



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
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For Immediate Release

Scouts to go “Around the World in 50 hours”

Libertyville, IL Oct 12, 2007 -- The world’s largest international scouting event happens when they partner with Amateur Radio operators, often called “hams,” and hold the Jamboree On The Air. The theme of JOTA 2007 is "Around the world in 50 hours". Jamboree On The Air 2007 will celebrate its 50th year, and over 500,000 scouts worldwide are expected to participate.

The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world exposes youth to Amateur Radio and modern telecommunications. In our wireless world, everyone uses radio based tools, but only a few have any idea what makes them work. Scouts enjoy international communications by speaking into a microphone, but learn about other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, digital and packet radio, RTTY or even bouncing signals off the moon.

Here in Lake County, many local ham radio operators will participate. They are part of the “Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services” (R.A.C.E.S.) group, and provide communications for the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. This event will operate out of the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located near Milwaukee Avenue and Winchester Road from 4 PM to 8 PM on Saturday, October 20th. They will talk with as many other scouts around the world as conditions allow, and can earn a radio merit badge in the process.

Sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, ham radio callsign G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. Last year more than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participated in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations.

For more information on the 2007 Jamboree on the Air, please visit the ARRL JOTA Web site at:
<http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota>

For more information on the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, see their website at:
<http://www.co.lake.il.us/sheriff/divisions/emergenc.asp>

For more information on the Lake County R.A.C.E.S./ARES group, please see their web site at:
www.races.org, or by email at: lcraces@races.org

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