

W7S

Local council name and number: Ore-Ida

Unit number: Troop 61

Amateur call sign used: W7S

Amateur call signs heard and worked 28:

CO2RQ, JQ6WBS, K3BDQ, K5OG, K5USA, K6VXI, K7P, K9KBE,
K9LPA, KB0LF, KC8IXD, KD7LLF, KD8ILG, KF7HVQ, KG6TGR,
KJ6EBW, KL2RD, LU8EX, N4ART, N5ZGT, N7TLL, N9LAP, NI6IW,
UA0LOF, W0BLK, W0MHP, W6RSP, WB9AKM

States contacted: 17

Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, New
Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota,
Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Countries contacted: 4

Argentina, Cuba, Japan, Russia

Number of stations participating in your JOTA event: 1 W7S
(K7TKT)

Number of participants in JOTA

Boy Scouts: 3 (Caleb, Kaj and Zak)

Girl Scouts: 1 (Christina)

Radio amateurs: 2 (Brian K7TKT and Kaj KE7NVG, who is also a

scout)

Visitors: 7

Boy Scout Troop 61 along with a Girl Scout and a rattlesnake set up a field day style station on the top of the Initial Survey Point (a butte south of Kuna, Idaho). We worked 17 states on SSB. It was great to be able to work some JOTA stations but often times we'd find that they were engaged in really long QSOs and had to move on to keep things interesting.

The scouts were very excited to get on the air. Some of the high points of the day were:

- Hearing fellows sitting around a campfire on a fiord in Norway talking with another station about their JOTA experience (they were closing down so we couldn't work them). This was the first station we heard and it really got everyone's attention (even the parents :-)
- Working SOTA (summits on the air station) KG6TGR on the top of Killer Peak
- Working NI6IW (USS Midway). Some of our scouts have family in Afghanistan as well as retired military. All enjoyed talking to Ron aboard the Midway.
- Finally getting our digital set up working. Someone (not a scout) had the audio input muted on the laptop.... This was where most of our DX contacts were made. Lots of excitement seeing those foreign country names go into the log.
- The rattlesnake. We were so focused on the radio that we forgot there were other residents of our desolate hilltop. Our

antenna raising poles also worked well to relocate our uninvited friend a little farther from our station.

A good time was had by all. One of the dads is thinking about taking up ham radio. We are also planning a follow up radio merit badge class. The only real problem was that the campout associated with this event was cancelled. This really cut into attendance. Given how much fun the scouts that did show up had, I think we'll need to add a second radio next year.

Equipment: Yaesu FT897D on generator power running 100w into an inverted V doublet at 32'. We also used a Traveler vertical dipole for the digital contacts. Contacts were made on 10m, 15m and 20m.

73, Brian (K7TKT) for W7S







