



Jamboree On The Air JOTA 2026

16th to 18th October 2026

The St George Amateur Radio Society
JOTA at the BOREE REGATTA
Connecting Scouts and Guides worldwide through amateur radio

30 YEARS
PROVIDING AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION FOR JOTA AT THE BOREE

50 YEARS
THE BOREE REGATTA
EST. 1975

JOTA ON THE AIR

MAKE CONTACT
Talk to Scouts and Guides around the world

SHARE EXPERIENCES
Learn, collaborate and build friendships

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER
JOTA—bringing young people together since 1957

See you on the air!

69th Jamboree On The Air
61st Endeavour Boree Regatta
31st JOTA at the Boree Regatta

SGARS JOTA TEAM VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK 2026



The St George Amateur Radio Society

Operational and Safety Information for St George Amateur radio Society (SGARS) volunteers providing Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) amateur radio station VK2LE

Introduction to Jamboree On The Air at the Boree Regatta

JOTA amateur radio station operated by The St George Amateur Radio Society Inc

Welcome

Firstly, thank you for offering to assist with running a radio station and fox hunting for Jamboree On The Air for the Endeavour Boree Regatta at Kurnell. The time and effort you are dedicating to this event is greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work so having a number of committed JOTA team members on site over the weekend will contribute to the activity's success and your enjoyment in participation.

About Jamboree On The Air at the Boree Regatta

The St George Amateur Radio Society Inc. (SGARS) is regarded by the Boree Committee as an external organisation providing specialist services to the Endeavour Boree Regatta, namely provision and operation of an amateur radio station. Everyone involved in this service to the Boree Regatta must be a financial member of The St George Amateur Radio Society Inc. SGARS and members do NOT receive any financial remuneration for providing this service.

About Jamboree On The Air

Jamboree On The Air, (JOTA), is a combined, worldwide activity between Scouts, Guides and Amateur Radio groups, that takes place over the 3rd full weekend during October each year.

The amateur radio network is used so that Scouts and Guides can talk to each other and exchange information and ideas, around the corner, Australia or the world — a Jamboree On The Air.

About THE BOREE – REGATTA (A Short History)

The first Boree, in September 1965, was held in the grounds of North Caringbah Primary School and was limited to Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers of the then Caringbah District.

Following a successful Regatta for 1st Cronulla's 60th anniversary, it was decided by the districts to combine the two events. Thus, a full weekend of activity became the "Boree - Regatta" in 1976.

From the beginning, members of the Girl Guides Association were guests and over the years the Boree Regatta has gradually progressed into a joint Scout-Guide venture. It is supported by the groups from the South Metropolitan Region Scouts and the Southern Sydney Rivers Region Girl Guides.

The aim of the weekend is to share the Boree Fire of Friendship with young members of both Movements. 2025 was the 60th Anniversary of the Endeavour Boree Regatta.

About JOTA at the Boree Regatta

JOTA was first included as an activity at the Boree Regatta in 1995. In 2025, 30 years later JOTA is still a Boree Regatta activity, and now includes an opportunity for youth members to receive a JOTA badge and earn a Radio Challenge badge.

In 1995 (CHECK) John Gibling (VK2EKG) setup an amateur radio station in the regatta site, at Gunnamatta Bay, Cronulla, with the assistance of his sons. Over the years, members and friends of The St George Amateur Radio Society assisted John with JOTA at the Boree, and it now run by the St George Amateur Radio Society. In 2009, the Boree Regatta moved to the current location at Kurnell. During the regatta weekend, over 500 Guides and Scouts come participate in JOTA activities, to communicate with others by way of amateur radio.

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JOINING THE SGARS JOTA TEAM

To reinforce a consistent approach to child safety for volunteers joining the JOTA team, the requirements for adults (18+ years of age) to attend the Boree Regatta have changed. Please review the following and ensure you have completed all the requirements;

1 - Working With Children Check (WWCC)

As an adult (18 years and older), including volunteers, you must have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC).

2 – Scouts NSW - Adult Helper membership

To attend the Boree Regatta, if you are not a current member of Scouts or Guides, you will need to apply to Scouts NSW to become an Adult Helper (non-uniform) member.

3 – Scouts NSW – Mandatory Training

Once your Adult Helper membership has been approved, you are required to complete three mandatory training modules, within three months. Prior to the JOTA at Boree weekend, it is recommended to at least complete both;

- Adult Code of Conduct (SP CODE),
- Child Safe Scouting (SP CHILD), and,
- Work Health & Safety for Scouting (SP WHS).

4 – Boree Regatta Registration

Prior to attending the Boree Regatta 2026 weekend, all attendees including adult helpers, must register at the Scouts NSW Events portal; <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/region/sm>

To complete the registration, you will need to create a “user profile”.

