Radio Scouting History

Amateur Radio and Scouting
Philmont Training Center
July 2022
Agenda

Radio Merit Badge
National Scout Jamboree
World Scout Jamboree
BSA National Office Station
Jamboree on the Air
ARRL & BSA
Morse Code Interpreter Strip
Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip
Icom America Sponsorship

JOTA 1967 at BSA HQ K2BFW
Who is K5ND?
Retired BSA Publishing Executive
BSA JOTA Coordinator, 2010 to 2018
President K2BSA ARA, 2011 to 2019
World JOTA-JOTI Team, 2014 to 2019
K2BSA Jamboree Chairman, 2013, 2017
NA1WJ Team Lead, 2019 WSJ
Radio Merit Badge SME, 2017 Revision
Radio Merit Badge

1918 Wireless Merit Badge

1923 Radio Merit Badge

Requirements Updates

1930 — 10 wpm CW moved to 5 wpm

1984 — Dropped CW requirement

Three options — amateur radio, broadcast radio, and shortwave listening

2017 — Added amateur radio direction finding (foxhunting) option. Modified shortwave listening to include medium wave listening.
National Scout Jamboree

1953 — K6BSA, Irvine Ranch, CA
1957 — K3BSA, Valley Forge, PA
1960 — K0BSA, Colorado Springs, CO
1964 — K3BSA, Valley Forge, PA
1969 — KF7BSA, Farragut State Park, ID
1973 — KJ7BSA, Farragut State Park, ID and KJ3BSA, Moraine State Park, PA
1977 — K2BSA, Moraine State Park, PA
1981 - 2010 — K2BSA, Fort AP Hill, VA
2013 + — K2BSA, SBR, WV
World Jamborees in the USA

1967 — K7WSJ, Farragut State Park, ID

2019 — NA1WJ, hosted by North American team (USA, Canada, Mexico)

Many amateur radio operations have been held at other World Jamborees. The first official station may have been GB3SP in 1957.
BSA National Office Stations

1952 — K2BFW, Schiff Scout Reservation, NJ
Boys’ Life Radio Club

1971 — K2BSA, New Brunswick, NJ

1979 — K2BSA, Irving, TX

K2BSA Amateur Radio Association founded, 5 members in 2011, now 500+
Lifetime dues $12
Jamboree on the Air

1957 — Started from discussion at the GB3SP World Jamboree operation.

Annual event with Scout participation around the world. Jamboree on the Internet started 1995.

Third weekend in October, Friday to Sunday.

Go where the Scouts are — activity supporting an existing camporee.
ARRL & BSA
ARRL assistance with Radio Merit Badge and support to JOTA and Jamboree.

Official Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011.

2014 — ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award.

Requirements include satisfying 5 of 10 items that include JOTA, Radio MB, Camp support, and Jamboree. Requires ARRL Section Manager approval.
Morse Code Interpreter Strip

- Introduced in 2013.
- 5 wpm requirements.
- CW Ops Award in 2017 to BSA for efforts advancing the art of communicating with Morse code.
Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

- Based on rating strips from 1940s for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts, called the Scout Radioman personal interest badge.
- Introduced 2013 and withdrawn 2018.
- Any licensed youth or leader may wear the rating strip.
- Still available for uniform wear.
Icom America
Formal agreement in 2012
Support to Jamborees
K2BSA Radios
WV8BSA Repeaters

Scout Loan Station Program
10 complete stations with IC-7300
Available for loan to Scout events
Sources for Further Information

+ Radio MB History [https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badges/](https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badges/)
+ Radio MB Requirements [https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badges-2/](https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badges-2/)
+ Jamboree History [https://k2bsa.net/jamboree-2/](https://k2bsa.net/jamboree-2/)
+ BSA National Office [https://k2bsa.net/radio-station/](https://k2bsa.net/radio-station/)
+ Jamboree on the Air [https://k2bsa.net/jota/](https://k2bsa.net/jota/)
+ BSA and ARRL [https://k2bsa.net/bsa-arrl/](https://k2bsa.net/bsa-arrl/)
+ Service to Scouting Award [https://k2bsa.net/arrl-service-to-scouting-award/](https://k2bsa.net/arrl-service-to-scouting-award/)
+ Morse Code Interpreter Strip [https://k2bsa.net/morse-code/](https://k2bsa.net/morse-code/)
+ Operator Rating Strip [https://k2bsa.net/operator-rating/](https://k2bsa.net/operator-rating/)
+ Icom America [https://k2bsa.net/icom/](https://k2bsa.net/icom/)