

Guides Thinking Day on the Air 1998

The 1998 Guides Thinking Day On The Air for the Caterham Guides and Brownies was held on Saturday 21st February at the home of Ann and Paul Lewis, who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL.

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

In January with Janette 'THE BOSS' of the 9th Caterham Guides confirmed the guides would like to activate TDOTA this year. Preparation and learning of the Phonetic Alphabet, The Thinking Day greeting message, was prepared in advance. Thus enabling the other tasks to be completed on the day towards the guides gaining their Communication Badge.

At the beginning of February Janette asked if the 1st and 9th Brownies could also join in the event, and Paul prepared the necessary paper work for the brownies.

During January Bryan (G0SYR) constructed a crystal set made up of plug and play parts so that the guides could build a crystal set and hear it working and learn about the electronic components.

Friday afternoon, evening the 20th February, Ann, Paul and Annabel re-organise the house so that one room became the VHF (Very High Frequency) station operating in the 145Mhz Amateur Band. In the same room designing QSL cards, and various books, maps to look up the required information.

Another room had the Amateur Packet Radio station, which was linked into the main Caterham Radio Groups (CatRad) Packet Radio digital network using radio links around the U.K and links to other Radio Amateurs all over the world.

The main Radio Shack was prepared and the HF (High Frequency) equipment and aerials checked out and tested to check that all was OK..

A room at the back was to be used for the crystal set installation and demonstration. We finally retired to bed at midnight after printing some more special QSL cards for the event..

Saturday 21st February

HF Station

Paul had been in the Radio Shack from 07:30 and HF band conditions on 20 metres did not appear very good at that time, and there was also a French contest on the 40 metre band.

Janette 'THE BOSS' arrive at 08:45 with the first group of guides from the Caterham 9th group and Anne Leader of the 1st Caterham Brownies arrived at 09:15 with Brownies from the 1st and 9th packs. .

The HF station GX0SCR made it's first contact on 80 metres at 09:25 with Paul G4APL in the 'hot seat' and made contact with a Station in West Yorkshire.

The CatRad members John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Ted G7OBF, Chas M0BIN also arrived to assist in the running of the Event.

At 09:30hrs Mike G3TWJ arrived, and took over the control of the HF station for the day.

Mike had contacts around the UK. Counties worked

West Yorkshire, Leicester, Lancaster,.

Overseas countries work

9A3	Zagreb	DJ	Germany	UA1	Labdenpohia
RX3	Belgarad	SP6	Poland	RZ6	Near Caspian Sea
OH6	Kronoby	VK3	Melbourne	EA3	Spain
OE	Austria	RA1	North East	RW9	West Siberia
ES1	Estonia	9H1	Malta	F6	France
IK0	Rome	SP5	Warsaw		

29 stations were contacted and spoken to on the HF Bands

Guides Thinking Day on the Air 1998

VHF Station

Ann operating the VHF station had long contacts with TDOTA stations in Send near Woking, High Wycombe, East Barnet Hertfordshire, Turners Hill West Sussex, Slough Bucks, plus a few other stations where the Guides were able to pass greeting messages to each other over the radio waves.

The guides and brownies were very keen to speak to other guides at the other TDOTA amateur radio stations

17 stations were contacted and the Caterham Guides and Brownies heard or spoke to over 30 guides or Brownies at the other TDOTA amateur radio stations.

Packet Radio Station

The guides were typing and sending messages over this system to other guides at other Amateur Radio Packet Stations. This system was active for eleven hours, though due to three power cuts which caused the network server and PC to crash three times., which resulted in the log of the events being lost..

The Technical Section

Bryan and John discussed with the guides how the crystal set worked, frequencies, wave lengths and aerial, whilst Paul did the interactive talk on propagation with the guides, and a talk with the brownies about using hand held radios.

Bar B Q

The bar-b-que was held 'indoors' due to it being a bit chilly outside.

Young Guide leaders

The young leaders assisted the brownies and guides showing them how to go about designing their DIY QSL card and providing drinks. All helping to make this another a successful event.

19 Guides and Brownies visited the TDOTA98 event. Over 110 Special TDOTA stations were active in the UK

All guides and brownies completed all the various tasks and gained their Communications badge or the certificate.

The members of the Caterham Radio Group hope that the 9th Caterham Guides, 1st and 9th Brownies (we also had one brownie from the 10th Dover group) had a an enjoyable Thinking Day On The Air over the Amateur Radio Air Waves.