

AVON VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



JOTA 2005 Newsletter

JOTA Highlights

2 Scouts invested live on air, with Finnish Scouting HQ listening

58 stations in the logbook, and with the messages passed by Scouts this makes a total of 280 contacts

An excellent lift on 2 meters VHF meant we could work the local continent using FM, making it easier for the Scouts to hear.

Radio direction finding used for the first time. This was one of the most popular wide games.



OCTOBER 2005

Move the Mountain to Mohamed

The Avon Valley ARA we were once again called upon by the local Scouts to provide a Jamboree On The Air station, and we were only too willing to set things up.

A last minute hitch meant we had to seek an alternative location at very

short notice. While everyone was running around trying to find somewhere, a sudden flash of inspiration hit one of our members. It was decided that this year, the "mountain will come to Mohamed" and so we set about the task of making the club shack "Scout Friendly"

Getting started

Quite a bit of work went into preparing for JOTA this year. A last minute hitch with the original location meant that we had to seek an alternative. While everyone was busy searching the County, the Avon Valley ARA site was completely overlooked initially.

A sudden spark of inspiration from one of the members brought everything back on track. The club meeting place was an ideal location, the equipment was already there and the antenna system would be the envy of any Ham.

Work began around a week prior to JOTA, tidying up the antennas and moving around on the two towers at the site, hard work but well worth it. The shack was completely cleared and the equipment checked over. Once this had been done, it all went back into place for easier operation.





RDF or FOX HUNT
Even the parents had a go at it !



Radio direction finding

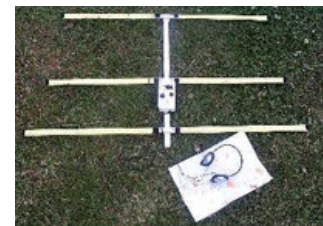
This year we decided to try something a little different as we had the extra space to use. ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) or "Fox Hunting" as it is often called, is the tracking and recovery of a hidden VHF transmitter.

The kits arrived just in the nick of time, in fact the day before JOTA started. They were duly tested by club members (Big kids) and passed for use during the weekend.

Around 20 of the Scouts had a bash at finding the hidden transmitter, and quickly began reducing the time taken to find it. This was more to do with the geography of the site, than the technique we think.

The decision was soon made, that a night time hunt would offer more of a challenge to the Scouts, and the perfect moonlit conditions meant it was quite safe to do.

This game proved so popular that the club will be running further "Fox hunts" in the near future, it is also hoped that many of the scouts will build their own receivers too, we'll keep you posted.



Unseasonably warm this year?

We couldn't have wished for better weather this year, the temperatures were well over those expected at this time of the year, we even saw the Saturday top 18.9 degrees C.

There were around 25 Scouts camping out this year, this wouldn't normally be possible if the Scout hut was used. Even though it was a little chilly at night, it didn't stop smiling.

As this was a large site, a camp fire was also available this year; you can't have a camp without a fire can you?

It nearly didn't happen, the field had been tidied up that week and so there was very little in the way of wood

around. The GS from the 18th Worcester's came to the rescue after shooting home to get some, it was a small fire, but welcoming all the same after the sun had gone down



Further information

For those of you that have access to the Internet, the Avon Valley ARA is a website running which has been updated with all of the pictures taken during the event. We would love to receive pictures from other groups too, so send them in if you have any available.

If you would like more information about JOTA, the club or scouting in general then please use the email

address below to contact us, we would love to hear from you. Don't forget to check out the website too.

Email: JOTA@g0wxj.demon.co.uk

Web: www.m0rad.demon.co.uk

We look forward to seeing and hearing you all again next year.