

## World Scout Jamboree — NA1WJ Amateur Radio Operation

In July 2019 the 24th World Scout Jamboree will open in the mountains of West Virginia. The Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve will host 45,000 Scouts who will travel from over 160 countries to experience adventure but as importantly learn about other countries, experience other cultures, and make new friends.

The World Scout Jamboree happens every four years. It began in 1920 in London and since that time has been hosted by a number of national Scouting organizations, from Australia to Denmark to the Philippines, to name just a few.

### World Scout Jamboree Amateur Radio History

In 1957, the 50th anniversary of Scouting, the World Jamboree was hosted by Great Britain. There GB3SP was on the air representing amateur radio for the first time at this great event.

In 1967 the World Scout Jamboree was held in the USA for the first time with K7WSJ on the air from Farragut State Park in Idaho. Since that time Scouts have been on the air with these call signs and locations: 8J1WJ Japan 1971, LC1J Norway 1975, VE6WSJ Canada 1983, AX2SWJ Australia 1987, 6K17WJ South Korea 1991, PA6WSJ The Netherlands 1995, XR3J Chile 1999, E20AJ Thailand 2003, GB100J United Kingdom 2007, SJ22S Sweden 2011, and 8N23WSJ Japan 2015

### NA1WJ in West Virginia — Demonstration Station

We'll be using the call sign NA1WJ, standing for North America's 1st World Jamboree, this one hosted by a team of North American Scouting organizations: Scouts Canada, Asociación de Scouts de México, and Boy Scouts of America.

When the Jamboree opens, we'll be on the air using ten operating stations on HF, VHF, UHF, satellites, D-Star, and Echolink. Our plans are directed at introducing amateur radio to as many Scouts as possible, with expectations at roughly 3,000 Scouts and Guides

### ARDF-Foxhunting

In addition to our amateur radio demonstration station, we'll be running ARDF-Foxhunting using 80 meters and 2 meters.

### There's More

Other activities planned are an ARISS Contact with an astronaut on the International Space Station (pending successful Phase 2 equipment planning and scheduling), as well as quite a few contacts with LEO satellites. Plus, we'll be launching three Pico balloons with WSPR payloads that are expected to drift over the Atlantic during the Jamboree and perhaps around the world long after the Jamboree is over. We'll provide information on the launches and tracking from our website as well as social media. The Jamboree closes on August 1, 2019.

## **NA1WJ Staff**

So, how are we staffing this operation? The International Staff Team (IST) across the Jamboree numbers 9,000+ all adult Scout leaders hailing from around the world. They are running the entire operation from shooting sports to dining halls and more.

The amateur radio team has been allocated approximately 35 staff members. All are active dedicated Scouting volunteers and nearly all of them are licensed operators from their home countries. Currently, we have staff members from the USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and more are expected.

## **NA1WJ Equipment**

We'll have great stations using the IC-7300, IC-9700, and ID-5100A along with hex beams, yagis, verticals, and dipoles. But the sun is not expected to be our friend — propagation will be challenging.

The station will be staffed approximately 18 hours each day but we plan nightly operation when staff is available. We will be using multiple modes including SSB, CW, and digital modes to take advantage of the propagation we get to provide as many NA1WJ QSOs with the Scouts as possible. Of course, at the same time we will be introducing amateur radio to as many scouts as we can. Still, working the world will be a challenge as we will only have 100 watts, but we will be using directional antennas to enhance our signal as much as possible.

## **We Need Your Help**

This is where you come in. Turn on your rig and work NA1WJ. However, it's not just making contacts with call sign and signal report. Instead, it's demonstrating amateur radio by conducting conversations with Scouts.

We'll have one staff member operating each station along with four or more Scouts listening in and getting on the microphone. We need you on the other side engaging in questions about Scouting, about the Jamboree, and commenting on your own experiences in Scouting. That's the same thing we're seeking for Jamboree on the Air operations.

Single stations will work great. But it might be a fabulous idea to line up a Scout summer camp, Radio Badge Workshop, or a weekend campout scheduled to match the days/times of the World Jamboree to get other Scouts on the air talking to the NA1WJ station.

## **Schedule and frequencies**

NA1WJ is expected to run from July 22 to August 2 but first transmissions are expected around July 18. The daily program for scouts at the World Scout Jamboree is from 8 until 5 Eastern Time (14:00 to 23:00 hours CET). After these hours volunteering staff will run the station and lookout for your contact!

NA1WJ will run on or around the Scout frequencies on HF:

80 meters	3.940 MHz
40 meters	7.190 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz
17 meters	18.140 MHz
15 meters	21.360 MHz
12 meters	24.960 MHz
10 meters	28.390 MHz
6 meters	50.160 MHz

NA1WJ will also be active on D-Star (Reflector REF033A), DMR (TG 907/9071/9072, and other specific talk groups) and Echolink (Conference Node \*JAMBO\*).

### Where to Go for More Information

You can learn all about our operation at [na1wj.net](http://na1wj.net). Plus, we'll be providing real time updates on social media including our Facebook page and Twitter account as well as an NA1WJ Groups.io. You can find all the links on our website

Not only will you get the satisfaction of introducing Scouts and Guides to amateur radio, you'll also receive a QSL card.

Are you ready? Mark your calendars for July 22 to August 1. Help us introduce amateur radio to the next generation of hams across the globe.

### Sidebar:

The NA1WJ World Scout Jamboree operation is powered by Icom America radios and repeaters; MFJ rotators, antennas, and headphones; DX Engineering antennas, cables, triplexers, and filters; JK Antennas Yagis; a portable Aluma Tower, GeoChron Digital 4K UHD, and the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association. Thank you to our supporters.

### Sidebar:

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), the annual Scouting event held the third weekend in October, started as a result of the 1957 World Scout Jamboree held in the United Kingdom. Les Mitchell, G3BHK, (SK) felt that we shouldn't miss a single year of connecting Scouts around the world using amateur radio. Thus, began the effort to use amateur radio to facilitate Scout-to-Scout conversations to help introduce countries, cultures, and technology. JOTA and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) participation now numbers in the millions every year.

### Images:

QSL Card, WSJ logos, Bechtel Scout Reserve Photo all at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/quwdczsmfqtimc1/AAAdmTppwecKJYjj1DI8oKXTa?dl=0>