

Jamboree on the Air



**United Kingdom Report
49th JOTA 2006**

48th Jamboree on the Air Report 2006

The 49th Jamboree on the Air in the UK favoured the outdoor life as temperatures were so much warmer than usual. As always there was considerable variation in station size and visitor numbers. Some were run by one radio amateur who had taken his equipment to the local Scout hut while others were huge technology weekend camps or combined with another national Scouting event, such as GB2GUN from the National Scout Air Rifle Championships.

Several of the reports commented on there being contest-free sectors in the amateur bands. Despite poor operating conditions at times, they had managed to make good Scout contacts more easily than in previous years, when the bands were swamped by the WAG contest. All those with Scout contacts abroad, expressed their delight at being able to put Scout in direct contact with another Scout in a different part of the World and at being able to take part in the World's largest Scouting event.

The UK licensing system introduced a few years ago is producing more young people with transmitting licences, many of whom have come into the hobby through Scouting or Guiding. Some of these have progressed from a Foundation Licence to an Intermediate Licence and it is to be hoped that they will take the Advanced course and examination so that they are eligible to run their own JOTA stations in the future. One JOTA station, GX0SCR, a Guide station, had Alan Betts G0HIQ on their team. Alan was involved in the new Licence syllabus and had gone along to see JOTA in action. He visited an excellent example.

Changes to the process for applying for a Special Event Licence and information distribution resulted in fewer reports being returned. It seems that not everyone is able or willing to download forms electronically yet. Few of the stations mention running JOTI as well as JOTA, but computer linked radio such as PSK31 and Echolink are gaining ground, especially when conditions are poor or the bands are crowded.

Several stations mentioned contacts with HB9S in Geneva and with Les Mitchell G3BHK and Len Jarrett VE3MYE, the instigators of JOTA.

Richard Gaskell, G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator

Station Reports

GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts

This station had one of their best ever JOTA weekends and expressed their gratitude for the contest free segments of the bands, enabling the youngsters to pass messages to groups both at home and abroad. With a warm dry building and no major problems they describe the weekend as 'relaxing and enjoyable'. They had Scout contacts both within the UK and Europe.

GB0GUN - National Scout Air Rifle Championships

The call sign, unusual for a JOTA station stands for the National Scout Air Rifle Championships held at Bisley. Around 700 Scouts and Explorers were camping on site and about one hundred of these found their way to the JOTA station which was one of the non-shooting activities also on offer. Among their contacts were Scout stations in the UK and further afield and the station was active all weekend.

GB0RSC - 1st Llandovery & Carmarthen-shire Area

This station was active on 40m and 80 m with plenty of contacts with Scouts all over the UK. They passed plenty of greetings messages to young people and were pleased to talk to Les Mitchell G3BHK, one of the founders of JOTA.

GB2GCS - Grimsby Cleethorpes District

Cub Scouts and Brownies Guides spent their time at the station working towards their Communications Badge. They covered many different forms of communication including sign language, codes including Morse and use of the telephone. They all passed their badge. They also had a visit from the Mayor of North East Lincolnshire, Margaret Thompson and her consort Brian (her son) who both have Scouting connections. Brian is also a Radio Amateur and was one of the first to organise JOTA in Grimsby. They also had plenty of coverage in the local press.

GB2GP - Gilwell Park

Alan G3WNS and Barbara G8AKU planned to operate the station but found the aerials did not appear to be transmitting. Despite exhaustive tests they were unable to locate the source of the problem and reluctantly gave up. They apologise to all those who wanted a contact with Gilwell.

GB2IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts

Operating from Hallowtree Campsite, Ipswich, this station had fewer experienced licensed Scout operators this year because they were elsewhere operating their own stations, brilliant.

GB2JAM - West Wirral and Birkenhead District

This station had plenty of room for their aerials as they operated from Irby Cricket Club ground who do not play in October even when the weather is unseasonably mild. It seems the club house too has much to commend it - hot showers, fitted kitchen heating etc. With over a hundred visitors the team was kept busy and had plenty of contacts with Jamaica perhaps the most exotic. They also had a long QSO with K1BSA in Maine. Some of their visitors were not planned for. Cooking bacon on Saturday morning set the fire alarms off and more sirens heralded the Fire Service who were treated to bacon butties for their trouble.

