

Smoky Mountain Signals

Journal of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club



July 2019

Special Edition:
Celebrating the History of Scouting and Ham Radio
and the 24th World Scout Jamboree

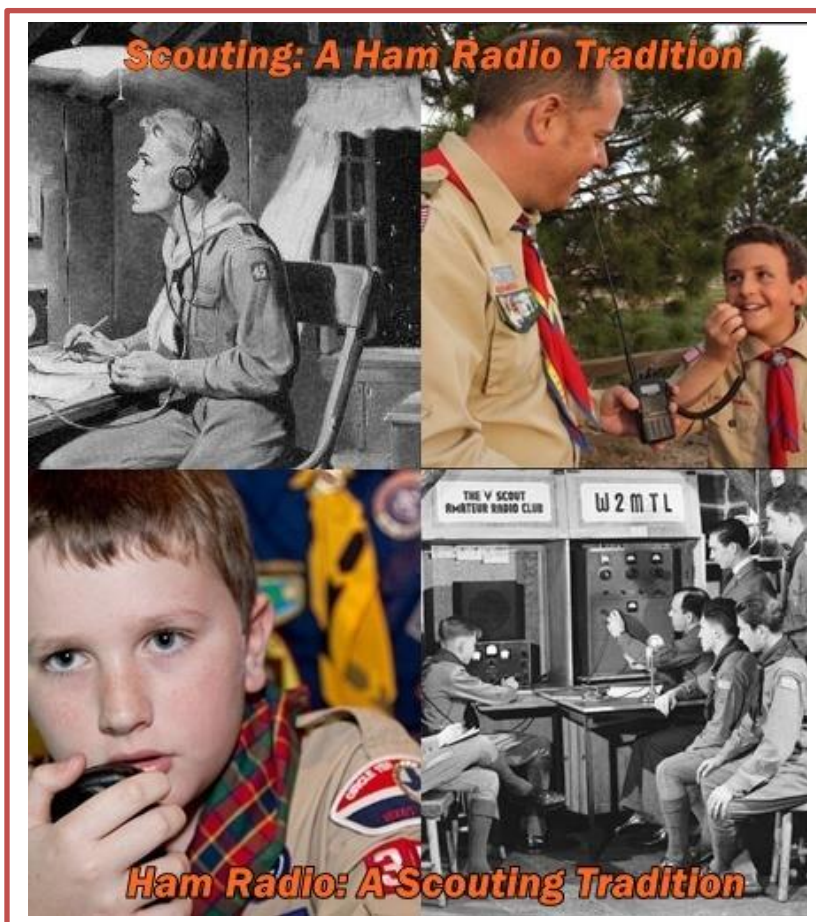
Special Edition

Celebrating the History of Scouting and Ham Radio and The 24th World Scout Jamboree

There is no table of contents for this issue, and the regular features, except the editorial, are not included.

Simply browse through to learn about the connections between Scouting and ham radio, as well as information about the World Jamboree, which is being held in the U.S. for only the second time.

Most importantly, try to get on the air and talk to some Scouts! All the information you need is contained in the newsletter.



Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club Founded: 1947

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Steve Carpenter, K4DXV
Newsletter Editor

Smoky Mountain Rambling...

On Pride and Passion



Prepared. For Life.®



I have mentioned Scouting before in the newsletter; several times, as I recall. And, although I never rose to the exalted rank of Eagle, my time in Scouting was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life, and the BSA is the one organization of the many to which I have belonged in which I take the most pride. I have reflected many times on why this is so, and I think it boils down to this: Scouting gave me a sense of confidence – confidence that any task can be accomplished, as well as the ability to know whether it can be done individually or requires a team.

Additionally, of course, Scouting taught character lessons that reinforced the values taught in my home, church, and community. There was also an overall sense of accomplishment as I learned new skills to advance through the ranks and earn merit badges. And, there were opportunities for leadership, service, and a sense of being a part of something greater than myself. All of those were big things for a young mind, and perhaps it was all of them working together that made such an impression on me, but that sense of confidence is, I think, the key result.

Many years have passed now since those halcyon days, but in all the ensuing years, thoughts of becoming involved in Scouting as an adult leader have simmered in the back of my mind. Like so many things we all intend to do “one of these days,” that goal went unrealized for me until a couple of years ago. In 2017, **George Shields, W4GCS**, crew advisor for Venturing Crew 4 (and coincidentally a former student and the first president of the William Blount High School Amateur Radio Club I sponsored for eighteen years), contacted me for help getting his group on the air for the 60th Jamboree on the Air. That led to several Venturers visiting the SMARC Field Day in 2018 to learn more about ham radio. I am now trustee for the crew’s club call sign, which George got converted to a neat vanity call – **KT4VC** (Knoxville Tennessee 4 Venturing Crew).

Of course, I am not the only SMARC member who was a Scout or who has been involved in Scouting as an adult leader or a Scout parent. In this issue, you will read some of our members’ stories, some radio related and some not. In addition, you will get a history lesson on ham radio in Scouting, and get some insights into the World Jamboree which is being held July 22 to August 1, just to our north at the Summit Bechtel Reserve Scout Camp in West Virginia. There is also information on how you can talk to Scouts at the Jamboree.