5 – Reference Documents

Prior to attending the Boree Regatta 2026 weekend, it is recommended to review the following reference documents;

- Scouts Australia – Child Protection Policy
- Scouts Australia – Code of Conduct
- Scouts NSW – Youth Protection

Links to these documents can be found in the Appendix.

The requirements 1 to 5 above do NOT apply to those attending the site to only assist with Friday setup and / or Sunday afternoon pack up.

PREPARATION FOR THE JOTA WEEKEND

Before the JOTA at the Boree weekend, all JOTA team volunteers please review this handbook which provide information on preparing to attend, arrival at the Boree camp site, facilities and procedures whilst on site, and your departure from the site, including important safety information.

This handbook must be read in conjunction with Boree Regatta Information Booklet, which can be downloaded from the Scouts NSW Events portal, when you register to attend the Boree Regatta.

Should you require any additional information or clarification, please contact the SGARS JOTA Coordinator as soon as possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

So we can all stay safe over the JOTA weekend, the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is recommended;

- Broad brim hat
- Fully enclosed footwear
- Sun screen (SPF 30 or better)
- Sun / safety glasses (available from the big box hardware store)
- Hand sanitizer or wipes
- Face mask(s) if required
- Leather gloves (combination cotton / leather gardening gloves available from the big box hardware store)
- Hi-Vis vest or jacket – recommended if assisting with setup or pack up (available from the big box hardware store)

Food, drink and medication

Some meals and drinks will be available for JOTA team members on site during the weekend (Refer “Meals provided over the JOTA Weekend for full details). Those team members who have special dietary requirements should provide their own food / drinks.

JOTA team members must bring with you any medication you may require over the weekend.

Clothing and personal items

Climatic conditions during October are normally mild with a mean temperature of 22.5 deg C. However historically temperatures during October have ranged from a min of 13.4 to a max of 39.1 deg C.

Team members are advised to have clothing which can be layered to accommodate possible extremes in temperature. For sun protection team members should wear a hat and shirt. As the reserve is open to the elements, a wind / rain jacket is advisable. Team members must wear sturdy fully enclosed shoes.

Singlets, Thongs, crocs or sandals (open foot ware) are not permitted.

Recommended personal items may include toilet paper, hand sanitiser, sun screen (min 30SPF), deodorant, broad brim hat, tooth paste and brush, insect repellent, etc.

Camping overnight

Only scout and guide leader and approved Adult Helpers are permitted to stay overnight within the Boree Regatta event area.

For overnight accommodation, you will need to make your own arrangements outside of the Bonna Point reserve.

What NOT to bring to JOTA

- Alcohol is not permitted on the reserve, as it is an Alcohol Free Zone.
- No glass containers / bottles are permitted on the reserve.
- No pets (dogs, cats, etc.) Service animals exempt.
- Valuables (refer security and insurance information)

Radio and electronic equipment

Team members are requested to bring along an UHF FM hand held transceiver with battery charger or spare battery, pre-programmed with our JOTA liaison frequency (433.850 MHz simplex FM mode). There may be some 'loan' units available from SGARS or other team members - if you require one, please advise the JOTA coordinator prior to the weekend so suitable arrangements can be made.

Most radio equipment required for the JOTA event including transceivers, antennas, coaxial cable, power supplies etc. will be provided. If you would like to bring some of your own equipment to JOTA, please discuss with the JOTA coordinator before the event.

JOTA Team Members Check List

A check list can be found in Appendix section.

Bringing your Vehicle to JOTA

Due to space limitations and safety, vehicle parking within the Boree Regatta event area, is NOT permitted. Refer "Arriving at JOTA" for unloading and parking details. It is recommended NOT to leave any valuables in your parked vehicle.

ARRIVING AT THE BOREE REGATTA (JOTA site)

When arriving at the JOTA site, JOTA team members are asked to please adhere to the following these procedures.

Vehicle access and parking

Please refer to the Boree Regatta Information Booklet, for detailed information regarding vehicle access, restrictions, unloading and loading of equipment, parking etc. and following the instructions provided.

If you have JOTA equipment to un-load, outside of the nominated access times, please contact the SGARS JOTA coordinator to arrange access.

Please follow the vehicle access path as shown on the map and display the vehicle contact form, which can be found in the **Boree Regatta Information Booklet**.

Boree Regatta Check in

All JOTA team volunteers must Check In with the Boree Registrar on arrival, at the Hospitality Tent, unless you are only attending on Friday and Sunday afternoon for setup and pack up.

Please refer to **Boree Regatta Information Booklet** for details, location etc. Note: JOTA team volunteers must have registered at the Scouts NSW Events portal, prior to attending. Also please have your registration details available to assist the registrar.

Wrist Bands

All JOTA team volunteers must wear a coloured wrist bands at all times.

