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SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2002 OCARG EAGLE
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OCARG EAGLE
BULLETIN OF THE
OTSCHODELA COUNCIL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 2002

SCOUTING HAMS AND HAMMING SCOUTERS--

OTSCHODELA COUNCIL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP (OCARG) IS DEDICATED TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE SCOUTING PROGRAM THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO IN BOY SCOUTING. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY AND ALL SCOUTERS, AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS, AND SCOUTING AND HAM CLUBS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, PARTICULARLY WITHIN, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVE OF OTSCHODELA COUNCIL, BSA. THERE ARE NO MEMBERSHIP DUES, NO OFFICERS, NO CONSTITUTION, NO NEWSLETTER CHARGES, AND NO ORGANIZED MEETINGS. ALL COMMUNICATIONS ARE VIA EMAIL OR HAM RADIO. ALL THAT'S REQUIRED TO JOIN IS AN INTEREST IN HAM-SCOUTING AND AN EMAIL TO THE ABOVE SENDER. OCARG IS AN FCC-LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATION WITH THE CALLSIGN KZ2BSA.

COPIES OF THE *OCARG EAGLE* ARE SENT TO MANY INTERESTED PERSONS IN ADDITION TO OCARG MEMBERS. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS BULLETIN IN ERROR AND NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE IT, PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE SO STATING TO THE ABOVE SENDER <[MAILTO:K2FRD@ARRL.NET](mailto:K2FRD@ARRL.NET)>.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU IN LIVING COLOR, COMPLIMENTS OF EUDORA PRO 5.1.3 EMAILER. IF YOU HAVE RICH TEXT FORMAT (RTF) OR STYLIZED TEXT CAPABILITY AND WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING AS IT WAS SENT, MAKE SURE YOUR RTF OR STYLED TEXT PREFERENCE/OPTION/CONTROL PANEL/SETTING IS TURNED ON OR SET. IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT ONLY IN BLACK TYPEFACE, TURN IT OFF. FONTS ARE COMIC SANS MS, CAPITAL, AND MISHIWAKA BOLD (WITH THE SLASHED ZERO), AVAILABLE FROM EDITOR IF DESIRED.

THE *OCARG EAGLE* IS MAILED ONLY VIA BLIND CC TO CUT DOWN ON YOUR HEADER'S SIZE AND TO AVOID PROVIDING A READY-MADE LIST TO SPAMMERS.

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IT'S JOTA TIME!

THE 45TH ANNUAL JANBOREE ON THE AIR IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! THOUSANDS OF SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS AROUND THE WORLD ARE CLEARING THEIR CALENDARS FOR THE WEEKEND WITH SOME OF US DRAGGING OUT OUR SLEEPING BAGS AND TENTS FOR A CAMPOREE OR OTHER PORTABLE OPERATION IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LARGEST ELECTRONIC GATHERING OF YOUTH IN THE WORLD.

HERE'S SOME BASIC INFORMATION:



THE 45TH 2002 JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA) WILL TAKE PLACE 18-20 OCTOBER 2002 FROM LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. SCOUT PACKS AND TROOPS, DISTRICTS, AND COUNCILS EVERYWHERE ARE MAKING PLANS TO MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST JOTA EVER.

THE ARRL HAS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOTA BROCHURES AND OTHER DETAILS AT: [HTTP://WWW2.ARRL.ORG/FANDES/EAD/IDEAS.HTML](http://www2.arrl.org/fandes/ead/ideas.html) .

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH SCOUTING PLANS AND INFORMATION FOR PATCHES: [HTTP://WWW.Scouting.org/INTERNATIONAL/JOTA.HTML](http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html) .

THE ARRL HAS INFORMATION KITS TO HAND OUT AT JOTA. THESE KITS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE URL BELOW. KITS ARE \$12 WITH SHIPPING, AND INCLUDE HANDOUT MATERIALS FOR 50 PERSONS:

[HTTPS://WWW.ARRL.ORG/FORMS/EAD/RECRUIT/ORDERFORM.HTML](https://www.arrl.org/forms/ead/recruit/orderform.html) .

