

Muskoke District, Alabama-Florida Council, BSA 54th JOTA Report

Local Council name and number: Alabama-Florida Council #3

Unit numbers: Muskoke District Units: 5, 10, 26, 38, 57,103, 106, 118, 124, 132, 750

Amateur call sign used: special event call K3S (no QSL cards this year)

Amateur call signs heard and worked: more than 25 calls; logs were haphazard & largely lost

States contacted: AL, FL, GA, MI, NC, NM, NY, OH, TX & VA

Countries contacted: Canada, Columbia, Germany, Mexico, Santa Maria Island in the Azores Autonomous Region (Portugal), Spain, & Sweden

ISS contacts: none – We were ready to make contact. But unfortunately the ISS passes over our area were during the astronauts' sleep/rest period.

ISS sightings: two – exciting & mind boggling to watch

Number of stations participating in our JOTA event: one

Number of participants in JOTA:

Cub Scouts: >78 on our end talking with about 50 on the other end at more than six different BSA camps or stations.

Boy Scouts: >Eight on our end talking with several at the other end

Radio amateurs: two (K3RWM & WA2QCJ)

Visitors: >35, mostly unregistered parents, siblings, scouters & a few Warrant Officer Candidates from Ft Rucker

Comments:

The 54th JOTA station setup was in the ball field pavilion (31.14321N, 085.40502W, el 275') at BSA Camp Alaflo in conjunction with the Muskoke District North Akela Cub Campout. It was active from 9 pm Friday through 9 am Sunday. However, all JOTA contacts were made between 9 am and 4:30 pm on Saturday. All times listed are local CDST. The primary station was a TS-440SAT with an AT-230 tuner using an S9v31 antenna & an AR-10 Ringo antenna on top of 20' mast. Most contacts were made on 10m, a few on 20m and only a couple on 15m. Conditions and contacts were so good on 10m that there was no reason to search elsewhere. Almost all the contacts were with other scout camps or stations. All participants learned to send SOS and their first name in Morse code using code practice oscillators. During a number of the contacts several

of our scouts spoke in turn with several of the distant scouts in turn. Seldom was there only one scout on each end. Several siblings also had a chance to talk on the radio.

Our JOTA station competed for attention with BB guns, archery, football, live hunting hawks & owl, live hybrid wolves & pups, fishing, spelling B, Webelos activities & campfires with smores, etc. However, we did so and had a really fun time! Several scouts and visitors expressed interest in learning more about our hobby/service. They were provided with handouts and follow-up information.

Lessons (re)Learned:

1. Orange engineer tape is not good to mark restricted areas. It is a Cub Scout attractant & evokes spontaneous limbo dancing even among some adults. Next year we will try yellow-black danger/safety tape to mark off areas with guy lines, ground radials, etc.
2. Logging went to pot almost immediately. Too much fun & activity making contacts. Computer logging next year & more hams to help.
3. Local JOTA brochures and web page announcements were prepared but not really used since our JOTA was in conjunction with the Akela Cub Campout and attendance was restricted to those registered for camp. There were almost 600 registered campers including parents, scouters & siblings.

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73 de K3RWM/Railey
Baloo's helper



10/15/2011



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