



World Organization  
of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale  
du Mouvement Scout

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## FACTS

# Jamboree-on-the-Air

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree or another international gathering. But few people realize that each year some 400.000 Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern communication technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home.....

The JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

Since 1958 when the first jamboree-on-the-Air was held, thousands of Scouts and Guides have "met" each other through this event. Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a chance to find out about other countries and about Scouting elsewhere. Many contacts made during the JOTA have resulted in penpals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years.

With no restrictions on age, on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, the JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licences and have their own stations, but the majority participates in the JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Today some operators even use television or computer linked communications.

## Date and duration of the event

The world-wide Jamboree-On-The-Air is organized to coincide with *the third full*

*weekend of October* each year. The event starts at 00.00 hours local time on the Saturday and concludes 48 hours later at 24.00 hours local time on the Sunday. Each station can choose its own operating hours within this period.



## How to take part

First contact a local amateur radio operator, or amateur radio club and ask for help. Radio amateurs are enthusiastic about their hobby and most of them will be willing to help you participate in the JOTA.

Most Scout Associations have appointed a National JOTA Organizer (NJO) who can bring you into contact with a radio amateur. Otherwise the national amateur radio organization in your country will be able to give you the name and address of a radio amateur in your area.

The radio operator may suggest that the Scouts visit his station during the JOTA, or that he brings his equipment to your local headquarters, or campsite. Often JOTA radio stations have been set up in unusual locations such as at the top of a mountain or on a boat.

## Licensing regulations

Radio amateurs have obtained a licence for their radio transmissions from the authorities in their country. They passed a technical examination to obtain this licence. License conditions vary from country to country. In some, Scouts may speak over the air themselves; in others, special permission can be obtained for the Scouts to speak over the radio themselves during the JOTA weekend.

Where Scouts are not allowed to speak over the air, the licensed operator will have to make the contacts. If the operator is not a scout or leader, he will need a special briefing on Scouting and your group. The operator should be able to talk about Scouting in your local area and be able to have friendly and informative exchanges on behalf of the Scouts present. The Scouts can help to brief the operator and tell him the sort of things they would like to find out from other Scouts.

## Rules of the game

There are some basic rules that should be followed:

- All radio operators must operate their stations strictly in accordance with their national licensing regulations;
- Stations should call "CQ Jamboree" or answer scout stations calling to establish a contact;
- Any authorized frequency may be used. It is recommended that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies listed below. To avoid congestion, other frequencies closeby can be used as well.

### *World Scout Frequencies:*

<b>Band</b>	<b>SSB(phone)</b>	<b>CW(morse)</b>
80 m	3.740 & 3.940 MHz	3.590 MHz
40 m	7.090 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 m	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz
17 m	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15 m	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12 m	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10 m	28.390 MHz	28.190 MHz

- The JOTA is not a contest. The idea is not to contact as many stations as possible during the weekend.
- All participating groups are asked to send a report of their activities to their National JOTA Organizer (NJO) after the event.
- NJO's are requested to send a National JOTA Report to the World Scout Bureau, for inclusion in the World JOTA Report.

The world-wide JOTA is organized in October. However, there are other times when Scouts can meet on the air. Often a radio--scouting station will be organized in conjunction with a large camp or other international gathering of Scouts.

Regular scout nets (a prearranged time and frequency when operators meet) are organized nationally or regionally. An updated list of these nets can always be found in the latest World JOTA Report.

## National JOTA organization

Each Scout Association is requested to appoint a National JOTA Organizer (NJO). This NJO can co-ordinate the JOTA participation of Scouts in his country. He or she can also serve as the point of contact for JOTA information. The NJO will be able to bring Scouts into contact with radio amateurs and vice versa.

### *The National JOTA Organizer:*

- functions at a national level within his Scout Association (most NJO's are a member of an Association's international committee);
- is preferably someone with his own amateur radio licence, or at least with a vast knowledge of amateur radio;
- is the Scout Association's representative to the national amateur radio organization;
- has the required organizational skills to support the participating scout stations in his country;
- receives the full support, ***both organizational and financial***, from the Scout Association's headquarters.

Countries with large numbers of Scouts taking part often have a team to assist the NJO, a radio-scouting committee. The actual organization details differ from country to country, depending on local needs and regulations.

The NJO is requested to send a report of the JOTA experiences in his country to the World Scout Bureau after the event. This National JOTA Report should give an impression of what the JOTA was like in his country. It may contain ideas and comments, suggestions for future programmes and describe the most important and interesting contacts that were made. This information is used to compile the World JOTA Report.

## World JOTA organization

The World Scout Bureau's JOTA organization team provides the following annual information:

- *May*: the first JOTA circular is sent with the exact dates of the event, the new JOTA

theme and logo, programme suggestions and some information on large summer camps equipped with radio stations;

- *August*: a second JOTA circular is sent with the latest details and information. A report form is included for the national JOTA report from the NJO. Participation cards with the current logo are included for each participating station.
- *November*: the third JOTA circular reminds you of the reporting deadline and includes the first stories of the past JOTA weekend.
- *March*: the World JOTA Report is published. It contains statistical information on the JOTA participation, activity reports from more than 40 countries, a selection of newspaper articles and new programme ideas. The report is in English with a French summary.

