

Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

October 2003

Jota 2003 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 2003 report.

The 3rd weekend in October was very busy for the Caterham Guides and the East Surrey Division. On Friday evening they started the 24 hour sponsored Camp Fire Sing-A-Thon.

Where they sung for 24 hours in relays.

On Saturday those that were able to. Attended the JOTA event at 'SKY-WAVES'

There are two radio events that Guides and Brownies can join in. February is Guides Thinking Day On The Air (TDOA) and the Canadians Guides On The Air (GOTA). This event is now co-ordinated to run on the third weekend of February. 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. Sending, Receiving Greeting messages and meeting other Guides and Scouts over the Amateur Radio Airwaves on the Short wave bands as well on the VHF bands using the various modes available.

This will be the 14th time that Caterham Guides and Brownies have held the event at the home of Ann and Paul Lewis who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL.



Caterham Brownie listening to Mike G3TWJ operating the HF Station GX0SCR

As one can expect, some guides have revisited the CatRad event 5 to 14 times. Later as 'helpers'

There is still support by the Caterham Guides for their Radio Communications Days.

So we come to the 46th annual JOTA event which was being run as on previous visits.. Here is the story.

Preparation

During June, Paul G4APL reviewed the JOTA 2003 paper work. As he knew he had another project to complete that would take up a lot of his spare time during July to



9th Caterham Guide Natalie speaking over the Amateur Radio HF short wave bands

September to complete.

Once the September Guide meetings were underway. Robin confirmed that JOTA is to go ahead. Though numbers of guides wishing to attend will be unknown until closer to the JOTA event.

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

Once confirmed Paul contacted the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), to inform them that the Caterham Radio Group (CatRad) would be active again on Saturday 18th October 2003.

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.

Paul was also monitoring the Short Wave bands the previous weekend which were excellent. During the week, band conditions became very poor. This was due to Geomagnetic disturbances caused by strong Solar winds during the period 14th to 22 October. That was going to upset the Magnet Field around the planet earth on which short wave signal bounce around the world.

The Event

Saturday 18 October Paul at 06:50hrs, Paul was in the Radio Shack tuning around the 20 metres HF (High Frequency) band, with the HF beam pointing towards New Zealand via the long path As Paul expected it was going to be a hard day as nothing was heard on the 21 and 28Mhz



Robin enjoying a contact with the Brownies listening in, with Ann G7BSF operating the 2 metre GX0SCR station.



9th Caterham Guide Laura, helping Brownie's to prepare their Greeting Messages.

Amateur bands. Only a few signals could be heard on 20metres. One from Greece and a station in Russia.

Belynda Lewis M3BYL and 9th Caterham Guide arrived in the radio shack and started calling CQ (seek you) on twenty metres (14Mhz) and spoke to two local stations.

Andy G0KZT arrived at 08:15 (07:15 UTC) and took over on 20m and spoke to a station in Allicante Spain. Phone rang. It was Bryan G0SYR phoning to advise that he has a bad cold and would have to miss the event this time round. In the mean time Mike G3TWJ, John G8MNY, Trevor G7BWE and Ted G7OBF arrived to assist.

Robin (Janette Ralph) our Guide Leader arrived at 8:45AM and settled in straight away. Followed (9AM to 9:30AM) by twelve Guides (8 of which were on their 2nd to 7th visit) and Brownies.

At 07:45 UTC we were still calling on 20metres and answered by VK5BP Woodhouse Scouts Adelaide Australia. We had a good contact (8:45 to 9:22 AM

Caterham Time)07:45 to 08:22 UTC With Belynda having a few words with Keith the Radio Amateur operating from Adelaide. Following that we contacted VK2GGV near Sydney and VK3BEZ Jota Station Glengarry. Both stations in Australia.

Band conditions had become poor and unstable again and we were having difficulties hearing these stations. At 09:00 UTC we decided to change frequency to 40 Metres (7MHz) for the next four hours to contact stations around the UK and across the English Channel.

Mike and Andy operated the HF station. Robin and the Guide Helpers ensured those completing the require tasks were speaking or listening to any new stations contacted.

13:00 UTC that station was operating on 14Mhz and spoke to stations in Opole Poland, Nr Toronto Canada, Slovenia, New York USA, Budapest Hungary. And a JOTA station in



9th Caterham Guide's Sophie sending Morse code with Katie looking on.



