



Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) JOTA 2015 Station Report

For the third year running Newport County Radio Club and Troop 1 Portsmouth hosted the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Camporee in Portsmouth, RI. Once again it was a good time for both the young scouts, who had the opportunity to earn the Radio Merit Badge (15 Scouts completed on-site this year with one to go), as well as for the older ham radio volunteers who continue to wonder at the boundless energy of youth. Attending for the first time was Troop 1 Wakefield, RI making this the biggest event yet. All the Scouts, including seven Cub Scouts, spent time on-the-air. Hams set up and operated two HF base stations and a 2m VHF station. Additional club members manned the local W1SYE 145.45 repeater to ensure all Scouts would fulfill their 10 minute "rag-chew" merit badge requirement. New for this year, the hams ran an experimental amateur radio direction finding "fox hunt." And one enterprising Scout even upped the difficulty factor by surreptitiously moving a fox transmitter keeping it one step ahead of the chasing team!

The weather was sunny, but brisk with a high of 55 degrees Fahrenheit and a steady 6 mile per hour wind gusting up to 25 mph. Between JOTA activities, the Troops held campfire, manhunt and Ga-Ga (Israeli dodge-ball) events, as well as, Totin' Chip and other advancement opportunities.

- **Number of Scouts** - 31 Boy Scouts (21 Troop 1 Portsmouth, 10 Troop 1 Wakefield) and seven Cub Scouts (Pack 1 Portsmouth)
- **Number of Visitors** – 16
- **Number of Amateur Radio Operators** – 13 (Willy W1LY, Bob WB4SON, Jim KA1ZOU, Rich KC1ARO, Paul KC1AQP, Chuck N1CKT, Paul N1PSX, Dave KC1AAA, Rob KB1ZZU, Forrest N1MEE, Pete W1LAB, Vic WW4OK, Matt KB1FUP)
- **Number of Stations on the Air** – three: two HF and one VHF 2m



- **Number of Contacts:** 45+
- **States and Countries Contacted**
 - 16 States & Territories
 - NC, IN, LA, IL, PA, ME, VA, WV, CO, NH, OH, MO, MD, TN, RI and Puerto Rico
 - 8 Countries
 - Argentina, Cuba, Cuba(Guantanamo Bay), Brazil, Denmark, Spain, England, Italy and Slovenia
- **Fun Stories (from “WB4SON Attack of the Ham Radio Blog”)**

This year we were very fortunate to have a nice opening into Europe all day on 12-meters, and openings on 15 and 10 meters as well. Each scout has to spend at least 10 minutes working other stations, and those QSOs were often with DX thanks to the openings. To a one, every DX station, upon hearing the young voice, or the words “Boy Scout” stopped their pileups and slowed down to introduce a future ham to the hobby.

My favorite example this year came from a station in Guantanamo Bay Cuba. They had been working a crazy pile-up all day long, and all of their contacts were “59 Guantanamo Bay, 73 QRZ”. A young scout at the microphone, barely above a whisper, gave our call “Whisky One Sierra Yankee Echo”. The KG4 didn’t get full copy, and in the interest of speeding things up a bit, I gave the call a second time and asked if he would mind saying hello to a young scout on the air. Boy did that catch his attention. He announced on frequency that all stations were to stand-by, then asked us to wait a moment. A few seconds later he was back on the air and introduced us to an Eagle Scout, and described his own scouting journey. A second scout was introduced who was going to take his General Exam in Guantanamo later that day. Essentially, this DX station, who had been working at a rate of 10 Qs a minute for hours, took the time to make our scout feel special.



- **Suggestions/Concerns**

We only found two stations (out of 45 +) that recognized the Jumpuz JID. Either advertise to a wider audience or consider eliminating.

- **Photos**



Scout and Bob WB4SON on HF



JOTA 2015 Camporee



S'mores!