GB2LC - Linnet Clough Technology Camp

The Linnet Clough Technology camp held over the JOTA weekend is probably the largest event in the UK with 130 Scouts trying a wide variety of activities with a technological theme. They made contacts with 36 UK JOTA stations and another dozen overseas including one on CW. There were plenty of opportunities to gain badges, particularly all four stages of IT, Scout electronics and Scout Communicator - a total

of 136. Providing all these opportunities for innovative Scouting demands a big team and 22 licensed Radio Amateurs were on hand to run the event. Many of these have M3 or 2E0 call signs and it is encouraging to see them further their skills at such a large and successful event.

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

It seems that this year JOTA fell in the local half term holiday and as a result numbers were lower than expected. However all sixteen Cub Scouts gained their Communicator badge, trying a variety of methods of passing messages not just by radio. Judging by the local press photo the youngsters all seemed to be enjoying the event.

GB2ODS - Odiham District Scouts

With a 5 or 6 licensed scouts and several licenced leaders, a full programme was provided. Contact was also made with their DC in Geneva at HB9S.

GB4BSG - 1st Bulwark Scout Troop

More Communicator badges were gained here by Scouts and Cub Scouts and there were plenty of contacts both at home and abroad. With a dozen Radio Amateurs on hand to explain how it all works it is not surprising that several participants are interested in gaining a Licence. We look forward to hearing them on air at next JOTA.

GB4CNS - Central Notts District

Some fifty Cubs and Scouts attended this event which also had an outdoor challenge and a night hike on offer. Another station with Scout Radio Amateurs who are always delighted to meet old friends from earlier events during JOTA. The highspot was a contact with Magdi in the Sudan who is hoping to be at the World Jamboree next summer. This station also commented on the reduction in interference from contest stations which made it easier to find JOTA stations but poor conditions at times made QSOs difficult if not impossible.

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout Activity Centre

For once this station was without Richard G0REL

who had flown off to HB9S. With another dozen Radio Amateurs to call on there was no shortage of willing helpers and the Campsite had several resident groups who were delighted to discover they would not be missing JOTA after all. The team encouraged the visitors to tell the Scouts they spoke too about what they had been doing and what they had most enjoyed. The climbing wall the clear favourite with food a close second. Three beavers stole the show with their excellent grasp of the phonetic alphabet and clear microphone voices.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

This station had plenty of contacts including one in CW using only 2 watts. They were pleased with a contact with LA8RU on Andøy off the Norwegian coast at 69' N. Tormod is hoping to join the Amateur Radio team at the World Jamboree in August. Also on offer was a town trail using PMR radios.

GB8IBM - 1st West Heath, 81st Birmingham, Cole Valley South

This station offered Cub Scouts fun with codes while the Scouts had a construction project. The station had plenty of contacts overseas, especially Europe from Norway in the north to Portugal in the south.

GX0SCR Caterham Guides and Brownies

This publication cannot do justice to the detailed report received from this Guide station. Guides and Brownies return year after year to take part in JOTA and the Guides own event Thinking Day on the Air (TDOTA) on the third weekend in February. The programme takes into account previous visits and the progression has led to several Guides gaining Licences and joining the team as operators. This year Alan Betts G0HIQ joined the team. Alan was involved in the development of the Foundation Licence and wrote the course book. There were plenty of contacts and many many messages sent and received. The day always ends with a barbecue making sure everyone was well fed before the expected rain fell.

GX3GEI - Spitfire District, Birmingham

This station was active on Saturday afternoon when a trio of Explorer Scouts who will be attending the World Jamboree next summer got together to find out about Amateur Radio. They had QSOs in the UK and overseas on HF and Echolink.