JOTA site Sign In, Induction and Orientation

Following check in with the Boree Registrar, proceed to the JOTA tent;

- Sign In to the SGARS JOTA Team members / volunteer attendance record.
- Make contact with the JOTA Coordinator who will provide you with a SGARS / JOTA identification, and arrange for you to complete the site induction and orientation. For assistance, please call JOTA Team Leader or call VK2LE using your UHF hand held on the JOTA liaison frequency.

Before leaving, please sign out SGARS JOTA Team members / volunteer attendance record.

JOTA WORK STAGES OVER THE WEEKEND

There are basically four phases to the JOTA weekend:

- Setup (bump in) on Friday afternoon,
- Pre start briefing on Saturday morning,
- JOTA activities on Saturday and Sunday,
- Pack up (bump out) on Sunday afternoon.

Following is a timetable of events and activities over the JOTA weekend. **Please refer to the Boree Regatta Information Booklet, for detailed information and to confirm times.**

JOTA at the Boree TIMETABLE

Friday Afternoon	Midday to Sunset	Site setup of operating tent, antennas, generator etc. Please refer to the SGARS JOTA Power Setup Information Manual. Vehicles may be driven onto the site, to off load equipment. Refer to Boree Regatta Information Booklet for details. Please coordinate your arrival time on site with JOTA Coordinator.
Friday Evening	17.30 to 22.00	JOTA Registration at the Hospitality Tent. Refer to Boree Regatta Information Booklet to confirm times.
	TBC	Recording of WIA News Broadcast content.
Saturday Morning	08:00 to 09.30	JOTA Registration at the Hospitality Tent. Refer to Boree Regatta Information Booklet to confirm times.
	08.00	Setup and test radio and ARDF “fox hunting” equipment.
	08.30	Start generator and perform safety check before connecting equipment. Please refer to the SGARS JOTA Power Setup Information Manual.
	09.30	JOTA Team Briefing
	10:00 to 12:00	On air and ARDF activities for pre-junior Guides and Scouts, in 30 minute time slots.
Saturday Afternoon	12:00 to 18:00	On air and ARDF activities for all Guides and Scouts, in 30 minute time slots.
Saturday Evening	18:00 to 19:00	Dinner for JOTA team staying on site for the evening session
	18:00 to 22:00	On air activities for all Guides and Scouts, in 30 minute time slots.
	22:30	Turn off generator and Lights Out

Sunday Morning	08:00	Setup and test radio and ARDF equipment. Start generator and perform safety check
	08:30	JOTA Team Briefing
	09:00 to 12.00	On air and ARDF activities for all Guides and Scouts, in 30 minute time slots.
Sunday Afternoon	12:30	Turn off generator. Please refer to the SGARS JOTA Power Setup Information Manual.
	13.00	Take down and pack up of equipment. Be mindful that youth members will still be on site. Safety First when lowering antennas and mast.
	14.30	Vehicle access to the site to pick up equipment. Refer to Boree Regatta Information Booklet for details.

JOTA station setup

Friday afternoon setup of the JOTA radio station at Bonna Point reserve. There is an extensive amount of work to be completed before sunset.

Setup includes laying out of coaxial cables, elevation of antennas, setting up operating positions, connection of radio equipment, testing of transceiver and antenna systems, setup of generator and running out of power cables, setup of outlets, power supplies and LED lighting. Display of signage and setting out operating manuals and team members logs.

Please refer to the SGARS JOTA Power Setup Information Manual.

Any assistance with setup during the afternoon would be greatly appreciated.

PPE such as hard hat, gloves, eye protection, etc would be required for some tasks. If you do not have your own PPE, please discuss with the JOTA Coordinator prior to arriving at the JOTA site.

JOTA Activity Registration

A JOTA team member is required at the Hospitality tent on Friday evening and Saturday morning to assist leaders to register their group for JOTA activities over the weekend.

- JOTA activities are in 30 minute time slots, for one activity at a time.
- Select one or two of the available JOTA activities, "On Air" radio and "ARDF" fox hunting.
- Two group bookings are available for each activity, for each time slot
 - Group A – On Air
 - Group B – On Air
 - Group C – Fox Hunt
 - Group D – Fox Hunt
- Record group details for each group including group name, leaders name and site contact details.
- Provide group leader with "JOTA Information for Leaders" with booking details including activity type, day and time, and,
- "Radio Challenge Badge" information

Note: Saturday morning JOTA activities for pre junior guides and scouts may have been pre-booked. At the conclusion of the Saturday morning registration session, late JOTA bookings can be taken at the JOTA tent.

Every group must be accompanied by a Guide or Scout leader.