JOTA SCOUT FREQUENCIES		
BAND	SSB (PHONE)	CW (MORSE CODE)
80-METER	3.740* AND	3.940 MHZ 3.590 MHZ
40-METER	7.090* AND	7.290 MHZ 7.030 MHZ
20-METER	14.290 MHZ	14.070 MHZ (1)
17-METER	18.140 MHZ	18.080 MHZ
15-METER	21.360 MHZ	21.140 MHZ
12-METER	24.960 MHZ	24.910 MHZ
10-METER	28.390 MHZ**	28.190 MHZ

*NOT AUTHORIZED TO TRANSMIT IN THE UNITED STATES (REGION 2); HOWEVER, YOU MAY LISTEN.

**FOR UNITED STATES, TO ALLOW NOVICES TO PARTICIPATE IN JOTA ON THE PHONE.

(1) 14.070 IS NOW THE PSK31 FREQUENCY; THIS FREQUENCY MAY BE CHANGED FOR JOTA CW. AN INQUIRY TO BSA INTERNATIONAL HAS NOT YET RESOLVED THIS ISSUE. IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO TRANSMIT CW ON THE PSK-31 PART OF THE 20M BAND (SEE ARTICLE BELOW).

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF YOUR JOTA OPERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY, JOTA OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN POORLY REPORTED, NOT BECAUSE FEW JOTA STATIONS ARE ON THE AIR, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE OPERATORS HAVEN'T FILLED OUT THE FORMS. HERE'S THE ONLINE LOG LOCATION FOR THE ARRL:

[HTTP://WWW2.ARRL.ORG/FANDES/EAD/JOTALOG/](http://www2.arrl.org/fandes/ead/jotalog/)

AND, HERE'S WHERE TO SEND A JOTA REPORT TO BSA NATIONAL HQ:

"MOYER, RAY WD8JKV" <[EMAILTO:RMOYER@NETBSA.ORG](mailto:RMOYER@NETBSA.ORG)>

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ARRL SITE UNDERGOING UPGRADE,

PERMISSION:

"FORTUNATELY, BEING A HAM FOR A LONG TIME, A GOVERNMENT HF RADIO OPERATOR, A BROADCAST ENGINEER, AND THE OWNER OF A 2-WAY RADIO SHOP, I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING STUPID. SORRY TO HEAR SOME OF YOU HAVE.

I STILL RECALL THE TIME I WAS SITTING IN THE RADIO SHACK, AND IT WAS NIGHT, AND IT WAS MY DUTY TO RESPOND EVERY HALF HOUR TO THE HF NET, VIA CW. I HAD TRAINED MYSELF TO DOZE FOR 15 OR SO MINUTES AND THEN AWAKEN TO HEAR THE NET CALL, SEND MY CALL SIGN AND A QUICK QRU, AND GO BACK TO SLEEP. BUT THIS NIGHT SOMETHING KEPT "SNAPPING" AROUND THE RELATIVELY QUIET RADIO ROOM, AS QUIET AS IT CAN BE WITH A BC610-I SITTING THERE. I TURNED THE RADIO DOWN MORE, TO TRY TO LOCATE THIS ODD SNAPPING SOUND. AH, THERE IT WAS, AT THE COAX CONNECTOR TO THE TRANSMITTER. THAT CONNECTOR WAS MOUNTED IN A PLEXIGLASS PANEL, SO IT WAS UNGROUNDED, FOR THE BALANCED OUTPUT. AND THERE, IN THE DARK, THERE WERE THESE LITTLE WHITE ARCS FROM THE COAX SHIELD TO THE TRANSMITTER CASE.

