

Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

October 2007

Jota 2007 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 2007 report.

This years event is the 50th JOTA. Organised on the third weekend of October. We had been notified of around 149 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.

This event is a first step of gaining an insight to 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 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.

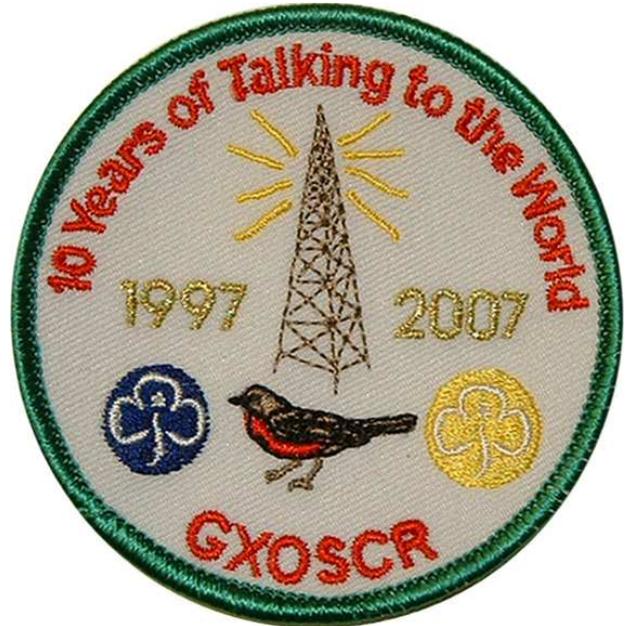
This year it would run for 50 hours as part of the 50th Anniversary of JOTA and 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

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 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 22nd time that Caterham Guides and Brownies have held their 'Radio Communications day' event at 'SKY-WAVES' the home of Ann and Paul Lewis who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL.

Their first visit was in February 1997. When 36 Guides and Brownies are recorded in the Visitors log.



Caterham Radio Group and Caterham 9th Guides Radio Communications Day 10th Anniversary.
Badge Designed by 9th Caterham Guide Belynda M3BYL

To date we have had 553 Guide and Brownies Visitors recorded in to the Visitors log.

Caterham Radio Group 9th Caterham Guides Celebrate 1997 – 2007 10th Anniversary

This year celebrates the special relationship that the Caterham Radio Group has with the 9th Caterham Guides being the 10th Anniversary. As a result following last years JOTA. Robin had commissioned a competition for her Guides who held an Amateur Radio license, to design a once off Badge. Resulting in the badge designed by Belynda 9th Caterham Guides (M3BYL).

Illustrating the Brownie and Guide badges, Robin (Guide Leader), Amateur Radio aerial tower and the Caterham Radio Group Special Event Club Callsign GX0SCR. The X in the callsign identifying the callsign as an Amateur Radio Club event.

We have heard that another Caterham guide has now

passed her Foundation Amateur Radio Course.

Congratulations to Susanna 7th Caterham Guide who is the proud owner of amateur radio callsign M3ZUS.

Currently the Caterham Guides now have five licensed Radio Amateurs. Susanna was unable to attend this event due to other commitments.

As one can expect, some guides have revisited the CatRad event 10 to 21 times. Later as 'helpers' Each Brownie or Guide requires about four hours to complete the tasks. For example Sophie (M3SOF)(15), Belynda (M3BYL)(22)

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 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 currently five Licensed Radio Amateur's with three M3 callsigns in the 9th Caterham Guides and two in 7th Caterham Guides as a result of these activities.

So we come to the 50th annual JOTA event which was going to be run as on previous visits. Here is the story.

Preparation

During July 2007, Paul G4APL reviewed and updated the JOTA 2007 paper work. The event will be run as on Previous year. As it takes a lot of effort and commitment of the family when preparing the house ready for JOTA

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' 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 co-ordinate the Caterham Guide and Brownie companies during September and October. October Paul updated

the UK Radio Scouting Web site to advise that the Caterham Radio Group (CatRad) would be active again this year on Saturday 20th October 2007 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.

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 Mike G3TWJ and Ted G7OBF advising that they are not available.

So Paul was relying on the support from his wife Ann G7BSF, daughters Belynda M3BYL and Annabel 2E1PAL as well as any of the 'Young Caterham Radio Group M3 Guide Members that would arrive on the day.

During the preceding 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.

Paul again took a couple days of annual leave so that the house and radio shack could be re-arranged. The aerials checked out. The tower supporting the aerials would be raised to the full height to ensure that we send and receive strong radio signals,

Thursday Paul was setting up the room, tables and running cables. Friday was spent connecting up the radio equipment in another room and setting up a computer network for the guides to use.