MW0EVS - 1st Ebbw Vale 'Penuei' Scout Group, Blaenau

Active on both days and with plenty of visitors, this station had twenty six contacts with UK JOTA stations, eleven in Europe and two in Asia. Their most exciting contact was with a station in Kuwait where the operator was a Cub Scout leader. They were disappointed when a station in the USA called them but was too weak to hold a proper QSO. Youngsters had a chance to try their voices out using PMR radios before going live on the HF bands. There were other linked activities with a Science and Technology theme on offer and

Scouts from all sections were able to work towards badges and awards.

MX0RSC Chesterfield and District Scouts Amateur Radio Club

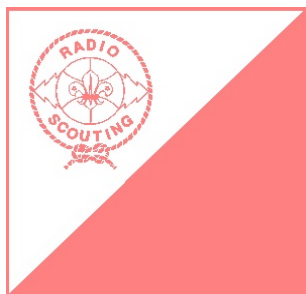
Another station with a strong Radio Scouting Team to run the event. They had plenty of Cub Scout visitors all hoping to pass greetings messages towards their Communicator badge. This station also used digital modes making 73 contacts in 33 countries.

G3WNS - Barbara & Alan Willson

Having failed to operate from Gilwell Park Alan and Barbara returned to their home QTH where they operated on 80m and Echolink, meeting many old friends including Len Jarrett VE3MYE who was formerly the World Scout Bureau JOTA organiser. Several of those contacted plan to be at the World Jamboree and so will meet face to face.

Radio Scouting UK

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



Have you tried Radio Orienteering?

It combines map reading, compass work and physical exercise and Scouts really enjoy it!

For more information, contact Richard, G0REL.

The Centenary of Scouting Radio Award



In celebration of a hundred years of Scouting, Frank Heritage MOAEU launched the Centenary of Scouting Radio Award. It is open to Scouts and Guides who are holders of transmitting licences or shortwave listeners. Points are awarded for contacting or hearing Scout or Guide radio stations during the period from 00:00:01 on January 1st 2007 to 23:59:59 December 31st 2007. With Scout radio stations at the 21st World Jamboree and on Brownsea Island there should be plenty of activity during the summer and Jamboree on the Air in October will be another good opportunity to gain points. Maybe your 2007 JOTA station have enough contacts for an award as well as for individual operators.

For more information go to ... <http://www.scouting100award.org/index.htm>

50th Jamboree on the Air 2007

The seeds of Jamboree on the Air were sown at the last World Jamboree to be held in the United Kingdom in 1957 at Sutton Park. A demonstration Amateur Radio Station run by operators from local radio clubs was a great success but also drew together Scouts holding transmitting licences from several countries. Their idea was to spread the Jamboree spirit by Amateur Radio and after a successful trial it became a fixture of the World Scouting calendar. With half a million participants each year it continues to be the biggest worldwide Scouting event.

This year marks the 50th JOTA. The World Scout Bureau have suggestions for how it might be celebrated and ideas for activities all based on fifty. Their website has the logos for posters, participation cards and QSL cards. In the UK we hope to have a blanket badge and possibly a construction project.

The World Scout Organisation has always extended an invitation to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to join them in JOTA. In many countries the Guides are members of the same organisation or in a federation. Here in the UK they remain separate organisations but it would be especially appropriate to invite members of Girlguiding UK to join you this year. Back in the early days of Guiding the girls were encouraged to try their hand at electrical installation, communications and telegraphy. You might well find a seasoned radio operator among the Guides of today.

In this centenary year it is hoped that today's youngsters will have some memories of the events they have experienced that will remain with them for life. When they visit your JOTA station get them to recall these memories in their greetings messages so that those listening in will get a good idea of what it is like to be a Scout one hundred years on. Many of those listening in will have their own memories of being a Cub or Scout and it just maybe that they are tempted to return to Scouting or may offer their services at your 51st JOTA station.

Keep looking at the Radio Scouting web pages for more information and ideas.
<http://www.radio-scouting.org.uk/>



20 & 21 October 2007

If you have ever run a JOTA station (or if you haven't), please make an effort to run one in 2007 and make the Jubilee JOTA the biggest ever.



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