

KC2RAN JOTA REPORT 15 OCTOBER 2011, 1400Z TO 1800Z

Local council name and number: **Central New Jersey Council, New Jersey #352**

Unit number: **Pahaquarra District**, Units: **Cub Scout Pack 32**

Amateur call sign used: **KC2RAN**

States contacted: **Florida, Missouri, Ohio, New York**

Countries contacted: **United States**

Number of stations participating in your JOTA event: **one**

Number of participants in JOTA:

Cub Scouts: **35**

Boy Scouts: **0**

Venturers: **0**

Girl Scouts: **0**

Daisy Scouts: **1**

Radio amateurs: **2**

Visitors: **40 adults + 35 scouts = 75 total participants**

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

This is the first time we have participated in the Jamboree on the Air and the boys absolutely loved it. The event was held from 10am to 2pm EST on Saturday at Hewitt Park in Lambertville, NJ. We set up the primary station in the baseball field at the park so we could use the flag pole to hang an inverted V dipole. We ran a Yaesu FT-857D primarily on 20m due to tuning issues with 40m.

We made the event a casual, come and go as you please event suggesting families plan on being there for 30 minutes to an hour. Upon arriving, they received an introduction to amateur radio and antennas as well as a checklist for each activity.

In addition to the primary station, we had an electronics circuit activity where we took a very simple circuit with resistors, LEDs, momentary switch, and a buzzer and inserted on/off switches at each junction point. This allowed the boys to experiment quickly with the circuit to see how it behaved when different combinations of the switches were on or off.

We had a Morse code practice area with both a straight key and a paddle until the wind blew the straight key/oscillator combo off the table and destroyed it. The idea here was to have the boys try to send and copy each other's names.

Our last activity was a fox hunt using a handheld Yagi connected to a Yaesu VX-6r HT. Once the boys found the fox, they had the opportunity to hide it somewhere else to make it interesting for the next group.

Upon completing all the activities, the boys received certificates of completion that we made up as well as their official JOTA patches. The park has a pavilion, so some families brought picnic lunches to enjoy before departing.

The weather was challenging, as strong, gusty winds made it difficult to keep our information displays intact. We also had a tough time making contacts on 20m. Between the wind noises, a bit of shyness from the kids, some suspect performance from our antenna configuration and congested bands we only kept a couple conversations going for any significant time period. However, the boys loved listening to other conversations and getting the chance to try to make contacts. Having multiple activities worked out well to make sure the boys had plenty of fun things to keep them busy. The fox hunt was a huge hit with everyone!

By: Brian L. Claus, KC2RAN, Bear Den Leader, Cub Scout Pack 32 serving West Amwell township, East Amwell township, Lambertville, and Delaware township, NJ.
brian_claus@comcast.net