

# Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

October 2002

## Jota 2002 preface

First of all welcome to the Guide and Brownie Leaders that may be reading the Caterham Radio Group's (CatRad) and Caterham Guide's and Brownies JOTA 2002 report.

There are two radio events that Guides and Brownies can join in. February is Guides Thinking Day On The Air (TDOTA) and the Canadians Guides On The Air (GOTA). Next year 2003, this event is now co-ordinated to run on the third weekend of February, which is very good news. October is Scouts and (Guides) Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Both events are world wide, and run over a period of 48 hours from Midnight Friday to Midnight Sunday. The JOTA event is the largest.

It is expected some 400,000 Scouts, Guides were active over the weekend, supported by Radio Amateur's worldwide over the 48 hour period.

There is lot of support from the Caterham Senior Guider's for the Radio Communication Days using Amateur Radio to communicate around the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. Sending and receiving Greeting Messages, speaking to Guides and Scouts over Amateur Radio.

As one can expect, some guides have revisited the CatRad event five to 12 times. Later as 'helpers'

The Caterham Guiders are very keen for the Radio Communication Badge to continue.

So we come to JOTA 2002 which is based on the eleven previous visits Here is the story.

During August Paul G4APL reviewed the JOTA 2002 paper work, in anticipation of the confirmation from the Caterham Guides 'The Boss' Robin, wanting to run the Radio Communication Day.

Once confirmed Paul contacted the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), to inform them that the Caterham Radio Group (CatRad) would be active again.



**Caterham Brownie during her Phonetic Alphabet test with Ted G7OBF**



**Janette Ralph Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> Guide Leader, Bryan G0SYR operating the HF Station GX0SCR**

## Preparation

The paper work was passed to Janette Ralph 'Robin' Guide Leader Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> Guides, to co-ordinate the Caterham Guide and Brownie companies during September.

The 2002 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for the Caterham Guides and Brownies was held on Saturday 19 October 2002 at the home of Ann and Paul Lewis, who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL.

Ann and Paul have opened up their home twelve times, and re-arranged all the rooms to be able to run this event for the Caterham Guides and Brownies.

The Amateur Radio Callsign used for the event was again GX0SCR, the special event Callsign of the Caterham Radio Group.

During the preceding week Ann and Paul re-arranged the

house and on Friday set-up the equipment in each of the rooms.

#### The Event

Saturday 19 October Paul at 07:00hrs, Paul was again found in the Radio Shack tuning around the 20 metre HF (High Frequency) band, with the HF beam pointing towards New Zealand via the long path

Paul gave the usual CQ call which responded in a reply from ZL2OA. A JOTA Station with 40 Scouts and Guides camping near Wellington New Zealand. Next contact was with VK2YN near Murwillumbah New South Wales Australia. Then at 08:21 Caterham Time we were called by VK3SCP John at Cricklewood Park (46 acres) near Melbourne Australia at a JOTA Camp. Paul chatted to 7 boy and girl scouts while we waited and waited for 08:45



**Belynda M3BYL age 9 Caterham Brownie standing assisting Brownies complete their logs, while Ann G7BSF operating the 2 metre GX0SCR station with Brownies waiting to send their Greeting Messages**



**Caterham Brownie's preparing their Greeting Messages.**



**Snowy Owl 1<sup>st</sup> Caterham assisting with phonetic alphabet exercise.**

when we expected ROBIN our Guider Leader to arrive. In the meantime the CatRad Jota Support Team arrived John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Ted G7OBF. Graham G0LEH arrived later.

HF conditions were excellent. Robin arrived and before she had time to take off her coat. Robin was in the chair talking to the Australian scout leader and two scouts before leaving the shack and organising her Brownies and Guides that started to arrive at 9AM. In the mean time Paul handed control over to Bryan G0SYR chatting to more scouts while our Brownies started preparing their Greeting Message.

Within 25 Minutes Catriona, Alana, Natalie and Belynda were on the air and had spoken to Australia. (Excellent 85 minute contact).

Next call was from New Zealand ZL3FO in Christchurch. Kayleigh spoke to Jack the operator.

We then change Radio bands to 40 Metres at 10AM for 2 hours and worked GB7TIS (Third Ivy Bridge Scouts in Devon, GB7LBL light ship on the river Mersey Liverpool,

GB4JLC John Lowther Centre Kettering Northamptonshire Exchanging two way greeting messages .

Just after Midday Paul tuned up the HF Transmitter and amplifier on 15 Metres. Turned the beam towards the Far East. Contacts resulted with Nova Kahovka (UR6), Slatina (9A2), Odzak Bosnia (T91), Balezino (RV4), Sopron, Hungary (HA1). Things started to buzz now. We got calls from Iceland (TF8), Okazaki Japan (JR2DPL), Tokyo (JQ1TAR), South Korea (HL4SF Operator HO) Guides Clare, Laura and Kathryn spoke to HO's 9 yr old daughter Yelso. Another contact with Tokyo (JA1NVF), Then Hungary. VK6SZ in Kalgoorlie near Perth Western Australia. VK2LRS Sydney Australia. Finish JOTA station OH2S/J.

VK3SAC near Melbourne. JOTA station scouts were in bed as it was midnight.

