



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



SUBJECT	Recognition of Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA)		
Society	NRRL	Country:	Norway
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	CT08_C3_39
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Background

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) was established in 1958 by Leslie Mitchell, G3BHK. A World Scout Jamboree is a camp where scouts from all over the world get together to learn about the world brotherhood of scouting. But it is costly to travel to a World Jamboree, and all the millions of scouts cannot be present at one and the same place. Les realized that many scout leaders were also radio amateurs. And with the help of amateur radio, it would be possible to arrange a Jamboree-on-the-Air.

JOTA has proven to be an enormous success over the years, with thousands of amateur radio stations taking part, bringing together **about half a million of boy scouts and girls scouts and guides from all over the world**. Many authorities allow the scouts to operate the radio under the presence and guidance of the licenced radio amateur.

Amateur radio is also used from national jamborees, smaller scout camps, scout courses, and other scouting events. Some national scout organizations have their own committees for amateur radio and "radio scouting", also organizing amateur radio courses for scouts.

The Norwegian Boy Scout Association established their first "Amateur Radio Committee" in the late 1960s (with LA5CH as its first chairman). **Since that time more than 500 scouts in Norway have become radio amateurs through this radio scouting program, built around the JOTA event. This constitutes more than 10% of the Norwegian radio amateur census!**

There is no exaggeration to say that ***the JOTA scouting event with amateur radio is the most effective way to recruit young people to amateur radio.***

Recruitment of young radio amateurs

IARU ought to have a strategy for recruitment of young radio amateurs. Without active radio amateurs on the amateur radio bands, we may lose our bands. Hence we need to show the pleasure of amateur radio to youngsters, in order to recruit them. If IARU would assign one weekend towards such recruitment, the third full weekend of October would be ideal, because there already is an annual activity there, JOTA, successfully presenting amateur radio to young people.

The limitation for JOTA participation is usually the availability of radio amateurs. We urge the IARU Member Societies to encourage more radio amateurs to participate in the JOTA, and to use this opportunity to recruit young radio amateurs. *This would hence be an IARU-supported event by joining forces in a campaign for recruiting new radio amateurs.*

Proposal:

- 1. It is recognized that the Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), organized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) every third full weekend of October each year (for 50 years in 2007), represents an excellent way of recruiting young people to the ranks of radio amateurs.**
- 2. In recognizing the importance of the JOTA for radio amateur recruiting, it is recommended that radio amateurs assist boy scouts and girl guides / scouts participating in their annual JOTA the third full weekend of October each year, and to use this opportunity to present amateur radio recruiting possibilities to the scouts.**