Caterham Brownie sending her message over the HF airwaves.

the Azores. Radio Conditions were now getting poor as signals were unstable again. So it was decided at 14:40UTC to switch over to 21Mhz and turn the HF beam towards America.

Contacts were made with Kingston Jamaica, Elizabeth Pennsylvania, Charlotte Carolina, Atlanta Georgia, Rossville USA, French Creek NW Pennsylvania, Nashville Tennessee, and another station in New York. Again radio conditions were not good on this band.

The HF station was active 06:00 to 18:00 hours UTC 84 greeting messages sent. 43 Received 37 Stations contacted.

Packet Radio World Wide Convers. (05:45 to 18:00 UTC) Two PC's were set-up in different rooms and connected in to the AmateurPacketRadioNETwork (ampnet) over TCPIP radio and Internet links. WorldWide convers network, accessing via the Caterham Radio Group GB7CIP local server.

This was very popular with the Guides (Laura, Katie, Sophie, Natalie, Chantel, Emma, Zoe) as there was chit chat between the rooms as well as with stations PE1AUK located in Groningen Netherlands, dl0hms German Club Station Hamelin-Scouts, JQ42QC.

pa3ewg-6 Dutch JOTA station.

vk2hre: Broken Hill Australia

sm7wcz:otto in Sweden.

g7wje Harry in Essex

where they could practice their Dutch and German.

A log was maintained for Robin (Guider to review after the event)

The VHF 2 metre (145Mhz) Station (25 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(UTC) Ann G7BSF, John, G8MNY, Andy G0KZT assisting throughout the day. Later in the afternoon Annabel 2E1PAL and Belynda M3BYL assisted in the message

handling.

The 2metre station was active 08:45 to 18:00 UTC.

119 greeting messages sent. 25 Received 12 Stations contacted.

It was noticeable again this year on 2 metres, that not so many groups were active within 75 Miles of Caterham with our aerial up at 45 feet. 570ft ASL 102 UK special event stations listed and 8 clubs.

Four JOTA stations contacted GB4CDS Chelmsford District Scouts, GB7PSG Purley Scout Group, GB2ESG Epsom 7th Scout Group, GB0HDS Hindhead Scouts,

In the technical area which was looked after by John, and Ted, the Brownies and Guides were able to learn about and



Technical Area – 9th Caterham Guide Emma, connecting up a coil into the Crystal set she is building. While John G8MNY looks on.

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.

A Brownie brought along her own Crystal set to be tested and proved that it works with a long wire aerial

Lunch time saw Paul again firing up the Barbecue in the garden. It was nice sunny day. Though with an Easterly wind shielded by the house, this made it a very pleasant outside BBQ. Assisted by Ann and the Caterham Guide helpers, 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.

Photographs taken during the event by Trevor G7BWE and Paul G4APL.

After the event, John and Paul put the house back together.

31 Guides, Brownies and Leaders attended their Radio Communication Day.
A total of 68 Greeting Messages were received and 203 sent.

Janette Ralph (Robin) 9th Caterham Guides
Anne Wood Brownie Leader 1st Caterham Brownies
Karen Booth Brownie Leader 9th Caterham Brownies
Annabel Lewis (2E1PAL) Assistant to Brownie & Guides

5 1st Caterham Brownies
4 4th Caterham Brownies
3 9th Caterham Brownies
2 11th Caterham Brownies



9th Caterham Guide Laura giving instructions to Brownie.

1 5th Caterham Guides
1 7th Caterham Guides
11 9th Caterham Guides

Supported by 8 Radio Amateurs G4APL, G7BSF, G7OBF, G7BWE, G8MNY, G0KZT, M3BYL (Guide) and 2E1PAL/M3PYL, plus all those Radio Amateur's that came on to give our JOTA station a call to make it a very



Paul G4APL 'looking' after the BBQ.

successful event for the Caterham Guides.

400 Guides, Brownies and Leaders have now visited Paul and Ann's home SKY-WAVES over the past seven years (14 events).

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

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.



Caterham Brownie sending her greeting message via 2metre station.

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

≡A JOB WELL DONE≡

Web Site

<http://www.theskywaves.net>

Thinking Day On The Air 2004
CatRad + Guides TDOTA 2004
Saturday 21st February 2004