The information in the circulars and World JOTA Report can be used to publicize the event through national and local (Scout) magazines and newsletters. All JOTA information is always sent to all Scout Associations, addressed to the international commissioner. An extra copy is sent directly to the National JOTA Organizer if his correct name and address are made known to the World Scout Bureau.

## HB9S

The World Scout Bureau operates its own amateur radio station, with the call sign HB9S. There is a permanent radio room in the office building of the Bureau in the centre of Geneva. The station is on the air regularly at scout nets. During the JOTA weekend, HB9S will operate most of the Saturday and Sunday, with short breaks during the night. Transmitters will be on the air simultaneously on the 10/15/20 metre, 160/80/40 metre and 0.7/2 metre bands. The World JOTA Team is usually assisted by World Bureau staff and an international team of scout radio amateurs to operate HB9S.

Making a contact with HB9S takes some patience in practice. Many stations are calling at the same time. Please follow the instructions given by the operators and do not interfere with on-going contacts. The operators will do the best they can to make contact with scout stations world-wide and speak to Scouts in as many languages as possible.

## Call signs of scout stations

Each licensed amateur radio station has a registration number, a call sign. The first one or two letters are specific to a country. Here are a few call signs of well-known Scout stations that can often be contacted:

HB9S	World Scout Bureau, Geneva, Switzerland
K2BSA	Boy Scouts of America, National Office, Dallas, USA
JA1YSS	Boy Scouts of Japan, National Office, Tokyo, Japan
PA6JAM	Scouting Nederland, National station, Leusden, Netherlands
5Z4KSA	Boy Scouts of Kenya, Paxtu station, Nyeri, Kenya
VK1BP	Scout Association of Australia, National station, Canberra, Australia
GB2GP	Scout Association, Gilwell Park, London, United Kingdom

## JOTA programme items

The World Scout Bureau produces a number of items bearing the JOTA emblem. They can be used to promote the event, as souvenirs or as gifts to those who have helped with the event.

- *Participation card*. Each year an attractive card supports the annual JOTA theme. The card can be given to Scouts who participate in the event. Supplies of the card can be ordered through the National JOTA Organizer.
- *Stickers*. Six JOTA emblems in white on a purple background; item no. 123A, 15 cm x 21 cm sheet
- *Car badge*. JOTA emblem in white on a purple background; item no. 304.
- *Woven badge*. JOTA emblem in white on a purple background; item no. 402, 7 cm x 4.5 cm.
- *JOTA emblem*. Artwork sheets of the emblem in various sizes for use in publications and many other applications; item no. 2640.
- *World JOTA Report*. Published annually. A summary of the reports from NJO's, statistics about the JOTA participation and programme ideas; item no. 1310A.

- *The JOTA story.* From the inception of the JOTA idea to the present edition of this world-wide event, all is described in detail in this JOTA history report, written by Len F. Jarrett. The report tells you about the organization of the event, shows how the participation increased over the years, reprints all the JOTA logo's that were ever used and quotes from all the World JOTA Reports.

Current prices of items can be obtained from the World Scout Shop SCORE, Annecy.

## Programme ideas and activities

Here are a number of JOTA programme ideas to stimulate your imagination:

### A) Before the event:

- \* Send a report of your plans for the weekend to local newspapers. Ask if a news photographer could visit the station.
- \* Ask a radio operator to talk about amateur radio communications. Visit his station to actually see how it works. Learn about radio waves and their propagation.
- \* Design special QSL cards for the JOTA weekend. Have a competition to select the one the troop will print. Find a way to print your own cards or prepare lots of different handmade cards.
- \* Find an unusual location for the JOTA station.
- \* Design and practice building a suitable antenna tower.
- \* Find out about commercial radio or television. How are programmes made ? Visit a recording studio. How does a radio receiver work ? Build a simple receiver.
- \* Learn about electricity. How is it produced ? Learn how to carry out simple electrical repairs such as to mend blown fuses. Visit an electricity generating station.
- \* Get experience with a personal computer. Write some simple programmes. Learn how to work with a programme that keeps track of all the stations you contact during the JOTA.
- \* Learn and practice Morse code. Use a computer to teach you the code.
- \* Find out about other countries and prepare questions to ask over the air.
- \* Practice talking into microphones using radio operating procedures and jargon.
- \* Find out about your local area in order to be able to answer questions from Scouts in other countries.
- \* Learn a few greetings in other languages.

