

Jamboree On The Air



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Introduction

In relation to the total Membership, very few Scouts are lucky enough to attend the World Jamborees which take place every four years. With the ever increasing cost it also becomes more and more difficult to send a large number of Scouts to these events.

The Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) has none of these disadvantages, it costs little, the number of participants is not limited, and any Member of the Movement can take part without leaving their home town. A taste of the wonderful and enlightening experience of participating in a World Jamboree can be given to your Scouts, allowing them to talk to Scouts worldwide with an equal footing irrespective of colour, religion, politics, rank or even length of service.

The aim of this factsheet is to go through the process involved in taking part in this annual event using amateur radio (or ham radio as it is often known) to enable Scouts and Guides in many countries to talk to each other. For convenience, the term Scout is used but the event is open to all Sections and in many cases the older and younger Sections are keener to participate. Guides also take part and there are many successful joint Scout and Guide stations every year.

Date and Duration

The Jamboree on the Air takes place over the third full weekend in October. Officially starting at

0000 hours on Saturday, and ending at 2359 hours on the Sunday, local circumstances will govern when you actually join in. There is no need to take part for the whole period, and time must be allowed for setting up and dismantling any equipment if you are setting up in a temporary location.

Location

Where you set up your event will depend on what is available. Each year people take part mainly from Scout headquarters, campsites and church halls. More diverse locations include the peaks of hills or mountains, tops of monuments, museums and other public places. The list is as varied as your imagination allows. If there is only a small amount of interest then perhaps you could take part from the home of an amateur radio enthusiast. This means that there is no need to move any equipment.

The scale of your operation can be anything from one Patrol taking part, to a station on behalf of the whole County. Group efforts are often better supported than a District activity as the enthusiastic Leader in charge is often affiliated to one Group.

How to join in Jamboree on the Air

Successful Jamboree on the Air stations need three key ingredients:

The Scout Association

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scouts.org.uk www.scouts.org.uk

They need licensed radio amateurs who understand what Jamboree on the Air aims to achieve.

They need Leaders who want to offer their young people the opportunity to take an active part in international Scouting or technology activities.

They need a partnership between the amateurs and the Leaders.

The partnership is important because although the radio amateurs have the technical resources and skills, they may well need help in working with young people. (Duplicate the information on page 4 Guidelines for Radio Amateurs' and give a copy to each radio amateur before the event).

The Leaders' role is to assist in preparing the participants for Jamboree on the Air, getting them there on the day(s) and possibly looking after the domestic arrangements. Finding a licensed radio amateur shouldn't be too difficult.

Your local library or amateur radio shop, if there is one near you, may be able to give you details of local clubs or individuals who may be willing to help. You may find that a parent of a Member of your Group is a radio amateur. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is the national body which represents radio amateurs in the UK. If you write to them, they will be able to give you the details of their Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) in your area. Their local knowledge will help you find the support that you need.

The address of the RSGB is:

Radio Society of Great Britain
3, Abbey Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
Bedfordshire.
MK44 3WH

It is important that this contact is made early so that the necessary preparations can be made. The calendar of preparations (page 5) should give you an idea of the timescale involved.

Let People Know

Once you have decided to take part, you need to inform certain people. As well as advertising the event to the Members of your Group, you should also inform your District Commissioner, County Adviser (Amateur Radio) and ACC (Activities). This is so that when people ask them about local Jamboree on the Air stations, they know what is going on!

You should also register your intention to take part with the UK JOTA Team, Gilwell Park, Chingford, LONDON E4 7QW'. Just before the event, a newsletter is sent out to all registered participants. This contains the latest information about the event from the world organisers, details of any special activities in the UK and the latest licensing information. The newsletter also contains a Jamboree on the Air report form. Every station that submits a report after the event receives the UK Jamboree on the Air report compiled from all of the individual station reports. The UK Jamboree on the Air report is also used in the preparation of the World Jamboree on the Air report. Information on the report form also enables the event organisers to assess the effectiveness of the event, the numbers involved and to make improvements in future years.

Call-sign Options

Becoming a radio amateur involves taking a test. Passing the test gains the radio amateur a licence and with this comes a call-sign. This enables the radio amateur to be identified on the air in the same way as a car registration plate identifies a car. For Jamboree on the Air, a radio amateur can take part using his or her own personal call-sign. Recent changes to the licence conditions

allow greetings messages to be sent by non-licensed persons providing that:

- It is under the direct supervision of the licensee or other authorised club member, who must operate the transmitter and identify the station; and
- each greeting message does not exceed two minutes; and
- each person may only send one message to each station with which the station is in contact; and
- greeting messages may only be sent and received within the U.K. or to and from Canada, Falkland Islands and Pitcairn Island and in the case of a club licence, U.S.A.

