

N6CP/Troop 413 Jamboree On The Air Report  
October 15, 2011 – October 16, 2011

Local council:

Los Padres Council, California

Unit number:

Camino Real District, Troop 413 and Venture Crew 413, with visitors from Pack 13 and Pack 425

Amateur call sign used:

N6CP

Amateur call signs worked (\*other registered JOTA stations):

AA7CX	KD7VVG	NZ5ENZ
AB4LE	KE5SBZ	T32C
AF6Z	KE7DOQ	VO1KH
JA3GSM	KE7MHG	W0MI
JE1RXJ	KI6UYB	W1JCW
K5FXB	KJ6RQT	W7OXB
K7P	N0AFT	*W7SAA
*K7R	N0MTC	WD4RDR
K7RDG	N5GQB	WT4IX
K7RGV	N5SEZ	XE2IM
KB7KLT	N6GP	ZS3D
KC0VFO	N9QZH	
KD0POO	*NS0BS	

US States Contacted:

Alaska	Minnesota	Texas
Arizona	Missouri	Utah
Arkansas	North Carolina	Washington
California	Nebraska	Wisconsin
Colorado	Oregon	
Kansas	South Dakota	

Countries Contacted:

Argentina	Japan	New Zealand
Canada	Kiribati	South Africa
England	Mexico	

Number of Stations:

3 HF Stations

Number of participants in JOTA:

Cub Scouts: 7	Adult Leaders: 7
Boy Scouts: 15	Radio Amateurs: 11
Venturers: 2	Visitors: 10

## Our Story:

2011 was the first time Troop 413 hosted a Jamboree On The Air station. I've posted a video of our event: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su5HC1BUNAc>

Scouts arrived at the Scout Hall on Saturday morning, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and started by setting up camp and building a tower for the antennas. Next began the setup of the three radio stations. We had help from 9 local hams from two amateur radio clubs, the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club (W6BHZ) and the Beach Boys Amateur Radio Club. Setup went smoothly and we were on the air by 11:30am. We advertised as open to other units and the public from noon until 4pm, however, we had only 3 walk-ins. The low walk-in turnout gave our scouts the opportunity to operate as much as they wanted. Most scouts were able to log 5 contacts and meet the 10 minute conversation requirement of the Radio Merit Badge.

Finding other JOTA stations was a little difficult on a couple bands since there were conversations occurring on the call frequencies, so we had to call CQ elsewhere. When we did find another JOTA station, we had them lined up and they had a great time talking with other scouts.

We did work a few interesting stations, some were big pileups, but a couple boys were willing to stick to it and make the contact. K7P – The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Week special event station (<http://www.qrz.com/db/k7p>), ZS3D long path to South Africa, and T32C in Kiritimati (Christmas Island), Eastern Kiribati (<http://www.t32c.com/>). At the time, we didn't know the significance of each of these, but we will be bringing that back to the troop meeting.

We realized at the end that we could have done better logging. The kids recorded individual logs but we did not have station logs for each station. The amateur radio operators were focused mostly on helping kids with the contact. When copying information from the individual logs I found entries that were either missing information, e.g. location logged but no callsign, or were just plain unreadable. Something we can do better next time. One of our more interesting contacts was one of these. We had logged the contact with Eastern Kiribati and at the time everyone was interested when we crowded around the map to find it, but we forgot to write down the callsign. I had submitted a brief report to the Ham Nation podcast actually asking them to explain long path for us. When Gordon West summarized our report with "...Eastern Kiribati, Tango 32 Charlie...", I thought it was odd that he knew the callsign. A little googling later and I found the web site and sure enough, N6CP is in their logs.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E721DL9vU4#t=20m14s>)

Overall, we had a great event. We had a good mix of scouting and amateur radio, introduced many kids to ham radio for the first time, and maybe even got a couple interested in getting their license.