

Jamboree on the Air

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9AM- 4PM

DVRA Amateur Radio Station, Mercer County Airport, West Trenton, NJ

Mercer Area District, Washington Crossing Council, BSA

What is it?

Want to meet Scouts from around the world without leaving Mercer County? Interested in high tech wireless, computers or telecommunications? Then the international Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is for you! Every third Saturday in October, Amateur Radio ("Ham") operators around the world help Scouts meet each other in the world's largest Scouting event without leaving home. In our area, the hams of the Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) hold an open house for Boy Scouts, Cubs, and Girl Scouts at their building at Mercer County Airport that Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM. There is no cost and it's a lot of fun!

Sponsored by the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) and BSA, Scouts who attend earn a patch, just like a regular jamboree. These patches can be purchased from BSA. See http://www.scouting.org/jota/patch_order.aspx for online information. Boy Scouts can also earn SOME requirements for Radio Merit Badge and for Citizenship in the World Merit Badge. You'll also see how easy it now is to get your Amateur Radio License. Adults and Girl Scouts are welcome to participate as well!

How to participate

Each Scout talks for about five minutes over the radio. They also get to listen to the other Scouts talk, get a tour of the radio station, and get an explanation of what Amateur Radio is all about. Since about ten Scouts per hour can be accommodated on the air, try to space out different dens or patrols from your unit over the day instead of all arriving at the same time.

How to get there

The DVRA club radio station is immediately adjacent to I-95 Exit 2 at Mercer County Airport in Ewing Township. Head south on Rte 579 and immediately turn east into the short road marked NJ Dept of Transportation before you get to the airport entrance. If lost, just look for all the radio antennas across the street from the Ewing Water Tower!

Preparation

Unit leaders should remind their Scouts that they're guests of the DVRA. Scouts should simulate talking over a radio beforehand. This means only one person talks at a time and the second person can't talk until the first person says "over". Also, think about what questions you might ask a Scout from another country. Things to ask about might include the weather and time in the other parts of the world, favorite sports and hobbies, and what they've been doing in Scouting. Also check out the Radio MB pamphlet and the web sites listed below for more info and ideas.

Web Sites to check out:

To learn more about JOTA and how your unit leader can order patches, <http://www.scouting.org/JOTA.aspx>

To learn more about Amateur Radio and how to get a ham license, check out

<http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio>

To learn what else you need to know for Radio Merit Badge, check out:

<http://k2gw.tripod.com/radiomeritbadge/>

Yours in Scouting,

Gary Wilson

Asst. District Commissioner

Mercer Area District

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