

# Jamboree on the Air



Photo from KK6FUT

2015  
USA REPORT

[www.k2bsa.net](http://www.k2bsa.net)



# RESULTS



KK6FUT

## Solid Results from an exciting JOTA weekend



**7,117**

The number of Scouts participating in the USA. This is down 8% from 2014. The number of visitors was 5,138, down by 8%.



**208**

The number of stations filing their report, up 1% from the results in 2014.



**106**

Countries worked on the weekend. 979 amateur radio operators put 847 radios on the air. Contacts hit 8,360. All improved from 2014.

## Persistent challenges from propagation, contesting, council involvement, and getting information to those who need it.



**127**

Scout councils, down from 148 in 2014.



**346**

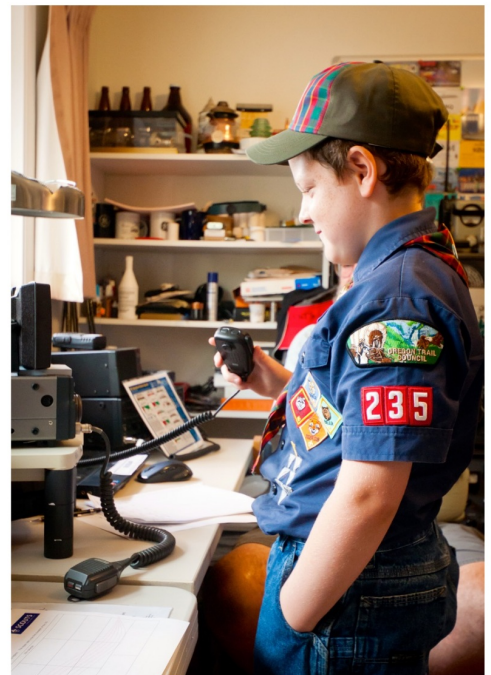
Stations registered, 60% filed report. Slight improvement over 2014.



### Communication

Despite frequent newsletter emails and additional website content, many reports show a lack of awareness of available info.

## CHALLENGES



KF7FIB

Propagation and contesting will remain ongoing problems. Changes to the Worked All Germany contest to reserve JOTA frequencies have been helpful. Need to activate a similar arrangement with USA based QSO Parties in New York, Iowa, Illinois, and South Dakota.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



"The most memorable thing were the Scouts who absolutely said they were not getting on the air. But when they did, you couldn't pry the mic out of their hands! They turned out to be some of the best Scout ops we had."

*Philip Jacobs, W2GSB at K2S*

"At one of our stations, we had the Scouts learn their name in Morse Code. During the event, one of the Scouts came up to me with dots and dashes on the paper for me to read. It said "JOTA IS AWESOME" and that perfectly summarizes the event for me."

*Steve Lovell, KC9YQJ*



**WZ6BSA**



**N6B**



**WC8VOA**



**K7QED**



**K7DQ**



**KT8BSA**



# 2016 PLANS

## Station Communication

Consistent, persistent, and even relentless communication is needed to increase awareness of available information chiefly on the [scouting.org/jota](http://scouting.org/jota) and [k2bsa.net](http://k2bsa.net) websites. This should continue with the email newsletter and social media.

## Council Communication

Council awareness of Jamboree on the Air remains low and may even be declining further each year. Efforts are under way to communicate through Council International Representatives, active Scouters, and existing BSA channels that reach professional and volunteers.

## Station Registration

This year's work with the World JOTA-JOTI Team to activate a worldwide registration system met with several challenges leading up to the weekend and included a system shutdown on Saturday. More work is required here with reliability and ease of use including options for stations to better sort and sift the data to help them make more contacts.

## JOTA Patch

The USA JOTA Patch design contest went well but the resulting patch was not available through BSA Supply until two weeks before the event. Patch design for 2016 is focused on delivering the patches by August 1, working closely with BSA Supply and their vendor to make it happen.

# OBSERVATIONS – MORE NUMBERS

More and more stations are using digital connections to extend their reach and overcome propagation challenges. This includes amateur radio related modes such as Echolink, IRLP, D-Star, and DMR. But it also extends to the JOTI channels such as Skype and Scout Link.

**6,665**

Radio Merit Badge  
2014

**1,726**

Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip  
Past 12 months

**365**

Morse Code Interpreter Strip  
Past 12 months