Recording WIA Weekly News Broadcast

On Friday evening, girl guides and scouts will have an opportunity to read the weekly WIA news, which will be digitally recorded, then uploaded to the WIA News Desk for broadcast over the JOTA weekend. The “two Deep” policy must be followed for this activity.

JOTA Team Members’ Briefing

A briefing for all JOTA team members, including equipment familiarisation, will be given on Saturday morning. Team members participating on Saturday morning are asked to arrive on site in time for the briefing. Those operators participating later on Saturday or Sunday will be briefed by the JOTA Coordinator on your arrival.

JOTA Weekend Activities

JOTA activities operate on Saturday and Sunday, as per the above Timetable.

On Air activity

This is the traditional JOTA activity when youth members have an opportunity to communicate with other guides and scouts using the medium of amateur radio.

Radio operation will be in two tents, with up to two operating desks in each tent, giving a total of up to four operating positions. Only two guides / scout groups are scheduled for each 30 minute time slot, Group A and Group B. Up to four (4) JOTA team members would be required for this activity.

The two JOTA tents will be equipped with a combination of HF and VHF/UHF equipment, comprising SSB FM, DMR and Echolink capability. These multiple communication options should provide team members with the opportunity to establish contacts with other JOTA stations.

For Team members who may not be familiar with the radio equipment at JOTA, basic operating procedures will be available at each operating position. Other Team members will also be available to assist.

The JOTA radio station call sign is **VK2LE** **NOTE: An advanced level operator must be present in each tent, at all times when an operating position is active.**

All radio contacts must be recorded using the log sheets provided in the folder at each operating position, including the callsign of the other station, name of the group and location, operators name and call sign (which maybe different from the station call sign).

Contact details must be recorded for each 30 minute time slot. If no contacts were made from an operating position, this should also be noted.

To assist JOTA Team members in establishing a contact with another JOTA station;

- the SGARS JOTA planning team is attempting to establish in advance a list of JOTA stations, their availability and contact details,
- Operators can also use some online resources including the SGARS WhatsApp Group,
- Call “CQ JOTA” or “CQ Jamboree” preferably on the designated JOTA frequencies, listed in **Operational Details** section of this handbook.

To assist JOTA Team members and youth members in communicating with other JOTA stations, some sample conversation questions are available in Appendix of this handbook.

Fox Hunt or Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) activity

Guides and Scouts will have the opportunity to hunt for one of three low power 2m (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) transmitters / beacon, hidden around the Boree Regatta site, using a sniffer or tracker.

Only two guides / scout groups are scheduled for each 30-minute time slot, Group C and Group D. Two Team members will be required to lead this activity. Supervision of the youth members remains the responsibility of the guides and scouts Leaders.

The AARDF sniffers consist of a basic 3 element yagi directional antenna and receiver, providing an audible and visual indication when the received signal strength increases.

Guides and scouts can move the sniffer around to find the direction of the hidden transmitter.

For Team members who may not be familiar with the fox hunting equipment at JOTA, the best way to learn to lead this activity is to accompany an experienced team member on one session and then to lead the next with the assistance of the experienced team member. Alternatively, an experienced team member may be able to 'show you (or a small group) the ropes' if there is a 'quiet period'.

Conclusion of JOTA activity

Where possible, "On Air" operators should maintain contact with the other JOTA station, for the next group arriving at the JOTA tent. At the conclusion of each JOTA activity, both "On Air" and "Fox Hunt" each leader is to receive a plastic sleeve containing the following:

- JOTA 2026 cloth badge (Aussie version), one for each youth member,
- VK2LE JOTA QSL card, one for each youth member,
- Foundation level training and assessment information sheet,
- Invitation to provide feedback on group's JOTA Experience.

JOTA Pack Up

Following conclusion of the JOTA activities on Sunday, site pack up will commence, including dis-assembly and pack up of antennas, cables, etc, at Bonna Point reserve. While pack up is not as demanding as the Set Up, again assistance during the afternoon would be greatly appreciated. PPE such as hard hat, gloves, eye protection, etc would be required for some tasks. If you do not have your own PPE, please discuss with the JOTA Coordinator prior to arriving at the JOTA site.

Following pack up, vehicles can be brought on site to transport JOTA equipment. Refer to **Boree Regatta Information Booklet** for details.

JOTA BADGES

An Aussie version of the JOTA badge, as shown on the front cover, is produced each year and one badge is available to each youth member that participates in a JOTA activity. The normal practice is to give the matching quantity of badges to the leader, rather than to each individual youth member.

Radio Challenge Badge

In addition to the JOTA badge, by undertaking some additional work youth members can also obtain a Radio Challenge Badge. There are three challenge sections;

- Communication,
- Adventure,
- Discover

To earn the badge, youth members must complete two out of six nominated activities, in each section. One of the activities is participate in an amateur radio event, which could be Jamboree On The Air. Another is interviewing an amateur radio operator.

