout Group**

This station was combined with a Cub and Beaver sleepover but during the day there were plenty of visitors from other nearby Scout groups. The electronic construction project with a Rainbow LED came into it's own after lights out. Radio contacts included GB2GP and HB9S.

### **GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group**

Another station to combine radio with camping and food, this was in operation all weekend attended by a dozen Scouts and seven Cubs and their leaders. As the Chef's badge was on the 'menu' the food was probably as good as their radio contacts which included several European stations and the Boy Scouts of America.