Time 3:15PM time to change Bands again to 10metres. HF beam turned towards USA as it would be 10AM on the East Coast. We spent the next four and a half hours contacting stations with North America exchanging Greeting Messages





**John G8MNY (out of Picture) conducting an interactive discussion with the Brownies and Guides on radio transmitters, Receiver, aerials & propagation.**

with Orlando Florida., Missouri Nashville, Washington, Chicago, Tennessee, Dallas Texas, W3EXW Pittsburg JOTA, Indianapolis Indiana, Los Angeles, South Carolina, Dayton Ohio, WT4IX Charlotte JOTA Troup 49, K9TIM Denver Troup 1065, Georgetown Texas, New York, Baltimore Maryland.

Packet Radio World Wide Convers.

Natalie chatted on the keyboard with scouts operating from the Scout Head Quarters Station VK6SH Perth Western Australia.

After the last Brownie and Guide left. It was Robin's quality Radio time with Bryan.

Robin spoke to Stations in South Carolina, Dayton Ohio, WT4IX scouts in Troup 49 in Charlotte, K9TIM Girl scouts in Troup 1065 in Denver. New York, Baltimore

The HF station was active 07:00 to 20:00 hours, Caterham Time

72 greeting messages sent. 49 Received 51 Stations contacted.

The VHF 2 metre (145Mhz) Station (10 watts into a co-linear aerial) was in the room where the QSL cards, greeting messages and learning the phonetic alphabet going on in the background. The station went on air with the Brownies at 08:45 Ann G7BSF and Belynda M3BYL in the chair. Graham G0LEH assisted.

The 2metre station was active 08:45 to 19:00 Caterham Time.

128 greeting messages sent. 6 Received 36 Stations contacted.

It was noticeable again this year on 2 metres, that not so many groups were active within 75 Miles of Caterham with or aerial up at 42 feet. 570ft ASL 103 UK special event stations listed and 7 clubs.

Local JOTA stations contacted GB4CDS Chelmsford and District Scouts, GB2ESG 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom Scouts, GB2GP Gillwell Park Scout Camp, GB0WFS Walton Firs Scout Cobham Surrey.

The two Packet Radio PC's were connected into the Caterham Radio Group's TCP/IP server GB7CIP and provided the Guides a few contacts. The best one with the Scout HQ station in Perth Australia.

In the technical area which was looked after by John, and Ted, the Brownies and Guides were able to learn about and how to build a crystal set, Radio Transmitter, Receivers, Aerials. They compared an old mobile phone with a modern phone (Take it apart and rebuild it), propagation, decoding Morse code message, sending their name in Morse as well as phonetic alphabet testing. All tasks required enabling the Brownies to gain their Radio Communication Badge and Guides their Certificate.



**Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> Guide Natalie Cave (4<sup>th</sup> visit) just sent her greeting message with Belynda M3BYL and Graham G0LEH looking on. Brownies in the background working on their greeting messages.**

Lunch time saw Paul again firing up the Barbecue in the garden. Yes it was a nice sunny day. Though on the cool side assisted by Ann and a 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guide 'in her Helper role' Natalie (on her 4<sup>th</sup> visit) Who took the orders and Paul and Ann did their best to ensure the food was burnt enough before being consumed by those present.

All those that attended the JOTA station to work towards their Radio Communication badge or Certificate completed all the required tasks by 18:00.

Janette 'Robin' had some excellent quality Amateur Radio time with Bryan speaking to the USA, while the rest of the house was put back together by Paul, Graham and John. Special thank you from Ann.

23 Guides and Brownies attended their Radio Day.

Anne Wood Brownie Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Caterham Brownies  
Snowy Owl Val 1<sup>st</sup> Caterham Brownies  
Janette Ralph (Robin) 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guides  
Nicola Edwards Guide Leader 5<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guides  
Christain Edwards Guide Leader 11<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies

4 Caterham 1<sup>st</sup> Brownies  
2 Caterham 4<sup>th</sup> Brownies  
3 Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> Brownies  
2 Caterham 11<sup>th</sup> Brownies  
2 Caterham 5<sup>th</sup> Guides  
5 Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> Guides

Supported by 7 Radio Amateurs G4APL, G7BSF, G7OBF, G8MNY, G0SYR M3BYL (Brownie) and 2E1PAL/M3PYL (Young Leader), plus all those Radio Amateur's that came on to give our JOTA station a call to make it a very successful event for the Caterham Guides.

349 Guides, Brownies and Leaders have now visited Paul



**Natalie 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guide on Packet Radio world wide converses [gb7cip.ampr.org](http://gb7cip.ampr.org) chatting to VK6SH Scout HQ Station Perth Australia assisted by Belynda M3BYL 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownie,**

and Ann's home SKY-WAVES over the past six years.

The evening ended with the team sitting down to the usual meal and post event debrief.



Paul G4APL 'Chief Tester' checking and signing off the Brownies work before they get their Radio communication badge, while looking after the BBQ.

After the event Paul spent a few evenings going through the logs to write out a QSL cards for all those Guides and Scouts and stations that we spoke to.

**Thank you all, Guider's, Guide Helpers and the CatRad Jota Team**

**≧A JOB WELL DONE≦**



**Caterham 9<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Guides listening to 2metres sending and receiving greeting messages under the control of Belynda.**

Thinking Day On The Air 2003  
CatRad + Guides TDOTA 2003  
Saturday 15/16 February 2003