

AB5A JOTA REPORT 15 October 2011, 1400Z TO 2100Z

Local council name and number: Bay Area Council, Texas #574

Unit number: Coastal District, Troop 609

Amateur calls sign used: AB5A, KF5DX

Amateur call signs heard and worked:

KK4DKU
K3NZK
KD8JBG
W4MOE
KB0SA
W4KHC
K4ZLE
N5VEZ
WA9BSA
KM0BSA
WA0BNZ
K5TLJ
N9EVX
N2SRC
W7PX
K5HBC
K5TTT
N5ART
A14BJ
KB9SCT
WA1GON
K7IOC
KT5BSA
VE5NN

States contacted: 17

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington, Wisconsin

Countries contacted: 2

Canada, United States

Number of stations participating in your JOTA event: 2

Number of participants in JOTA: 25

Cub Scouts: 0

Boy Scouts: 12

Venturers: 0

Girl Scouts: 0

Radio Amateurs: 2

Visitors: 5

Please add your story, funny incidents, discoveries, etc. in this space.

We enjoyed putting on the very first Troop 609, Bay Area Council, Coastal District Jamboree on the Air Station, AB5A on 15 October 2011. The event operated from 09:00 to 16:00 CDT and was held at the Saint Christopher Episcopal Church, which is Troop 609's charter organization, located at 2508 St. Christopher Avenue in League City, Texas. We set up our JOTA station at our charter organizations location as our troop was doing volunteer work in shifts at a BBQ fundraiser that our charter organization was holding. This is an important event for our troop to give back to our charter organization so we co-located the JOTA and the BBQ events.

The event was a casual field day type operation. We had a lot of information pamphlets and station operating binders so scouts who were not operating could read information about amateur radio. We setup the station and used scout built staves to hold up the ends of the dipole antenna. Our HF radio was used on 20M wavelength.

The idea that the boys were talking to other boys over 1000 miles away using a piece of wire boggled their minds. It was fun to see the sense of wonder at the magic come across the face of the boys as they held the microphone.

This was a very important first step for Troop 609. Most JOTA stations are done at council level and as troop 609 has 105 registered boys we really have the critical mass to do a stand-alone JOTA station. It was an opportunity to spread good will and get to know a little about other scouts all over the country. It was also a great opportunity to show troop 609 that we can conduct our JOTA station where ever the troop happens to be at the time whether home or in the field camping. I think that the adult leadership got a good notion of how much fun JOTA would be on a campout. We were blessed by God that this operation was conducted safely.

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