

Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

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Jota 2006 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 JOTA 2006 report.

This years event is the 49th JOTA. Organised on the third weekend of October. We had been notified of around 80 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 Amateur Radio 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 over radio (wireless) 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 Girl Scouts (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 of the two.

The first Jamboree On The Air was held in 1958. This years 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 20th time that Caterham Guides and Brownies have held their 'Radio Communications day' event at the home SKY-WAVES 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 10 to 20 times. Later as 'helpers' Each Brownie or Guide requires about four hours to complete the tasks.

Brownies visiting for the first time are working towards



Caterham 4th Brownies, 'Robin' Guide Leader at rear. Left to Right M3BYL Check Logger, M3LRA Operating, M3SOF Logging.



Laura M3LRA operating the HF Station



BBQ in self combustion mode.

With Paul G4APL and Ann G7BSF

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 apply and join 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 four Licensed Radio Amateur's with three M3 callsigns in the 9th Caterham Guides and one in 7th Caterham Guides...

So we come to the 49th annual JOTA event which was going to be run as on previous visits. Here is the story.

Preparation

During August 2006, Paul G4APL reviewed and updated the JOTA 2006 paper work. 12 Guides and Brownie spaces are available for the morning and afternoon sessions. Excluding the Guides who hold a current Amateur Radio licence. Who will be part of the CatRad team.

'Robin' Janette Ralph Guide Leader Caterham 9th Guide had previously confirmed in the Guide diary of events published at the start September. 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 Robin to



Caterham 9th Guides M3SOF Sophie, M3LRA Laura. What was that DX Callsign! Did you get it?

co-ordinate the Caterham Guide and Brownie companies during September and October. 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 21st October 2006. This clashes with the local school half term holidays. It's possible that a lot of the guides will have family commitments on this weekend.

Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) are no longer responsible for issuing special event Callsigns as this been taken over by OFCOM.

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 and Ted G7OBF advising that they are not available. Due to having to go to work or on Holiday. Paul also found out that he had a back injury and has been advised no lifting, twisting, stretching or bending.



13cm 2400MHz Wireless Link to GB7CIP chat server

So Paul was relying on the 'Young Caterham Radio Group M3 Members to be available.

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. Thursday evening Ann gave the news to Paul. That she had been ask to swap working the Saturday shift. Which meant Ann was available for this years event.

Thursday evening before the event with Paul out of action. Ann G7BSF, Belynda M3BYL and Annabel 2E1PAL helped Paul out, in setting up the room, tables and running cables. While Paul connected up the equipment.

This time Paul would demonstrate Amateur Radio (Wireless) using the Amateur Radio 13cm 2400MHz band. Connecting to the Radio Amateur World Wide Convers amprnet (AmateurPacketRadioNETwork) network, or Sending Data Over Radio. Using a Laptop. Running Xchat and a Wireless Lan (WiFi) card connected to a 12 element yagi aerial. To access the local GB7CIP access point currently being tested. They would also use other networked laptops using the Linux or windows operating systems.

Paul was also monitoring the Short Wave bands during the week. Conditions did not appear very good. The Solar Flux index was 70, 71. This figure is very low, as we are still in the 23rd eleven year Solar Cycle minima. We will just have to wait and see what we can do for our Guides and Brownies on the day.

Paul was not allowed to raise the tower supporting all

the aerals due to his injury.

The Event

Saturday 21 October Paul at 07:00hrs Caterham Time, Paul was found to be powering up the network PC's and laptop's linked to Caterham's gb7cip.ampr.org server. Running the Amateur Radio worldwide convers links, and checking the 2 Metre VHF and HF stations were ready.

Checking 20 Metres no signals were heard from Australia. Radio conditions seemed poor at that time.

Robin the 9th Caterham Guide Leader (The_Big_Boss) arrived at 08:45hrs.

John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Laura M3LRA, Sophie M3SOF had also arrived and got briefing update from Paul. Soon after 9AM Alan Betts G0HIQ arrived to help out and see how the CatRad and Caterham Guides ran their Radio Communication day. Alan is the driving force behind the Radio Communication Foundation Course, and is keen to encourage youngsters into getting involved in Amateur Radio.

Only 4 Brownies from the 4th Caterham Brownies turned up for the morning session. The others did not turn up to make up the 12 places available.

08:30UTC Mike and Bryan would start off operating the HF Station. Speaking to stations on 40 Metres. The rest of the HF team would be Laura M3LRA and Sophie M3SOF overseen by Paul. As expected the HF band conditions were poor with stations fading out. Contact were made with Dortmund Germany, PA0M/Jota Acht, PA3GPS Hoogland, UK Jota Stations GB2TWH Taunton, GB4SDS Salisbury, MW0EVS/J. GB2LC Marple, GB1FRE Forest Row other UK Stations in Ellsmere, Old Coulsdon, Wigan, Kendal, Plymouth. Helston.