The youth member then completes the badge application, which can be downloaded from <http://www.alara.org.au/download/ALARA%20Radio%20Challenge%20Badge.pdf> and forward to ALARA, and deposit \$7.50 into the ALARA bank account.

The Radio Challenge Badge is open to both guides and scouts

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Safety of Youth Members

Guides and Scouts attending any JOTA activity, must be accompanied by a leader at all times. The nominated JOTA team member(s) will liaise with the leader(s) when a group arrives for a JOTA activity, to assist in co-ordination between JOTA team members and guide and scout group / leaders. **JOTA team members must not be alone at any time with a young person(s), under the age of 18 years. Two adults must be present at all times.**

Please refer to the **Feeling Safe** section in the **Boree Regatta Information Booklet** for details.

Photographs of Youth Members

Do NOT take photographs of youth members. Leaders have to follow defined procedures for taking photos of youth members. SGARS can request photographs from the Boree committee to use for SGARS publicity, etc.

Meals and Refreshments

Some meals and drinks will be available for JOTA team members on site during the weekend.

Friday Evening	Only for those staying on site Friday evening for JOTA Registration or WIA National News Recording, dinner will be available. Please bring your own plate and cutlery.
Saturday Morning	Please have something to eat before arriving on site. There are cafes in the Kurnell township, which open early.
Saturday Middy	Lunch will be provided for all JOTA team members, a sausage sandwich and can of drink. Additional sandwiches / drinks can be purchased.
Saturday Dinner	19:00 - Dinner will be available only for those who staying on site for the evening On Air activity. Please bring your own plate and cutlery.
Sunday Morning	Please have something to eat before arriving on site. There are cafes in the Kurnell township, which open early.
Sunday Middy	Lunch will be provided for all JOTA team members, a sausage sandwich and can of drink. Additional sandwiches / drinks can be purchased.

For catering purposes, you will be provided with a link to fill in the JOTA 2026 Boree regatta Catering Registration. Should your availability and site attendance change, please advise the JOTA Coordinator as soon as possible.

In the past, a coffee van has been on site during Saturday and Sunday. Alternatively, tea and coffee will be available from the hospitality tent, however please bring your own cup or mug. Should you have any special dietary requirements, please bring to site, whatever food and / or drink you may need.

Team members are requested to regularly use hand sanitiser, especially before eating and after using the toilet.

Toilets and personal hygiene

Portable toilets will be located in the reserve area and must be used at all times. Team members are advised to bring their own toilet paper and sanitising hand cleaner.

Sickness, Injury, First Aid and Medication

In case of an emergency call “000”.

A small First Aid kit will be located in one of the JOTA tents. All serious injuries or illness must be immediately reported to the site First Aider, in the First Aid tent.

Just a reminder for team members with a medical condition must record details on Scout Event User Profile, E Permission Form, and bring any necessary medication with them to the site.

Smoking

The Boree Regatta is a “Smoke Free” event, therefore smoking is not permitted in the regatta area which includes the JOTA station, camping area and toilets. Those wishing to smoke are asked to use the Outer Parking Area.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whilst the current long range weather forecast for Kurnell over the JOTA 2026 weekend is for stable mild to warm spring conditions, the weather for this time of the year can be changeable, recommended to wear layered clothing (no singlets) to accommodate change in temperature. Also be prepared for possible rain and wind in an exposed site. Wear a broad brimmed hat, apply sun screen, enclosed sturdy footwear, pack a rain / wind jacket and keep hydrated.

When undertaking site setup and pack up or any other activity over the weekend;

- take 5 and do a 360,
- plan what you are going to do,
- look for hazards,
- work with a buddy(s),
- have an observer in place,
- lift and carry safely,
- report any issues to the JOTA Coordinator.

Alcohol or glass bottles, containers, etc are NOT allowed on site.

Electrical Equipment, Cabling, Installation & Protection

For the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) amateur radio station, and activity of the Boree Regatta, at Bonna Point, Kurnell, mains electrical power is NOT available.

Before commencing work installing and / or operating the electrical equipment, please read the SGARS JOTA 2026 Power Setup Information manual. A link can be found in the reference documents section. Should you be unsure or require additional information, contact the SGARS Coordinator or Safety Officer before proceeding.

Looking after yourself and others WH&S

Maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for everyone attending JOTA is important, and involves participation by everyone.

It is important JOTA team members act in a safe and courteous manner at all times. On arrival at the JOTA site, Team members must acknowledge they have read and understood the contents of this handbook. All safety issues must be reported immediately to the SGARS JOTA Team Leader.

Evacuation

Should there be a requirement to evacuate the site, follow the direction of the headquarters staff and emergency services. For additional information and evacuation map, refer to **Boree Regatta Information Booklet**.

