



Jammin' and Hammin' with the Scouts

Join Scouts worldwide for the 56th Jamboree-on-the-Air and during the 2013 National Scout Jamboree.

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Many Amateur Radio operators credit their interest in ham radio to an early exposure through Scouting activities. For some, it was an encounter with ham radio at a pack or troop meeting, a Camporee or perhaps through attending a Jamboree-on-the-Air event. For others, it was working on the Radio Merit Badge as part of their journey toward Star, Life and Eagle Scout ranks (see Figure 1).

That early encounter with ham radio might have sparked an immediate response in many Scouts, which might have included getting their license and continuing in the hobby. On the other hand, it might have remained dormant until sometime later in life when it emerged as a great way to enjoy communicating with other ham radio operators and working with technology. In many cases, it all began with a Jamboree.

Jamboree-on-the-Air

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) is an annual event, held the third weekend of October, which fosters Scout-to-Scout communication across borders — city, county, state or country, or even between continents. JOTA is not a contest. Its purpose is to foster conversations, rather than multiple contacts. It is a way to get Scouts everywhere on the air simultaneously to communicate with other Scouts and learn about their Scouting experience wherever they live. While learning about each other, it also introduces them to the fun and technology of Amateur Radio.

JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world. In 2011, the World Organization of

the Scout Movement (based in Geneva, Switzerland) reported that nearly 750,000 Scouts participated from more than 6000 stations in operation from 150 countries. As of this writing, it is too early to report the 2012 World Organization numbers, but the USA numbers show a staggering increase in participation.

In early 2012, the Boy Scouts of America's National Radio Scouting Committee took on a number of improvement projects. Those projects included several new supporting resources, such as updated frequency listings, as well as an extensive promotional campaign across a number of media outlets to reach Scouting volunteers, Scouting professionals and Amateur Radio operators.

In addition, Icom America stepped up to promote JOTA as a part of its sponsorship agreement with the BSA providing stations for JOTA and other Scouting events, including the 2013 National Scout Jamboree (see Figure 2) through 2015. Icom loaned stations to local councils, with five stations in action for Jamboree-on-the-Air. You can see all this and more at www.scouting.org/jota.

All that effort resulted in a 200 percent growth in the number of stations reporting their activities, along with a nearly 500 percent increase in the number of reported Scout participants (see Table 1). Stations reported on their events from 136 Scout councils and 41 states.

The station reports documented 1011 Amateur Radio operators involved across 434 stations. Contacts with all 50 states along with 66 countries were reported.

National Scout Jamboree

K2BSA has been in action at every national Scout Jamboree since 1977. However, Amateur Radio has been present since at



Figure 1 — Jamboree-on-the-Air is the largest Scouting event in the world, with nearly 750,000 Scouts participating from more than 6000 stations across 150 countries. Here is a Scout on the air from K2TD during the 2012 Jamboree-on-the-Air. Equipment was obtained through the Icom America equipment loan program.

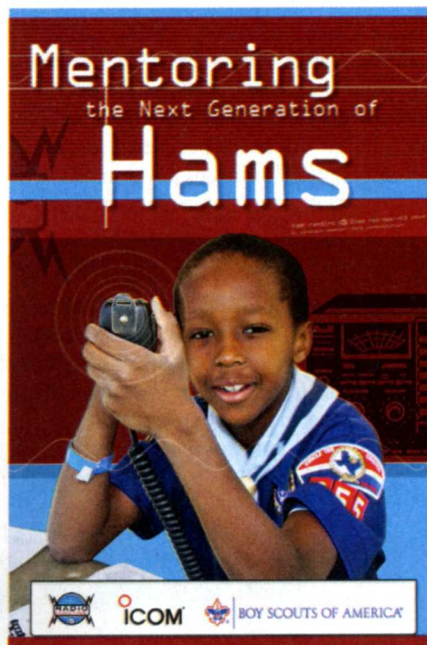


Figure 2 — Icom America promoted Jamboree-on-the-Air through posters and advertisements such as this one.

Table 1
USA JOTA Participation Growth, 2010-2012

	2010	2011	2012	Percentage Change 2011 to 2012
Stations	31	68	204	200%
Scouts	454	3,185	18,537	482%

