

Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

October 2005

Jota 2005 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 2005 report.

The 3rd weekend in October (Saturday) the Caterham Guides were able to attend the 48th JOTA event at 'SKY-WAVES'.

This years event was again organised on the third weekend of October. We had been notified of around 100 Scout and Guide groups operating from Amateur Radio Special Event or Clubs stations in UK. So lets see if we can locate some of them on the short wave frequencies.

The Girlguiding UK Association now issue a GOTA (Guides On The Air) badge. This event is a first step of gaining an insight to the some of the various aspects of communication via wireless, be it a mobile phone, analogue or digital television, data and computer communications.

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).

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. The first Jamboree On The Air was held in 1958.

The year event was run over a 48 hour period over the weekend, supported by Radio Amateur's worldwide. Sending and Receiving Greeting messages. Meeting other Guides and Scouts over the Amateur Radio Airwaves on the Short Wave bands (High Frequency) as well on the VHF (Very High Frequency) bands using the various modes available.

This is the 18th 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.

As one can expect, some guides have revisited the CatRad event 7 to 18 times. Later as 'helpers' Each



9th Caterham Guide Laura M3LRA (middle) assisting with the Check logging.



Learning the Phonetic Alphabet and designing a QSL card



BBQ Time with Paul G4APL

Brownie or Guide requires about four hours to complete the tasks.

Brownies visiting for the first time are working towards their Radio Communicator Badge.

First Time Guides work towards their Communication in the Community and Get on the Airwave badge as well as completing the tasks for the certificate.

Second time guides work on additional tasks and assist the operators in running the station. Third visits, starting to get the hang of Amateur Radio assisting the other Brownies and Guides. They may then be interested enough to complete a Radio Amateur Foundation Course run by other clubs.

The 9th Caterham Guide leader is very enthusiastic for their Radio Communication Day using Amateur Radio.

Robin is proud to have three Licensed Radio Amateur's with M3 callsigns in the 9th Caterham and one in 7th Caterham Guides...

So we come to the 48th annual JOTA event which was going to run as on previous visits. Here is the story.

Preparation

During June 2005, Paul G4APL on annual leave spent some of the time reviewing the JOTA 2005 paper work.

During September, Robin confirmed that JOTA is to go ahead. Though numbers of guides wishing to attend will be unknown until the JOTA event. (after they arrive) The paper work was passed to Janette Ralph 'Robin' Guide Leader Caterham 9th Guides, to co-ordinate the Caterham Guide and Brownie



Belynda M3BYL Check Logging



Caterham Guides sending their Greeting Messages. VHF 2metre Operate Sophie M3SOF with Abigail M3JGJ Standing



Paul G4APL checking signing off. Right Robin assisting.

to identify the source of a Water leak. Remove and remake a plug connection on a transmitter feeder cable.

Paul was also monitoring the Short Wave bands during previous week. On the Friday they appeared very good on 21MHz. Paul read a solar report That stated the Suns solar flux level would be around 80 as we near the bottom of the 23rd 11th year cycle. The minimum due mid 2006. We will just have to wait and see what we can do for our Guides and Brownies on the day.

The Tower supporting all the aerials was raised to the full height to enable the best chance of getting our signals out.

The Event

Saturday 15 October Paul at 06:30hrs Caterham Time, Paul was found to be powering up the two network PC's linked to Caterham's gb7cip.ampr.org server. Running the Amateur Radio worldwide convers links, and checking the 2Metre VHF and HF stations were ready.

Paul did notice that VK6SH had logged on when he was away from the screen. We failed to make two way contact. Shame really as we had good contacts with Western Australia last year.

Robin the 9th Caterham Guide Leader (The_Big_Boss) arrived at 08:45hrs and got briefing update from Paul.

Followed five minutes later by 7th Caterham Guide Abigail M3JGJ and 9th Caterham Guides Laura M3LRA, Sophie M3SOF arrived to join Belynda M3BYL. Paul was very please to see all the YCRG

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 this year on Saturday 15th October 2005.

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

A few weeks before the event, it appeared that Paul would be short of Radio Amateur operators. With Ann G7BSF, Annabel 2E1PAL, Bryan G0SYR advising that they are not available due to having to go to work. A few days before the Event John G8MNY had to go to Hospital and not well enough to leave his home. So Paul was relying on the 'Young Caterham Radio Group Members'.

During the preceding two weeks Ann and Paul started to re-arranged the house. So that on Friday before the event, Paul would not have so much to do. Though running cables, checking the aerials and preparing the rooms found Paul still doing the final touches late Friday evening. During the day Paul had

members were on parade. Paul gave the team briefing on the Operating requirements

In the mean time, Mike G3TJW and Ted G7OBF. Later we would be joined by Trevor G7BWE who would support the Event by taking a few photographs.

08:35UTC Mike and Abigail would start off operating the HF Station. Speaking to stations on 40 Metres. Paul would act as back-up HF Operator when Mike had a rest period.

Whilst Laura, Sophie and Belynda were to operate the VHF 2 Metre station overseen by Paul G4APL.