Hydration

Team members should drink plenty of liquid (water) at regular intervals, especially in warm to hot conditions. There is only one water tap at the reserve, located some distance from the JOTA station. Team members are advised to bring their own drinking water to site, e.g. 2 litres per day.

PPE

All team members are asked to use Personal Protective Equipment where required, such as sun protection, gloves, insect repellent, sanitizer, etc.

Manual Handling

Team members must use the assistance of another person to lift heavy (over 16kgs), large or long pieces of equipment, such as batteries, cable, masts, antennas etc.

Antenna Masts

Antenna masts must be adequately secured and guyed, which are to be checked by the JOTA Team Coordinator at the start and end of each daily JOTA session. During setup and pack up of antennas and masts, at least two Team members must act as spotters, to watch for any problems and keep others away from the area. All Team members should use appropriate PPE including hard hat and Hi-Vis vest.

Environmental Protection

All rubbish must be removed from the site and disposed of correctly. Care must be taken not to drop used cable ties, insulation tape, rope and any other consumables. A garbage bin will be provided near the JOTA tents for disposal of rubbish etc.

Security and Insurance

Security guards will patrol the Bonna Point park area overnight. At other times Team members are requested to maintain the security of equipment by ensuring that someone is in the JOTA tents at all times.

Team members are personally responsible for their own equipment etc. Care should be taken with handheld radios, mobile phones, tablets, etc. Personal items, equipment, vehicles etc. are NOT covered by Scout or SGARS insurance.

Lost Property

Lost property can be collected or dropped off at Registration tent. If lost property is not claimed within 3 weeks of the camp, it will be disposed of. Any enquiries to the Boree Registrar. A name identification label attached to your items is recommended.

Personal Presentation

Team members / volunteers attending JOTA represent both The St George Amateur Radio Society and the hobby of amateur radio. JOTA is a once in a year opportunity to show case our hobby and SGARS to over 500 young people. While many will not have any interest in amateur radio, there may be a few scouts / guides who might be encouraged to pursue a further interest.

All Team members are asked to be mindful of your personal presentation, attitude and interaction with scouts / guides during the JOTA weekend, to give the best impression and encouragement to young people attending to consider venturing into our hobby of amateur radio.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

For the JOTA weekend, there will be two tents available for the “on air” activities. The tents can be divided in two sections, with baffle boards.

Depending on which antennas we are able to setup, the following radio systems would be possible;

- HF SSB with 40 metres being the most likely band,
- 2m VHF FM for repeater operation with Echo Link as an option,
- 70cm UHF DMR using local repeaters
- 70cm UHF DMR using a hotspot.

Three (3) ARDF transmitters which can be hidden around the site, and at least two ARDF receivers.

HF Operation

At least one Off Centre Fed (OCF) dipole antenna(s), covering 80m, 40m 20m and 10m, is planned to be available for HF operation. Long length of RG58 coaxial cable is provided for connection to the antenna.

Following is a list of HF frequencies for voice operation both internationally and local in Australia. These are call frequencies. Once contact has been established, stations should move away (QSY) to a nearby clear frequency.

HF Band	International (Phone)	VK Aussie (Phone)
80 m	3.690 MHz & 3.940 MHz	3.650 MHz
40 m	7.090 MHz & 7.190 MHz	7.090 MHz
20 m	14.290 MHz	14.190 MHz
15 m	21.360 MHz	21.190 MHz

VHF UHF FM Voice Operation

Two (2) Dual Band 2m 70cm Vertical antennas are available with various lengths of low loss coaxial cable, terminated with “N” connectors.

Numerous FM voice repeaters are accessible from the JOTA site, including the following;

Call Sign	Frequency	Location
VK2RLE	146.800 MHz	Engadine
VK2RWI	147.000 MHz	Dural

VK2RMP	146.850 MHz	Maddens Plans
VK2RBM	147.050 MHz	Blue Mountains
VK2RMB	146.875 MHz	Terry Hills
VK2ROT	147.025 MHz	Paddington
VK2RHR	146.825 MHz	Southern Highlands

VK DMR Digital Voice Operation

In recent years the VK DMR Digital Voice Network has been used for JOTA voice contacts Australia wide. The VK DMR has recently undergone some improvements with upgrade to the new IPSC3 core. Some talk groups have changed with new talk groups added.

Following is important information about using the VK DMR network for JOTA voice contacts.