NO SIR, I'M NOT STUPID. I KNEW THAT WAS STATIC ELECTRICITY. AND I KNEW THE BEST THING TO DO WAS SIMPLY UNSCREW THE ANTENNA AND GROUND IT. INTERESTING. OF COURSE, IT WAS BY CHOICE THAT I DECIDED I COULD MEASURE THE STATIC DISCHARGE WITH MY HAND BEFORE UNSCREWING THE CONNECTOR. ONE "OUCH" MEANS "BAD." TWO "YIKES" MEANS VERY BAD, AND FOUR "G@#\$\$*&%" MEANS SEVERAL "OUCHES, A FEW YIKES, AND A COUPLE OF" NOT STUPID. THIS WAS ALL PLANNED.

SO I DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO GET THAT COAX PL259 UNSCREWED WITH NOT TO TOUCH IT. I WOULD USE PLIERS, I WOULD. YES, INDEEDY. AND SO I DID. BUT THEY WEREN'T INSULATED. AS I PICKED THEM UP FROM WHERE I HAD THROWN THEM IN THE DARK ROOM, I THOUGHT MAYBE I SHOULD FIND AN INSULATED PAIR. WHICH I DID.

THEN I GRABBED THAT PL259 WITH THE INSULATED PLIERS. ODD. I KNEW, SO IT WASN'T A STUPID TRICK, THAT 1/32 INCH OF INSULATION WASN'T GOING TO MEAN A WHOLE LOT TO A STATIC ARC THAT WAS JUMPING 3/4 INCH. I FOUND THE SECOND PAIR OF PLIERS UNDER A TOOL BOX, USING MY GOOD HAND TO FIND THEM. AND WITH INTERESTING SOUND EFFECTS.

NOT BEING STUPID, I DECIDED IT WAS PROBABLY BEST TO GRAB SOME BARE WIRE, WRAP IT AROUND THE PL259 AND GROUND THE DARNED ANTENNA RIGHT TO THE TRANSMITTER CHASSIS. YES, THAT WILL WORK. OH, I SHOULD MENTION, THOUGH, YOU NEED TO CONNECT THE END TO THE GROUND BEFORE YOU CONNECT THE OTHER END TO THE ANTENNA. MORE SOUND AFFECTS.

I RETRIEVED THE PIECE OF WIRE, BOLTED IT SECURELY TO THE TRANSMITTER FRAME, THEN WRAPPED IT AROUND THE PL259. IN SPITE OF A BIT OF A JOLT, IT WORKED AND THE ANTENNA WAS NOW GROUNDED.

A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE REACHED INTO THE INNARDS OF A 10 KW SW AM TRANSMITTER, WITH A TANK COIL THE SIZE OF A KITCHEN TRASH CAN. IT WAS DISCONNECTED FROM POWER ENTIRELY, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM AND HIS VOCABULARY, WAS STILL HOOKED TO A HUGE 3-WIRE RHOMBIC OUT THERE SWINGING IN THE COLD WIND. THE ARC FROM THE ANTENNA LOADING COIL COULD BE HEARD ALL OVER THE TRANSMITTER BUILDING, AND IT BURNED HIS FINGER RATHER BADLY. HE KNEW BETTER, TOO, AND WAS JUST TESTING FOR THE PRESENCE OF STATIC ELECTRICITY. I LEARNED A NEW WORD OR TWO FROM HIM. I'M SURE THAT WAS HIS INTENT. .

REMINDS ME OF THE TIME I WAS JUSING A PORTABLE JIG SAW TO CUT SOME OLD WOOD. ODDLY, AFTER SEVERAL VERY DIFFICULT CUTS, I NOTICED THERE WAS NO SMOKE COMING FROM THE BLADE. THAT BLADE SHOULD BE HOTTER THAN A BURRITO IN A MICROWAVE. SO, WITH THE SAW OFF, I GRIPPED THAT JIG SAW BLADE BETWEEN MY THUMB AND FOREFINGER. NOW THAT WASN'T STUPID. I WAS TESTING. I HAD LONG BEEN CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER SKIN