Alternatively they can apply for a 'special event call-sign'. To do this, an application form has to be sent to the Radio Society of Great Britain at least four weeks before the event. All special event call-signs start with the letters GB, followed by a number, followed by two or three letters. You can choose these letters to fit in with the name of your group, for example, 'SBS' for Second Blanktown Scouts. You need to give alternatives as well in case those letters have already been issued.

Insurance

If you are asking radio amateurs to bring their equipment to your premises, you should check insurance arrangements with them. Their radios may be covered under their own policy, but if not it is worth taking out temporary insurance to avoid any embarrassing situations.

Safety

An eye needs to be kept on the safety aspects of the operation. There should be no risk of electric shock, and all wires - power leads and aerial wire

- should be kept out of the way so that there is no danger of tripping up. If electronic kit building is offered, adequate supervision of the use of soldering iron is needed.

JOTA Badges

Badges are available to be worn on uniform during the event and for four weeks afterwards. They are available by post from 514 Obelisk Rise, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 8SX. The email address is nsarg@nsarg.co.uk and the website address is www.nsarg.co.uk.

OSL Cards

It is customary to send a card to any station that you talk to confirm your contact. Because they are sent through a central distribution or bureau system they need to be the right size. Cards are postcard sized, that is 5.5" x 3.5". They can be either single, or double sided. The card should contain room for details about the contact, and details about your Scout Group and area. Remember that these cards will be sent to Scout Groups worldwide, so a Scout correspondence address could result in information and badges from Groups in other countries. The design of the card is up to you and the Scouts could be involved in the design process before the event. The radio amateur who is helping you should be able to provide some examples of cards that he has received.

You may also like to have available cards or certificates for the Scouts to take home as souvenirs. These could be earned by sending a message to another station and the details of the contact included on the card, or by completing a list of activities and tasks (see Other Activities).

Publicity

Station organisers are particularly requested to avoid misleading publicity such as newspaper reports and photographs conveying the impression that the radio amateur concerned has infringed his or her licence conditions in any way.

The station organiser could write his/her own report, checking details with the radio amateur, and submit it to the local press. This should be done via the District Public Relations Officer if one exists. If you invite the press to visit your station, perhaps with a photographer, you should have copies of your press release handy so that they can be given accurate information on paper.

Other activities

As well as just communicating over the radio, the Leaders and radio amateurs could provide other activities on international or technology themes. Ideas could include:

- Use an international menu.
- Keep a map of the global weather situation, using reports from the people you contact.
- Find out the local names for Scouts and Guides in ten different countries.
- Learn a few words of greetings in other languages.
- Have a competition to build the best aerial tower (pioneering project).
- Send a message across the room or field using Morse code or semaphore.
- Design a QSL card or JOTA newspaper using computer desktop publishing techniques.
- Learn how to make emergency calls using a mobile phone (cellphone). Don't actually do it though.
- Build simple electronic kits.
- Make a radio programme, recording it on cassette tape.
- Offer the chance to work for Communicator, Information Technology and Radio Technician Proficiency badges.

Jamboree on the Air

Guidelines for Leaders

This is a chance for all Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Members of The Guide Movement to take part in an international Jamboree.

Radio amateurs spend a lot of time working to achieve their licences and some spend vast sums of money on buying equipment. Many are willing to put their knowledge and equipment to work for the Scouts during JOTA.

Many are so passionately interested in their hobby that they cannot understand that to others it may be incomprehensible and possibly even boring! It sometimes requires a very diplomatic Leader to explain this to a keen radio 'ham' who has given up his or her whole weekend to help with JOTA.

- Do make contact with local amateurs well in advance and discuss a balanced programme of activities before and during JOTA.
- Do make sure that the amateurs' efforts are rewarded by ensuring that Scouts turn up for the event. - Do build up to the event with some international programme activities.
- Do remember that Jamboree on the Air is a Scout event and as such you are in charge. Remember that radio equipment is expensive, and keep a firm control of those attending.
- Do feed and water the radio amateurs on the day (lots of tea and coffee!).
- Do thank the radio amateurs for their help.
- Do return the Jamboree on the Air report form after the event.
- Don't assume that all radio amateurs are expert communicators with young people.
- Don't plan other events the same weekend as Jamboree on the Air unless the two can be integrated.

Guidelines for Radio Amateurs

- Jamboree on the Air is about getting young people to talk to each other using amateur radio. - Do arrange the use of a club call-sign or apply for a special event call-sign in good time. - Do prepare some simple diagrams and explanations showing how radio works and how signals can be transmitted around the world.
- Do liaise with the Scout Leaders regarding venue, QSL cards, licence application, other activities, domestic arrangements, publicity and details required for the JOTA report form (see page 5).
- Do go to Scout meetings beforehand to introduce the subject.
- Do organise activities such as kit-building, soldering practice, SSTV, FSTV, packet radio and weather satellite reception. The simplest of things, such as a closed-circuit RTTY station, can provide great amusement.
- Do offer to train Scouts for Proficiency badges.
- Do make sure that the station is safe for young visitors.
- Do call 'CQ Jamboree' to try and get Scout and Guide contacts.
- Do observe your licence conditions, especially regarding the use of greetings messages.
- Don't try to work as many stations as possible. JOTA isn't a contest, but it is about allowing Scouts and Guides to talk to other Scouts and Guides around the world.
- Don't use jargon and Q-codes, but stick to plain understandable English where possible.
- Don't try to work weak stations from remote continents. Go for stronger, more local stations which unpractised ears can hear easily and understand. Even start off by using FM!
- Don't feel that you have to keep the station on air with no Scouts or Guides present. If you wish to operate during these times please

revert to using your own call-sign rather than a special event call-sign.