1. For JOTA 2026 - TG30-39 will be enabled on Friday 16th October and disabled on Monday 19th October.
2. TG30-39 will be established on both VKDMR and ZL-IPSC3 DMR Core and cross-linked.
3. TG30 will be a common VK/ZL JOTA Calling Channel. It will have an extended timeout of somewhere between 30 and 60 minutes, which will be subject to modification over the weekend depending on network performance.
4. TG31-39 are JOTA QSO Talkgroups and will have an extended timeout in the order of 15 minutes, which will be subject to modification over the weekend depending on network performance.
5. The ZL IPSC2 group do not allow non- ZL callsigns (RadiolDs) on their network – as such the link to the new ZL-IPSC3 Core will predominately enable contact with ZL JOTA stations using hotspots.
6. The VKDMR Working Group will be analysing the usage of these talk groups with a view to how JOTA will be supported in future years. This is clearly a case of 'Use it or lose it!'
7. Given the extended timeouts identified in 3 and 4 above, it is strongly recommended to TG400 (disconnect) on departing any TG.
8. On IPSC3 based networks - use TG400 (not TG4000) for talk group disconnect.

In summary, **TG30** should be used as a calling channel, then QSY to a free talk group in the **TG31 to TG39** range. JOTA stations should use **TG400** to disconnect when departing any talk group.

The VK DMR network can be accessed either through one of several VK DMR repeaters located in the Sydney Metropolitan area, which are accessible from the JOTA site, including the following;

Call Sign	ID	Location
VK2RLE	505212	Engadine
VK2RWI	505236	Dural
VK2RMP	505076	Maddens Plans
VK2RHT	505225	Chatswood
VK2RMB	505235	Terry Hills

The VK DMR network can also be accessed using a low powered hand held UHF DMR transceiver, to access a UHF DMR Hot Spot, connected to the internet via either a WiFi access point or hot spot.

For VK DMR Repeaters, all talk groups use Time Slot 1, except TG505 which is on Time Slot 2. VKDMR Simplex Hot Spots typically use Time Slot 2 for all Talk Groups.

Activity on the VKDMR Network is best monitored using the web-based dashboards at:

<https://ipsc3.vkdmr.com/dashboard/hotspots> (for hotspots)

<https://ipsc3.vkdmr.com/dashboard/connections> (for repeaters)

<https://ipsc3.vkdmr.com/dashboard/radios> (for last heard stations)

More information about the VK DMR network can be found at

<https://www.vkdmr.com/dashboard/content/about>

Brandmeister DMR Digital Voice Operation

The Brandmeister DMR Network also provides the following international JOTA talk groups;

- TG907 – International JOTA Calling (Time Slot 2)
- TG9071 to TG9078 – JOTA TAC1 to TAC8 (Time Slot 1)

Two new Australian (VK) JOTA TGs have been established;

- TG50597 is the preferred VK JOTA Calling Channel (Time Slot 2)
- TG50598 is the VK JOTA TAC (Time Slot 1)

Note: To disconnect from a Brandmeister talk group, use **TG4000**

The Brandmeister DMR network can be accessed using a low powered hand held UHF DMR transceiver, to access a UHF DMR Duplex Hot Spot, connected to the internet via either a WiFi access point or hot spot.

Activity on the BrandMeister Network is best monitored using the web-based 'Hose line' dashboard at: <https://hose.brandmeister.network/>

DMR Digital Operation using UHF hotspots

Over the JOTA weekend, operators may be using up to four UHF Hotspots to access both the VK and Brandmeister DMR Networks. To avoid interference between low power handheld transceivers and hotspots, it is important to follow the SGARS JOTA band plan which will be provided. As operation commences, it may become necessary to change some frequencies.

EchoLink

EchoLink® software allows Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology.

JOTA stations use EchoLink to communicate with other JOTA stations. The EchoLink network can be accessed by;

- an FM voice repeater connected to an EchoLink gateway such as VK2RLE which is connected to EchoLink gateway, Node Number 170628, or,
- an EchoLink gateway which can be accessed using a low powered hand held UHF FM transceiver. The EchoLink gateway is connected to the internet via either a WiFi access point or hot spot, or,
- using EchoLink program installed on a Windows PC or laptop, with access to the internet, or,
- using EchoLink application installed on an Android device, with access to the internet.

More information about the EchoLink network can be found at <https://www.echolink.org/>

JOTA stations using EchoLink can update the Location/Description field to indicate participation in JOTA, to attract contacts with other JOTA stations.

Electro-Magnetic Interference

Electromagnetic interference (EMI) including Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) are unwanted and other non-intended/non-desirable signals (noise) which can interfere with the operation of radio and computer equipment. EMI/RFI can be:

- a) Conducted - where the unintended signal travels directly along a physical conductor (e.g. power wiring), or
- b) Radiated - where the unintended signal is radiated from one device to another including from antennas, PCB traces and semi-conductors.

In addition, RF common-mode currents may be induced onto coaxial cables and the like where such cables are placed in strong RF fields.

Devices including switch mode power supplies (as commonly found in USB charging devices) can be known sources of EMI/RFI capable of disrupting amateur radio communications.

