

Jamboree on the Air 2011
Station W4B Report
National Capitol Area Council
Chain Bridge District
Troop 822

Station W4B was set up in the ball field of the LDS church at 2034 Great Falls St, Falls Church VA. The station went on the air at 0700 15 Oct 2011 on 40M, 20M, 15M, 10M and 2M, and stayed up until 2145 15 Oct 2011.



Street Entrance



The Station

We had two rigs set up:

1. A Yaesu 857 for HF use, connected to an Alpha-Delta DX-CC fan dipole, and LDG tuner. The antenna was strung between two trees, with the center point about 27 feet above the ground, oriented in an east-west direction. It was powered by a 55AH deep cycle AGM battery. We transmitted at 100W, and used this for all of the JOTA contacts.
2. A Yaesu 1802 for 2M use, connected to an Arrow J-pole on a 25' mast, tied to the side of a soccer goal. It was powered by a 12AH AGM battery. We transmitted at various power levels to station KO3W, but had no other contacts on 2M.



The AD-CC



The Arrow J-pole

The event was publicized at the monthly scout district round table meetings. The emergency preparedness aspect of ham radio fit well with the upcoming camporee theme, which was held on the following weekend. I also went and spoke to three local troops at their monthly meetings, and sent a flyer via the district email distribution.

Activities and Contacts:

We had about seven scouts and their families, and most of the kids (12-15 total) took the opportunity to talk on the radio. We made contacts with (in order of distance) with stations in Seaside, CA, Lake of the Woods, Ontario, Canada, Illinois, Indiana, the northwest and northeast corners of Ohio, North Carolina, New York, West Virginia, near the new New River Gorge Scout Reserve, South Carolina, and Delaware.

We worked on the Radio merit badge with three scouts.

Stations contacted:

Log before 1300 blew away in a gust of wind . . . Spoke with 3 Girl Scouts in NC, 2 Boy Scouts in NC and 2 Boy Scouts in Delaware.

W8FT, Camp Perry, OH

W9TE Steve, Ft Wayne IN

W4FAR, Wilkes Barre, NC

N4FNT, Rick, Woodstock, VA

N2CW, Alexander, 2nd class, Troop 191 West Creek NJ

WA2NEA, Ed, (this is what my messy notes say, but can't find this call in the data base), spoke with Barry, Gavin, Anton, Brianna on my end.



Barry, Webelos



Barry, Gavin, Bear help future Scout Anton, Bridgette, Brianna, Caitlin, Matthew

KO4LZ, Paul, Central NC

KC2INK, NE OH, George, Dave, Troop 336



More visitors



Discussing the antenna setup with K7MPP Terry and visitor Steve

K0HVS, Mississippi Palisades Park, IL, Tyler, 2nd class, 10 year old, didn't log the name
VE3YRI, Lake of the Woods, Ontario, Canada, Christian, 1st year, and Andrew, 2nd year

K6RDO, Seaside CA, John, spoke with Lauren and Mark, 2nd class



Operating late at night

Lessons learned:

1. It takes some time to get set up.
2. Have a few youth to help, including someone who likes to climb trees to fix the jammed pulley, so the adult doesn't have to (even though he still could, and did enjoy it).
3. Have stronger signs that can stand up to a brisk wind.
4. Do a better job of telling the local press about the event.
5. Bring the tools for take down as well as setup, while it is easy to drive the ground rod with a sledge hammer, it takes a long digging bar to pull it back out.
6. Have more clipboards and binders to hold papers down so the log from the morning contacts doesn't end up in the next state.

Suggestions:

1. Have ARRL strongly encourage those running QSO parties to try not to hold them on the same weekend as JOTA.
2. In the issues of QST leading up to October, make a general announcement about the event under "Special Events".
3. Work with BSA to run the JOTA advertisement that runs in Scouting in QST to get more hams involved.
4. Make sure the stations that do send their own "Special Events" announcements to QST also register with the Scout web site.
5. Include a 2M calling frequency for close in stations.

Pete Collat, KI4YBH