

Jamboree on the Air 2018

UK National Report



This year the JOTA-JOTI weekend was blessed with the mild weather appreciated by campers and not least aerial riggers. There had been talk of strong winds but they were gone in good time for setting up. Once again it is difficult to garner reports from many stations and it is difficult to know if those who do submit a report are typical.

There seem to be two main types of event - the very large with several hundred participants and the very small, often with less than a dozen visitors, yet both large and small scale events have their strengths. The large events are frequently at permanent Scout centres and have good resources while the smaller stations are making the best of limited resources. If the Scouts are involved in establishing the station they often maintain an interest beyond JOTA weekend.

Stations report varying conditions, the stations able to use permanent aerials doing well while those with less efficient systems sometimes struggling. This year there were no complaints about the German contest though our own station was certainly aware of their presence. Interestingly several stations had a contact with a Scandinavian YL contest - though no-one complained!

GB0GDS - Greenock & District Scouts

JOTA -JOTI was part of a fun weekend with many different activities attracting Scouts from all sections. With help from the District Radio Club, the youngsters made 360 radio contacts in 54 countries. They had plenty of Scout contacts within the UK, some making contact several times to ensure everyone had a chance to talk to another Scout. Also on offer was Morse Code, walkie talkies, JOTI and an Augmented Reality activity, Talking Trees, popular with the younger members in particular.

GB0NS - 12th Northolt Scout Group

This station experienced problems with their radio contacts but made contact with GB0CHS. They were active on Sunday from 10am - 3pm with five Scouts, a Beaver and a Cub along with four leaders taking part.

GB0SDB - Spitfire District, Birmingham

A station organised by Scout Radio Operators, they were active on Saturday with a wide range of communication based activities including cup and string telephones and real

telephones. Their radio contacts included several UK Scout stations and they also tried Network radio with contacts in the UK and Canada. All sections were represented, with Scouts in the majority, some of whom completed part of their International Activity badge.

GB2GP - Gilwell Park

Frank, M0AEU, the station Manager, sent a detailed report of their busy weekend. With 320 youngsters booked for a half day of radio activities the staff were kept busy manning their three HF stations. As the site has a permanent aerial array, they are in a fortunate position helping to give the large number of worldwide contacts. Also on offer was the construction of audio amplifiers, Morse code and an antenna building exercise, checked with an antenna analyser and with a prize for the best one. As the station is under the flight path to Heathrow the ADS-B aircraft tracking display was very popular as you could dash from the shack to see the plane as it passed overhead.

GB2MAR - 2nd Marlborough Scouts

A small event operational on Saturday, the station offered a wide game, Morse code, string telephones and making QSL cards.

GB2MIT - 1st Middleton-in-Teesdale

Fifteen Scouts were busy at this station and although they found 40m noisy they did manage some Scout stations including Norway and the Netherlands. Kit-building was also on offer making the *claplight* as made at the 2017 World Scout Moot.

GB2WS - Wiltshire County Scouts

This station hosted over 200 Scouts and their leaders with different sections on different days and at different times. They experienced the full range of radio related activities, making friends by working with members of other units they had not met before. Many completed sections of badge work, particularly Communicator, Beaver Science and Scout World Challenge.

GB4BHS - Central Yorkshire County

Assisted by a large team of Radio Amateurs, this station at Bramhope Scout Camp, was open on both Saturday and Sunday on most bands. As a result, they had plenty of contacts in the UK and Europe as well as some further afield. They also tried Morse code and setting up a Clansman antenna. Although not exactly radio, go-karts added to the fun for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Gordano District

With about 50 Cubs, Scouts and Beavers taking part over the full weekend, this station had plenty of UK contacts. The Cubs could try Semaphore and there was Crystal radio set building for Scouts. Some participants camped overnight and the food must have been good as among the badges gained were Chef and International badges.

GB8SIO - Scouts in Oxfordshire

The 8th Oxford hosted the event from their HQ amid high density housing but with just enough room for an antenna. Run by a team of licensed Scouts and Guides they were active on both days. The first contact was with a Norwegian Scout station who was amazed when two of the operators could speak to him in Norwegian, having lived there for some years. The Scouts made contact on several occasions with the Scout station at Fordell Firs in Scotland. Also on offer was Morse Code and Semaphore.

G3WNS - Alan Willson

Alan, an experienced Radio Scout, worked for part of each of the three days on different bands and modes including Echolink where he contacted the National JOTA co-ordinators in Oman and the USA and the former co-ordinator for Australia.

GX4PSG - 1st Prestwood Scout Group

The 1st Prestwood Scout Group hosted the Buckinghamshire Jamboree Troop 50. This Short Wave Listener station was set up to explain Amateur Radio for the Buckinghamshire County team attending the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. As well as listening to amateur radio QSOs they could try messages with walkie talkies and Morse code with both buzzers and lamps.

G0RSR - 103rd Reading Scouts

This station operated on Saturday and the 17 Scouts had Scout contacts in the UK Switzerland and the Netherlands. They made small Medium wave receivers and did Lego building over the radio where the sender gives the instructions and the receiver listens and builds.



GB2GP



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