They would swap over during the day so as to gain maximum experience in operating on the Short Wave and VHF Amateur Radio Frequencies.

By 09:30 we had eight Brownies and Guides in the other rooms preparing their greeting messages. Polishing up on their phonetic alphabet that they were learning the previous week. (After all they have to take a test later)

Robin ensured those completing the require tasks were speaking or listening to any new stations contacted.

12:00 UTC. Paul change the frequency band that station was operating on to 21MHz. Just after tuning up the Transmitter valves. We contacted HZ1SBS JOTA Scout station in Riyada Saudi Arabia operator Fahad. This was followed by YB0ZS Jakarta JOTA Scouts in Indonesia operator Suba.

The HF short Wave beam was turn away from the Far East towards North America. Contact was made with W1AW ARRL HQ Station, W5RRR Johnson Space Centre.

Abigail had some intense instruction from Paul, as she worked a "pile up" of stations for 40 minutes.

The HF Station also contacted on 40 Metres JOTA GB8IBM 81st Birmingham Scouts, GB0SPS St Brides, GB0WHT Wilson House Troup Crewe Cheshire, GB4BDS Banstead District Scouts Surrey,

On 21MHz contact was made with Florida, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio, Atlanta, Rhode Island, California USA Ottawa, Winnipeg, Canada

The HF station was active 08:35 to 17:00 hours UTC 17 greeting messages sent. 16 Received 45 Stations contacted.

Packet Radio World Wide Convers. (08:00 to 19:00 UTC)

Two PC's were set-up in different rooms and connected in to the AmateurPacketRadioNETwork (amprnet) over TCP/IP radio and Internet links.

WorldWide convers network, accessing via the Caterham Radio Group GB7CIP local server.

We did not have many Guides available to use this facility all the time. Though Ted in between the Phonetic Alphabet testing was found active on the convers chat channel.

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 08:25(UTC) (9:25AM) Main



Caterham Brownies 'showing' Paul G4APL how VHF Radio waves travel over a Hill.

operators were Laura M3LRA, Sophie M3SOF. Belynda M3BYL and Abigail M3JGJ operated the VHF station, Logging and Check logging taking turns, contacted stations around the UK. Overseen by Paul G4APL. Ted G7OBF assisted during the lunch time period to allow the Guides to enjoy their BBQ lunch.

With our aerial up at 45 feet. 570ft ASL (Above Sea Level) and 98 UK special event stations listed and 5 clubs. Our JOTA station contacted, GB2RST (Radio Scouting Team), GB2GUN(Bisley Camp), GB2ESG (7th Epsom Scouts), GB4BDS (Banstead District Scouts), GB0SBS Steeple Bumpstead Scouts
The 2Metre station was active 08:25 to 18:00 UTC. 122 greeting messages sent. 54 Received and 21 Stations worked.

There was no technical area this time. As effort was concentrated on preparing messages, Phonetic alphabet and speaking over the radio waves.

Paul held Interactive sessions with the Brownies. Where they learnt how radios were used, assisting him in the drawing of how radio voice communication get over a hill. They also learnt the basic components of a Radio Transceiver. This was a very two way "Interactive session"

All the required tasks completed enabled the Brownies to gain their Radio Communication Badge and Guides their Badge.



Badge designed by Robin and her daughter

(Late)Lunch time saw Paul again firing up the Barbecue in the garden. It was a glorious Sunny day with cloudless sky. Belynda assisted Paul in place of his wife Ann G7BSF who had to work. Also took the orders and Paul made sure there was enough food to eat. by those present.

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

A few photographs were taken during the event by Trevor G7BWE. After the event, the following day the house was put back together.

17 Guides, Brownies and Leaders (Including the four Guide Radio Amateurs) attended their Radio Communication Day. A total of 70 Greeting Messages were received and 139 sent.

Janette Ralph (Robin) 9th Caterham Guides
Anne Wood Brownie Leader 1st Caterham Brownies

- 2 1st Caterham Brownies
- 5 4th Caterham Brownies
- 2 7th Caterham Guides
- 6 9th Caterham Guides

Supported by 8 Radio Amateurs G3TWJ, G4APL,

G7BWE, G7OBF, M3BYL (Guide) M3LRA (Guide) M3SOF (Guide), M3JGJ(Guide) 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. These also included CatRad Members Bob G3DPW, John G8MNY.

487 Guides, Brownies and Leaders have now visited Paul and Ann's home 'SKY-WAVES' over the past nine years (18 events).

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



Caterham Brownies Drawing of how radio waves travel Including fireworks.

**A Special thank you to the four M3
7th and 9th Caterham 'YCRG'
Guide Operators
Abigail M3JGJ, Belynda M3BYL
Laura M3LRA, Sophie M3SOF
who between them operated the
VHF Station for 98% of the time**

and

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

**≡A JOB WELL DONE≡
Web Site**

<http://www.theskywaves.net>

Thinking Day On The Air 2006
CatRad + Guides TDOA 2006
Saturday 18th February 2006