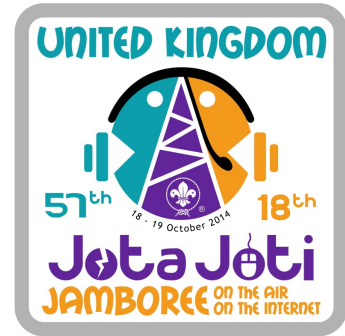


Jamboree on the Air 2013

UK National Report



The number of enquiries before the event suggested that there would be no shortage of stations around the UK. Many of these were planning JOTA for the first time. Although encouraged to register, so that a comprehensive list of stations is available, not everyone does so the number of stations taking part is never 100% accurate. The final list had 63 entries.

In the days leading up to JOTA we were all saddened to learn of the death of Les Mitchell G3BHK, one of the founders of Jamboree on the Air. His initiative produced the largest event in World Scouting and we owe it to his memory to see it continue and grow.

This year the mild autumn continued well into October so those camping were not met by frost. This also made setting up aereals easier and outdoor stations less of a chilly experience. Although it remains difficult to get stations to remember to file a report, those who do comment on the enthusiasm of the Scouts and the gratitude of the Scout Leaders who rely on Radio Clubs to provide their equipment and expertise. It is also encouraging to learn of young operators who have gained licences as a result of taking part in JOTA.

Conditions were generally good and there were some rewarding Long Distance contacts. Within Europe it is often very clear to see how skip operates with an almost perfect arc of stations equidistant from ones own location. There have been some comments about the German contest but maybe those affected did not return reports as the contest has not been a source of complaint as in some earlier years. Was this just skip again?

Judging by the numbers attending, especially the large scale events, JOTA remains popular. New incentives, such as tracked balloons, also add a new dimension to communication. Maybe one year a balloon will successfully cross the North Sea and be picked up by a tracking Scout station in Europe. This could be something to consider in future years.

The December issue of RadCom, the magazine of the RSGB, had four 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.

GB0BDS - Bognor Regis District

This station saw Scouts of all ages participate in a full and varied programme which introduced both modern and more traditional methods of communication. A hundred badges were awarded in what the local paper described as a day of 'Communication Fun'.

GB0GDS - Greenock and District Scouts

The Beavers who visited this station gained their Explore and Communicator badges and the

operators made a large number of contacts round the world. They had plenty of Scout stations within the UK and abroad in their log and could call on an experienced team to explore a range of bands and modes.

GB0IVS - 31st Itchen North 'Amazon' Sea Scouts

Members of Itchen Valley ARC ran this station while the Scouts had an overnight camp, a Scavenger Hunt, Radio Orienteering and Wide Games to keep them busy when not on the air. They worked Scout Stations both at home and abroad and at least one Scout discovered a talent for Morse Code by de-coding a call sign at 20WPM.

GB0SDB - Spitfire District, Birmingham

From the report this station had a very busy Saturday with a wide range of activities on offer to the many visitors from all age groups. As well as Communications badges there were opportunities to complete sections of the Global Challenge Award and every youngster gained a part of the award. They had Scout contacts within the UK giving good opportunities for messages

GB1BGS - 1st Blaina Scout Group

Activities aimed at enabling the young visitors to gain the Communicator badge formed the basis of the station. They started up on Friday and were active all Saturday and Sunday morning. They had Scout contacts both within the UK and beyond. They were visited by the local Mayor, Clive Bridgeman.

GB1FMS - 1st Framwellgate Moor Scout Group

The Radio side of this station was organised by members of Durham City and District ARS operating from their club base. They too had an impressive list of contacts with Scouts speaking to Scouts in at least 15 stations. Plenty of badges were gained too and some of the Scouts and leaders are considering their Foundation Radio Licence.

GB1LC - 1st Laindon Troop, 9th Basildon Troop and 1st Pitsea & Vange Troop

This station operated from Kingston Ridge Campsite and was hoping to find contacts from within a County well supplied with other JOTA stations. Their team included operators with Foundation and Intermediate Licences, always an inspiration to young JOTA participants. The high spot of the weekend was the tracked balloon launch on Saturday which flew 370km before it ditched in the North Sea off The Netherlands.

GB1NOD - North Oxfordshire District

A combined JOTA-JOTI station operating from a field near Banbury, this event saw plenty of visitors of all ages. The Radio Team camped overnight taking the opportunity to try for some DX but they ended up talking to a Swiss JOTA station and discovering they had probably met at the WSJ station in 2007.

GB2COS - Cestrian Scout Group

One of the largest stations to report with over 200 Scouts, Guides and general public visiting during the weekend, including the Sheriff of Chester, Mr. Herbert Manley. They had a huge range of activities including a 3D printer. Their radio contacts were worldwide, an excellent demonstration of International Scouting. They also tracked the International Space Station as it passed overhead. There was also a huge chocolate cake - presumably not the only reason one Brownie said 'This is the best thing I have been to since joining the Brownies'.

GB2LC - Greater Manchester East -Technology Camp

This Annual event, one of the largest UK JOTA-JOTI stations, saw some 280 Scouts from 14 groups flock to Linnet Clough Campsite for a weekend of Technological activities. At least 116 badges were gained.. Such events need plenty of help and there was a large team of Radio operators to guide the youngsters through their contacts, both at home and abroad including K3B aboard the NS Savannah moored in Baltimore and VI3RVAC, centenary of the Royal Victorian Flying Club in Melbourne Australia.

GB2SPX - 1st Spixworth Sea Scout Group

This station saw Scouts outnumbering Cubs and Beavers, not surprising as this station is very active in helping Scouts gain their Foundation Licences. Four of whom joined the team of JOTA operators. Radio is not the only activity for which badges were awarded. Along with IT and Electronics 5 Chefs gained their badges so presumably the team were well catered for!

GB2TSC - Tolmers Scout Group

This station started up on Friday evening and worked all day Saturday and Sunday Morning. In addition to the usual Communicator badge activities they also offered British Sign Language.

GB4CAB - Cabot District, Avon County

A combined JOTA-JOTI station with the emphasis on communication across the ages going back as far as hieroglyphics! They also played games such as noughts and crosses and battleships using PMR radios and tried Semaphore.

GB6BBS - Barnet Scouts

Southgate ARC helped Barnet run their Station from Mill Hill campsite following on from a successful event last year. The Scouts were impressed by the station operating from the Secret Nuclear Bunker GB0SBN and the operators by GB2DHH from the nose of a deHavilland Comet at the deHavilland Museum.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

Along with radio related activities, cooking and camping are listed. The radio contacts included a dozen UK JOTA stations and more in Europe. They also had a contact with the Falklands, VP8LP.

GC4BRS - 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Cub Pack

Barry Amateur Radio Society used their Club Callsign to run JOTA for the cubs who worked for their Communicator and Science badges. With an operator having previously worked for NASA there was also a demonstration of communication via satellites including listening to the Amsat-UK JOTA message.

ON8RT & ON4EM - 1st Brussels (British) Scouts

During JOTA -JOTI weekend the scouts participated in an Emergency Communications Exercise and Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Demonstration. With mobile command stations and a wealth of equipment available their report suggests it was a perfect opportunity to live up to the Scout motto 'Be Prepared'.