Paul was also monitoring the Short Wave bands during the week. Conditions did not appear very good. The Solar Flux index was very low 68. 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.

The Event

Saturday 20 October Paul at 07:15hrs 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 again. In

fact worse than the previous two days at that time. The decision was made that we would start our operations on the 7MHz 40 Metre band.

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

John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR had also arrived
Sophie M3SOF arrived at 11AM.

Only 2 Brownies from the 4th Caterham Brownies and 3 9th Caterham Guides including Sophie turned up for the morning session. .

08:11UTC Bryan would start off operating the HF Station. Speaking to stations on 40 Metres. Bryan ran the HF station most of the day with Annabel and Robin assisting in the background, until Paul G4APL took over late afternoon.

As expected the HF band conditions were poor with stations fading out as last year. Contact were made with the following JOTA Stations

SN100S	Poland
CT7EMG	100KM N Lisbon Portugal 36 Group one
5P1S	Zeeland Island
HB50S	Geneva Switzerland
WA4USN	USS York Town aircraft carrier
Charleston	South Caroline Scout Camp Onboard
CU2S	
TF3JAM	Reykjavik Iceland Scout House 100 Scouts
VE4YU	Winnipeg Canada Ex Cub, Scout Leader
W1FY	Framingham 25Mile west of Boston USA

Countries worked Europe

Poland, Germany, Scotland, Netherlands, Azores, Portugal, Zeeland Island(Denmark), Switzerland, Italy, Iceland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Sweden, Malta, Croatia,

Countries work outside Europe

USA States, Florida, Chicago, Michigan, Philadelphia, South Carolina, Virginia, Maine, Massachusetts,
Canada, New Brunswick
Oman

The VHF 2 Metre station would be managed by Ann G7BSF and the operators Belynda M3BYL and Sophie M3SOF. Annabel 2E1PAL also assisting the Operators with some operating and logging in the background.

On 2 Metres the JOTA stations worked were
GB50ESG Epsom Scout Group
GB50OBS Banstead Scout Group
GB50WWS Wymondley Wood Scouts (Letchworth)
GB2GP Gillwell Park Scout Head Quarters
GB4SBS 2nd Bracknell Scouts

Counties worked

Kent, Surrey, Essex, South London Berkshire Buckinghamshire.

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 the Phonetic test later with John G8MNY) before they went on the air.

Robin and Clair 2nd time 9th Caterham Guide ensured those completing the require tasks were speaking or listening to any new stations contacted.

Elizabeth now progressed from the 4th Caterham Brownies to 9th Caterham Guides is so 'hooked' with Amateur Radio that this was her 7th visit. Her father enquired about the Radio Amateur Foundation Communication Course and Exam after last years JOTA.

The HF station was active 08:15 to 17:00 hours UTC 26 greeting messages sent. 29 Received 35 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 TCP/IP radio and Internet links. WorldWide convers network, accessing via the Caterham Radio Group GB7CIP local server.

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 08:15(UTC) Main operators were Sophie M3SOF and Belynda M3BYL who operated the VHF station, Logging and Check logging taking turns, contacted stations around the UK. Overseen by Ann G7BSF.

The 2 Metre station was active 08:15 to 17:15 UTC. 44 greeting messages sent. 12 Received and 14 Stations worked.

The technical area that was set-up and was used to build and learn about the crystal set and preparing messages. Learning the Phonetic alphabet. .

The technical interactive talks were lead by John G8MNY. Where they learnt how radios were used and were shown different types of handhelds and

mobile phones.

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. It was a lovely day around lunch time. Assisting Paul was Ann and Belynda taking the orders. Paul and Ann made sure there was enough food to eat by those present.

There was no body to make the drinks. Leaving Ann and Paul 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)

No photographs were taken this time as Paul was too occupied during the event.

After the event, the tables, chairs and the house was put back together.

12 Guides, Brownies and Leader (Including the two Guide Radio Amateurs) attended their Radio Communication Day.

A total of 41 Greeting Messages were received and 79 sent.

147 UK JOTA special event stations and 5 clubs listed

Janette Ralph (Robin) 9th Caterham Guide Leader
5 4th Caterham Brownies
6 9th Caterham Guides

Supported by 7 Radio Amateurs G4APL, G7BSF, G8MNY, G0SYR, M3BYL (Guide), M3SOF (Young Leader), 2E1PAL 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, Alvin G6DTW,

John, joined Belynda, Ann and Paul for the follow up

meal and debrief of the days event.

After the event Paul spent a few evenings and weekend 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 two
M3 9th Caterham 'YCRG'
Guide Operators
Belynda M3BYL,
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 2008
16 and 17th February 2008