

How Big is Your World?

JOTA 55 is October 20 and 21.

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The World Scout Bureau selected "How Big is Your World?" as the theme for the 55th Jamboree on the Air, the annual Amateur Radio international on-the-air scouting event. This year's theme is an invitation to Scouts to reflect on how they can enlarge their own world by interacting with others, using modern methods of communication. Scouts are encouraged to "Let other Scout friends from around the globe step into your world by sharing your thinking, feeling, emotions, ideas, proposals and projects with them. Share your life experiences to enlarge your world...."

Hams can certainly resonate with this idea since Amateur Radio enables personal connections to people all around the world and so often does generate life enriching friendships. You'll find more information about the World Bureau's vision for this year's theme at scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota.

JOTA officially starts at 12 midnight Friday night/Saturday morning, ending at midnight Sunday local time. The official Scouting frequencies will be the center of operations. A listing of frequencies, information about third party traffic restrictions and other details can be found on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air, or the Boy Scouts of America JOTA site at www.scouting.org/jota.

Jamboree on the Air provides the opportunity for radio amateurs to reach out to youth in their neighborhood and welcome them to the



Webelos Scouts attending the Great Lakes Council's Ottawa District Unity Camporee talk with fellow Scouts across the country on the 20 meter band. The operator is Dave Edenfield, W8RIT. [Frank Maynard, NF8M, photo]

on-the-air community of Amateur Radio. Long distance and locally, ham radio connects young and old in sometimes surprising and world-expanding interactions through the medium of the hands-on communication technology that is ham radio.

2011 JOTA

Here are some stories telling of the variety of ham radio communication modes US participants in JOTA 2011 utilized to enlarge their world:

■ *From WB8BSA, as reported by Frank Maynard, NF8M:*

We were perched high on a hill overlooking the Kensington Metropark Group Camp, giving us a good vantage point for our 80-meter dipole and VHF/UHF vertical. With a smaller than usual staff, we decided to concentrate on HF radio and operated 20 meter phone nearly all the time, except for a couple hours of PSK31 activity and some phone on 10 meters to work a handful of DX stations. Although we tried calling CQ for a while on CW, we didn't raise anyone. A steady stream of Scouts came by the radio tent, some of whom were genuinely attracted by the radio station but others who stopped in out of curiosity because we were near the fire building contest and tomahawk-throwing activity. We were able to put 30 to 40 Scouts on the air, enjoying conversations with other Scouts, Scouters and amateurs throughout the day. For most, it was their first exposure to amateur radio, and while Dave, W8RIT, put the boys on the air, Bill, KC8TVG, and I helped to explain ham radio to the parents and Scouters who came by.

Summary

Stations worked: 28
States worked: 17
Countries worked: 3
Scouts participating: Approx 60
Amateurs participating: 4
(W8RIT, KC8TVG, KE8HR, NF8M).



10 boys made a total of 63 contacts from station KM0BSA, from Columbia and Jefferson City, Missouri to Mexico City, from the East Coast to the West Coast. The Scouts also enjoyed going on several hidden transmitter hunts. Both the band conditions and the weather were great. Seeing the enthusiasm on these kids' faces made the whole event worthwhile for me. — *Corey Mesenbrink, KC0YNS*. Tune in to watch a video about KM0BSA 2011 JOTA activities recorded by a local television station. It is on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LG-0UQ-nWg&sns=em. [Don Moore, KM0R, photo]

■ *From Webelos Woods 2011, as reported by Harvey Jones, W0HGJ:*

White Buffalo District, Quivira Council held their Fall Webelos Woods at Camp Kanza during the Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) weekend. Camp Kanza is about 1 hour northwest of Wichita, KS. Webelos Woods is an annual weekend camping adventure for 1st and 2nd year Webelos, staffed by Boy Scout troops from several Districts. Webelos are introduced to several Boy Scouting skills along with just plain old fun activities. The JOTA event was one of the positions in the Webelos Woods rotation. Every scout had the opportunity to get an overview of Amateur Radio and talk on HF or VHF/UHF radios. The event made 262 contacts with the Cub Scouts talking with other scouts and/or amateur radio operators. Cub Scouts also witnessed demonstrations of Slow Scan TV, PSK-31 and CW reception. Many scouts returned from last year, looking forward to getting on the radio again. Distance contacts included: San Diego, CA, Lansing, MI, Venezuela, France on PSK-31, Japan via PSK31, JOTA station K7RDG in Sierra Vista, AZ, among many others. Thanks to the local hams (W0HGJ, N5GUI, AJ7F, N7NGI, KD0ELB, WA0ROX, KC0NXF, KB0DTI, N0LD, KD0HTI, KC0IFQ) and the many amateur radio operators at the other end of the wire that provided the entertainment and education of the boys.