### B) During the JOTA weekend:

- \* The continuing story.... Make up a short imaginative story of ten lines. Read it to the station with whom you are in contact. Ask them to add the next part to this story and pass it on to the next scout station that they will contact. If you receive such a story by radio from another scout group, write it down in your station report afterwards. This activity is also very well suited for RTTY (telex) and packet-radio contacts.
- \* The global weather situation. Take a large wall map of the whole world. Ask the Scouts who you speak to, to give you the local weather report. Indicate this on the map for the area where they are located. A weather report in a local newspaper will show you how to do this on a map. At the end of the weekend you have the global weather view.
- \* Determine the distance of each radio contact that you make and add them all up. Can you reach 100.000 km in one JOTA weekend ?
- \* Make a simple drawing. Give instructions by radio to Scouts how to draw the same picture, line by line, without telling them what the picture is. Can they reconstruct your drawing and tell you what it is ?
- \* Each scout patrol gets 20 metres of ordinary electrical wire. Can they construct a "super antenna", to their imagination, with which the radio operator can make a contact ?
- \* Find out what the local names are for "Scouts" and "Guides" in at least ten different countries. Make a list.
- \* Learn to sing the first lines of a foreign song. Find some Scouts on the radio from the country where the song comes from. Sing their song and see if they can join you in it.
- \* Arrange a weekend camp and set up a JOTA station at the site. Erect antenna towers. Arrange a programme of camp activities to run concurrently.
- \* Invite parents and other supporters to visit the station and see what the Scouts are doing.
- \* Organize a weekend hike and take portable radio equipment with you.
- \* Ask each Scout to prepare his own personal logbook. Include details of the names of the Scouts contacted, their address and other information.
- \* Set up an information section with maps, atlases, encyclopaedias and other sources. As soon as a contact is made Scouts can quickly find out a few details about the country or region and about Scouting in that area.
- \* Plot contacts made on a world map.
- \* Log the contacts made with a computer logging programme and print the details for the QSL cards.

- \* Prepare and publish a JOTA newsletter. Invite the local press to your station. Ask a news photographer to take some photos.
- \* Prepare a quiz. Ask the questions over the air. Send souvenir prizes to those stations that give the right answers.
- \* Organize games which involve devising a simple way to send messages.
- \* Build simple electronic circuits. A number of countries has instruction booklets available for this, with many ideas for simple circuits that work at first glance.
- \* Organize a fox hunt, where Scouts need to locate a small hidden transmitter. The use of map and compass can be included.

C) After the event:

- \* Write to the Scouts contacted. Establish individual pen-pal or troop links. Send a badge from your country and other information about your area and Scouting..
- \* Send a report of your weekend activities to the local newspaper.
- \* Send a full report to the National JOTA Organizer. The NJO sends his national JOTA report to the World Scout Bureau in Geneva.
- Start planning to participate next year.

*Examples of radio jargon used by radio amateurs*

- CQ Jamboree A request for any other JOTA station to answer my call.
- CW Morse code mode of sending messages.
- Phone Telephone mode of sending messages.
- Packet Electronic mode of sending messages using personal computers.

- RTTY Radio tele type or Telex mode of sending messages.
- SSB Single side band, a mode off transmission.
- HAM An amateur radio operator.
- LOG A written record with details of the contacts made.
- Net A regular prearranged time and frequency when operators meet on the air.

*Q code*

The Q code was originally developed as a way of sending shorthand messages in Morse code. However, it is still used by operator for voice communications. The following ones are in common use.

- QRA What is your QRA ( call sign ) ?
- QRM I have QRM (interference).
- QRN I have QRN (static interference).
- QRT I am QRT (closing down).
- QRV I am QRV (ready to receive messages).
- QRX Please QRX (wait a moment).
- QRZ Please QRZ (say your call sign again).
- QSB There is QSB ( your signals are fading).
- QSO Thanks for this QSO (contact).
- QSP I have a QSP (message) for another station.
- QSY Please QSY (change frequency)
- QTH My QTH (location) is Zuidhorn.
- QSL A postcard send by each station to acknowledge the contacts made. One side of the card normally carries a design. The other side has the technical details of the contact.

## The Phonetic Alphabet.

When using radio communications, words and call signs are liable to be misunderstood, because some words and letters sound similar. To overcome this a phonetic alphabet is used. The following is used by amateur radio operators.

Letter	Word	Pronunciation	T	TANGO	TANG go
A	ALPHA	AL fah	U	UNIFORM	YOU nee FORM
B	BRAVO	BRAH voh	V	VICTOR	VIK tah
C	CHARLIE	CHAR lee	W	WHISKEY	WISS key
D	DELTA	DELL tah	X	X-RAY	ECKS ray
E	ECHO	ECK oh	Y	YANKEY	YANG key
F	FOXTROT	FOKS trot	Z	ZULU	ZOO loo
G	GOLF	GOLF			
H	HOTEL	HOH tell	<u>Number</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	
I	INDIA	IN dee AH	1	WUN	
J	JULIETT	JEW lee ETT	2	TOO	
K	KILO	KEY loh	3	THUH ree	
L	LIMA	LEE mah	4	FO wer	
M	MIKE	MIKE	5	FI yiv	
N	NOVEMBER	NO vem BER	6	SIX	
O	OSCAR	OSS car	7	SEVEN	
P	PAPA	PAH pah	8	AIT	
Q	QUEBEC	KWEE beck	9	NINER	
R	ROMEO	ROW me OH	0	ZERO	
S	SIERRA	SEE air RAH			