

## Gateway Council, Prairie du Chien (WI) Troop 320 JOTA Report

Local council name and number: Gateway Area Council, Seven Rivers District

Unit number: Troop 320

Amateur call sign used: KB9SCT

Amateur call signs heard and worked:

K1BG  
KE5GYQ  
N5TBC  
AB5A  
W8STA  
W2S  
W7PX  
K6QWR

States contacted:

Massachusetts  
Mississippi  
Texas  
Ohio  
New Jersey  
California  
Montana

Countries contacted:

United States

Number of stations participating in your JOTA event: 1

Number of participants in JOTA:

Cub Scouts: 0  
Boy Scouts: 11  
Venturers: 0  
Girl Scouts: 0  
Radio amateurs: 2  
Visitors: 0

We enjoyed our first ever Gateway Area Council Prairie du Chien Troop 320 Jamboree On The Air on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from noon-4pm CDT. Preparation for the event began earlier in the week at a regularly scheduled weekly meeting where the Scouts were presented a short introduction to Amateur Radio by two local ham radio operators, Todd Knapp (N9ZWY) and Mark Oehler (KB9SCT). In preparation for the event on Saturday, they learned how to spell their names phonetically.

The Jamboree On The Air event was held in conjunction with a fall camporee that included a hike and marching in an Oktoberfest parade. It was held at the Scout headquarters at LaRiviere Park located just south of Prairie du Chien, WI, in Southwestern Wisconsin.

There were two HF stations set up using an Icom IC-7410, an Icom 756 Pro II, two Hustler vertical HF antennas were used, a 4BTV and a 5BTV. Band conditions on HF were intermittent throughout the day and the contacts were made on 10, 15 and 20 meters. With the seemingly massive pile-ups on the calling frequencies, the Scouts learned that it sometimes takes quite a bit of patience and persistence to make it through to achieve that one contact. . Names, locations and favorite sports teams were the most popular exchanges.

Narrative from Todd, N9ZWY: In terms of the things that were amusing, there were situations where one of the boys would sit down with me at the radio not being very overjoyed at first, but when he realized he was talking to another boy clear across the country, he perked right up. Honestly there were a few boys who fell into that category. Some of the questions the boys asked were pretty hilarious, in terms of the fact that they really didn't know what to ask. The cool part is that every one of the boys did their best and all but a couple seemed to really enjoy the experience.

Many of the Scouts were amazed at the stations that were heard, especially some of the international stations including Austria, Great Britain and Ireland on 10 meters.



Mark Oehler KB9SCT (red sweatshirt) with Andrew Horner. Kevin Thein (in foreground) observing.



Todd Knapp N9ZWY (dark shirt) with Matthew Jelinek. Matthew Chase (L) and Jeremy Govin (in foreground) observing.

It was a great day and a great experience for the Scouts, Leaders and Amateurs.  
Respectfully submitted by Mark Oehler, KB9SCT