Jamboree On The Air – Calendar of Preparations		
Month	Scouts	Amateur
July	<p>Liaise with Radio amateur about Licence application and possible course for the Communicator proficiency badge</p> <p>Notify your District Commissioner that you intend to take part in JOTA; if your proposed JOTA station will represent the County, then notify the County Commissioner</p>	<p>Make absolutely certain that you have been asked by the Scouts to operate a JOTA station before proceeding further, remember it's a Scouting event.</p> <p>Make an application for a special event licence call-sign to the Membership Services department, Radio Society of Great Britain, Lambda House, Cranbourne Road, Potters Bar, HERTFORDSHIRE EN6 3JW</p>
August	<p>Write to the UK JOTA Team, The Scout Association, Programme and Development Department, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW, enclosing a large s.a.e. and requesting latest JOTA information and reports forms.</p> <p>Consider if your proposed JOTA station warrants being officially opened by a civic or Scouting dignitary or personality, and so on, and make arrangements if appropriate.</p>	<p>Inform the Scout Leader of the allocated call-sign on confirmation from RSGB. Liaise with Scout Leader on the design of special QSL cards.</p>
September	<p>Prepare an information sheet for each amateur involved, giving useful Scouting information (such as size of Colony, Pack, Troop, Unit, District, activities, camps, badges, fundraising ideas, local information of interest.</p> <p>Prepare large 6" by 10" (15 X 25 cms.) cards showing only the station call-signs as an aide memoir for operators (they will be using your special call-sign for this event.)</p> <p>Obtain maps of the UK, World, and other display material.</p> <p>Order official JOTA badges for Scouts involved in JOTA (if required), also any stickers wanted, if available. These are obtainable by post from Northampton Scout Amateur Radio Group, c/o 514 Obelisk Rise, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 8SX. The email address is nsarg@nsarg.co.uk and the</p>	<p>Discuss aerial requirements, and so on, and the electrical power/catering arrangements, with the Scout Group.</p> <p>Send s.a.e. to the Membership Services Department, RSGB, requesting JOTA special call-sign listing (even if you don't want this, get one for the Scouts to check-off the stations you contact during JOTA)</p> <p>Check and be satisfied with the insurance arrangements. Don't assume you are covered or that the Scouts have arranged it.</p>

<p>September (cont')</p>	<p>website address is www.nsarg.co.uk.</p> <p>Check and be satisfied with the insurance arrangements; don't assume that the radio amateurs will have arranged cover for the equipment and aerials which they bring to your premises, or that your normal insurance will cover any loss/damage which they sustain, or any liability which you or they may have towards Scouts and/or visitors (or even passers-by or owners of the premises).</p> <p>Plan catering arrangements for everyone involved in the event for several hours or more.</p>	
<p>October</p>	<p>Final arrangements.</p> <p>Let the Scouts practise, using tape recorders, to avoid mike-shyness on the JOTA weekend if they are to be able to speak on air, practise will also acquaint them (with the guidance of the amateurs) with the type and duration of the greeting they are permitted to pass and the things which they may personally wish to include.</p> <p>Ensure that there will be enough to interest Scouts and other visitors – that they are not simply 'left to watch'. Enjoy the event.</p> <p>Send a report back to UK JOTA Team at Gilwell, including two s.a.e.s – one for the participation certificates for each amateur, the other (large A4 flat size) for a copy of the UK JOTA Report to be dispatched later.</p>	<p>Liaise with the Scout Leader for the Station report to be submitted (very often reports sent to the UK JOTA Team following the event are incomplete because 'the operators took the logbooks away with them'.)</p> <p>Scout frequencies are : CW ; 3.590, 7.030, 14.070, 21.140, 21.140, 28.190MHz. Phone : 3.740, 7.090, 14.290, 21.360, 28.990, MHz. Enjoy the event. Good DXI.</p> <p>Be sure you complete QSL cards for anyone to whom you say on air that you will send one to, including unlicensed Scouts and others who speak; it can be a great disappointment if you don't.</p> <p>Send QSL cards to RSGB Bureau. PO Box 1773, otters Bar, HERTFORDSHIRE, EN6 3EP. Envelopes for the receipt of in-coming QSL cards should be sent to the relevant GB QSL Submanager.</p>