On 20 Metres contact with Germany, Austria, London England, Stockholm Sweden, Ukhta North Russia, Prague, Oslo Norway. Washington USA (K3PZN Jota) On 15 Metres CU7N (Jota), GB4SBS(Jota Bracknell) GB2ODS(jota Odiham)

The VHF 2 Metre station would be managed by Ann G7BSF and the operators Belynda M3BYL, Laura M3LRA and Sophie M3SOF.

They would swap over during the day so as to gain maximum experience in operating on the Short Wave and VHF Amateur Radio Frequencies. During the rest period they would be able to communicate using the Network Laptops connected to the World Wide amprnet convers.

On 2 Metres we had excellent support from Jim M0UJC Stanmore, Terry M3TEP Waltham Abbey, John G6KNK Hillingdon. Further help from M3ZYA South Norwood, G3TLB Crowborough, G0OXJ Abbots Langley. JOTA Station worked and assisted were GB2ESG Epsom Scouts, GB4BDS Banstead Scouts. One of our Brownies stated that she had three

hamsters, named Lettuce, Cucumber and Marmite. That we thought were unusual names. ☺

Our operators kept a listening watch on the 2 metre calling frequency. Ready to assist other JOTA stations as and when required. No others were heard despite our 2 metre aerial being on top of the tower at around 40 feet above ground level.

The Brownies preparing their greeting messages. Designing and drawing their QSL card. Polishing up on their phonetic alphabet that they were learning the previous week. (After all they have to take a test later) before they went on the air.

Robin ensured those completing the require tasks



Caterham 4th Brownies with Robin Guide Leader and the VHF operating Team M3SOF Operator, M3BYL Check Log, M3LRA at rear.

were speaking or listening to any new stations contacted.

Elizabeth 4th Caterham Brownie is so 'hooked' with Amateur Radio that this was her 5th visit. Her father enquired about the Radio Amateur Foundation Communication Course and Exam. So it was the opportunity for Alan G0HIQ to give the details and further encouragement. Paul looks forward hopefully to welcoming Elizabeth as part of the operating team in February 2007. ☺

The HF station was active 08:30 to 17:15 hours UTC 25 greeting messages sent. 23 Received 28 Stations contacted.

Packet Radio World Wide Convers. (08:00 to 17:30 UTC)

Four PC's were set-up and connected in to the AmateurPacketRadioNETwork (amprnet) over TCPIP radio and Internet links. WorldWide convers network, accessing via the Caterham Radio Group GB7CIP local server.

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 at 40 feet above ground level)

The station went on air with the Brownies at 08:46(UTC) (9:46AM) Main operators were Laura M3LRA, Sophie M3SOF. Belynda M3BYL operated the VHF station, Logging and Check logging taking turns, contacted stations around the UK. Overseen by Ann G7BSF.



Technical Session lead by John G8MNY, Alan G0HIQ standing. Caterham 4th Brownies looking at electronic components

The 2 Metre station was active 08:46 to 17:10 UTC. 53 greeting messages sent. 6 Received and 8 Stations worked.

The technical area that was set-up was not used this time. As no second time guides attended. Effort was concentrated on preparing messages, Phonetic alphabet, technical interactive talks and speaking over the radio waves.

The interactive talks were lead by John G8MNY. Where they learnt how radios were used. The Brownies were shown and held the insides of a radio and electronic components. They also learnt the basic components of a Radio Transceiver and how the signal went around the world.

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

Lunch time saw Paul again firing up the Barbecue in the garden, before the expected heavy rain that arrived a few hours later. Laura, Sophie assisted Ann and Paul taking the orders. Paul made sure there was enough food to eat by those present.

As there were no second and third time guiders. There was no body to make the drinks. Leaving Ann to take on that task.

All those that attended the JOTA station to work

towards their Radio Communication badge completed all the required tasks by 17:00. (5PM)

A few photographs were taken during the event by Laura, Paul and Ann. After the event, the tables, chairs and the house was put back together.

13 Guides, Brownies and Leaders (Including the three Guide Radio Amateurs) attended their Radio Communication Day. A total of 39 Greeting Messages were received and 78 sent. 75 UK JOTA special event stations and 5 clubs listed

Janette Ralph (Robin) 9th Caterham Guide Leader
8 4th Caterham Brownies
4 9th Caterham Guides

Supported by 9 Radio Amateurs G3TWJ, G4APL, G7BSF, G8MNY, G0HIQ, G0SYR, M3BYL (Guide) M3LRA (Guide) M3SOF (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 Andy G0KZT.

513 Guides, Brownies and Leaders have now visited Paul and Ann's home 'SKY-WAVES' over the past ten years (20 events). Bryan, John, Alan joined Belynda, Ann and Paul for the follow up meal and debrief of the days event.

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.

**A Special thank you to the three
M3 9th Caterham 'YCRG'
Guide Operators
Belynda M3BYL, Laura M3LRA,
Sophie M3SOF
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 2007
CatRad + Guides TDOTA 2007
Saturday 17th February 2007
2007 100th Anniversary Scout and Guiding