To minimise the effect of EMI/RFI at the JOTA site, ferrite beads (snaps on type) should be used, where possible/practicable, on the input and output cables (both 230VAC and extra low voltage DC (e.g. 12V and 5V)) for power supplies, LED lights and radio equipment.

In addition, connection of high power amateur transmitters should be connected to an RF earth and ferrite beads (or other HF choke) should be fitted to the coaxial cable feeding antennas.

The use of a band pass filter can also assist in reducing strong out-of-band signal interference. The SGARS bandpass filters are 100W Continuous rated.

Further Information

Links to further information on JOTA and JOTI may be found the Appendix.

General

Rubbish / re-cycling bag	
UHF low power hand held 433.850 MHz	
Government issued photo ID, with at least your name and date of birth	

Daytime Attendance

Own food and drink (if you have special dietary requirements)	
Drinking water (recommended 2 litres per person per day)	
Toilet paper and sanitised hand cleaner	
Layered clothing including wind / rain jacket	
Broad brim hat and minimum SPF30+ Sun screen	
Sun glasses	
Insect repellent	
Sturdy fully enclosed shoes	
Cup or Mug (un-breakable) for refreshments	

Saturday Evening Attendance

Layered clothing including wind / rain jacket	
Head Light with new batteries	
Insect repellent	

Set Up and Pack Up

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – refer Safe Work Method Statement	
Hard Hat, Gloves, Eye protection	
Hand Tools	
Hi-Vis Vest	

Radio and other equipment – Please check with JOTA coordinator regarding requirements for additional equipment.

Appendix B JOTA SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Sample questions that Guides and Scouts can use whilst talking on air at JOTA

- What is your name and can you spell it phonetically?
- Where are you operating from?
- What is the name of the city/town/country where you live?
- How big is the place where you live?
- What's the weather like where you are?
- What time is it where you are?
- What other activities are there for you to do during JOTA?
- How long have you been in Scouts/Guides?
- How many Scouts/Guides are in your group/unit?
- Tell me about something that you have recently enjoyed at scouts/guides.
- Tell me about the best/last camp you have attended.
- What is the best event you have participated in with scouts/guides
- What is the last badge that you received and what did you have to do to achieve it?
- Tell me about a service project your unit has done?
- What sports do you play? Which team members are you on? How long have you played?
- Tell me about your pets?
- What year are you in school? What subjects do you like the best?
- What are your favourite movies or TV shows?
- Do you have brothers or sisters? Older or younger?
- What did you do on your last holiday? Where did you go?

**** WARNING ****

Do NOT ask for or give out personal information over the air, such as family name, address, telephone numbers, email address, or social media names, etc.

SGARS JOTA WhatsApp Community Group Invitation

SGARS has established a WhatsApp Community Group for JOTA Volunteers.

Outside of UHF 433.850 MHz simplex, this will be a primary means of team communication during JOTA. After JOTA we expect WhatsApp community groups will continue to provide an effective method of communication within SGARS. Some of you already have joined the JOTA group, there is no need to rejoin.

You can find general information on WhatsApp community groups at:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/495856382464992>

Information on security and privacy of WhatsApp community groups at:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/236979282604093>

Note: To protect your privacy when you join a community, your phone number is only visible to community admins, people who have saved you as a contact, and people who have your number from other chats. Currently the Community owner is Peter VK2KFP and admin is Peter VK2BFF.

If you already have WhatsApp on your phone or device you can join the SGARS community by following this link

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CogwPkVubvgLclwMlD2Flo>

Once you have joined the community be sure to also join the JOTA group, if not already joined.

If you have to install WhatsApp on your phone, this may help you in understanding the WhatsApp user interface

<https://www.androidauthority.com/how-to-use-whatsapp-1097088/>

Once you have joined the SGARS JOTA WhatsApp community don't forget to say hi

SGARS JOTA Page: www.sgars.org/jota-home

Boree Regatta Facebook: Boree Regatta 2026 - Everything Aussie

Boree Regatta Information Booklet: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/3673>

Boree Regatta Catering Form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h0Hdits6Sp>

JOTA/JOTI global website: www.jotajoti.info

VK JOTA/JOTI website: <https://vkjotijota.com/>

International JOTA/JOTI manual: www.jotajoti.info/jota/amateur-radio-activity

Scouts Australia – Child Protection Policy: <https://scouts.com.au/Child-Protection-Policy>

Scouts Australia – Code of Conduct: [Scouts Australia Code of Conduct](#)

Scouts NSW – Youth Protection: <https://nsw.scouts.com.au/youthprotection/>

SGARS JOTA Team documents, manuals, installation and safety guides, equipment operation instructions, including SGARS JOTA Team Volunteer Handbook 2026 and SGARS Power Setup Handbook, can be downloaded from <https://www.sgars.org/jota-team-downloads>