I have long wanted to do an all-Scouting issue, but the timing of the World Jamboree made me realize that there would probably never be a better time, and that it was probably now or never. I regret that I was not able to get the issue together before the Jamboree got underway, but there should be a couple of days of the Jamboree – as well as opportunities to contact Scouts – by the time the issue gets to you. This is obviously a personal project of passion, allowing me to perfectly merge three of my greatest interests – Scouting, ham radio, and writing – into one product. Beyond the personal, however, I hope it helps our SMARC members learn more about the long history that ham radio and Scouting share together, as well as illuminate where that relationship stands today. Mostly, I hope it inspires our members to get on the air, not only during the World Jamboree, but during Jamboree-on-the-Air in October, and any time you hear Scouts or know of Scouts on the air.

Enjoy the newsletter, get on the air, and I hope to see you back here for the August newsletter!

Scouting and Ham Radio — From Yesterday, Toward Tomorrow

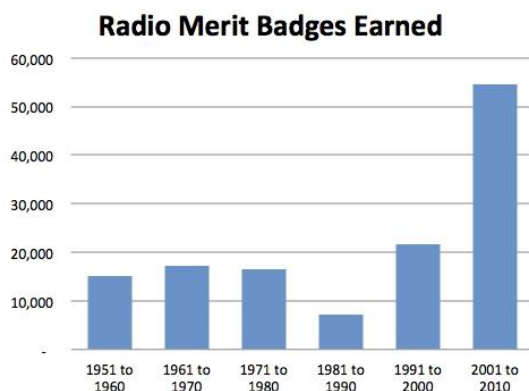
by Jim Wilson, K5ND

(Reprinted from <http://www.arrrl.org/radio-scouting> -- edited to update some information)

Ham radio has been a part of Scouting since 1918 with the inauguration of the Wireless merit badge. The ARRL was a key contributor in establishing those early requirements and in pulling together that first merit badge pamphlet. This merit badge, among many, is part of Scouting's legacy of providing concise information and rigorous requirements to introduce Scouts to hobbies, vocations and generally fun stuff. The list of merit badges today numbers over 130, covering diverse topics from nuclear science to a recently introduced Welding merit badge. This article provides a brief overview of Radio Scouting, yesterday and today.

Radio Merit Badge

Not surprisingly, the history of the Radio merit badge reflects the history of amateur radio. For example, the 1922 merit badge pamphlet shows a requirement of receiving Morse code at a rate of 10 WPM; in 1930 the requirement was 5 WPM and in 1984 the code requirement was dropped completely. Since then, the number of Radio merit badges earned each year has grown from roughly 1,000 per year to more than 7,000 in 2009.



Morse Code Interpreter Strip

Even though Scouting dropped the Morse code requirement from the Radio merit badge, it has recently introduced a Morse code interpreter strip. An interpreter strip, worn on the youth or adult Scout uniform over the right pocket, designates those who are proficient in a language and denotes their availability to translate that language for others. In this case, the patch indicates that a Scout or Scout leader is available for disaster communication or other types of supporting communication for Scouting and the community. The patch is in code, with the word M-O-R-S-E spelled out.



The requirements for the interpreter badge are to show knowledge of Morse code by carrying on a 5 minute conversation at 5 WPM, copying correctly a 2 minute message sent at 5 WPM and sending a 25 word message at 5 WPM. These requirements are very similar to those for other languages such as French, Spanish, American Sign Language, etc.

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Jamboree-On-The-Air

Jamboree-on-the-Air is an annual event that fosters Scout-to-Scout communication across borders — be it city, county, state, country or even between continents. It is not a contest but a way to get everyone on the air at the same time to communicate with their fellow Scouts, learn about their Scouting experiences, wherever they live, and introduce them to the fun and technology of Amateur Radio. Its purpose is to foster conversations rather than multiple contacts.



JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world. In 2011 nearly 750,000 Scouts participated with over 6000 stations in operation from 150 countries. The 55th JOTA will be held October 20–21, 2012. Participation in the US has been at a high, but generally unmeasured level. In 2011, with the first US reporting system in place, 68 stations reported over 3000 Scouts in attendance and this with many active stations not reporting. (*Editor's note: In 2018 the worldwide participation was 1.8 million Scouts in 150 countries!*) This event is organized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement and in each country by the country's national JOTA organizer and national Radio Scouting committee.

National Radio Scouting Committee

In early 2011, The National Radio Scouting Committee was formed with a specific focus on improving the results of Jamboree-on-the-Air in the United States. This effort followed on the heels of the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Boy Scouts of America and the ARRL™. That MOU formalized a longtime relationship that began with the introduction of the Wireless merit badge in 1918. It also helped set the stage for improved communication and cooperation between the BSA and ARRL around all Radio Scouting activities.

The first step the National Radio Scouting Committee made was to develop a complete website of support materials and information about Jamboree-on-the-Air for both Scout leaders and Amateur Radio operators at www.scouting.org/jota. This effort continues with the enhancement of JOTA systems and support publications. This support includes materials for teaching the Radio merit badge, which can often be a supporting activity.

The committee also designed a Radio Scouting emblem for use in representing all Radio Scouting activities. This emblem provides an enduring symbol that is unchanged from year to year, as opposed to the JOTA patch design that changes each year.



- continued on page 4 -

K2BSA Amateur Radio Association

The Amateur Radio station associated with the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America began in 1952 at the Schiff Scout Reservation in New Jersey. The call sign, K2BFW, was licensed to the *Boys' Life* Amateur Radio Club. In the late 1960s, Walter Maxwell, W2DU, a frequent contributor to *QST*, began working with the BSA and the FCC to establish a special club call sign. His efforts were rewarded in 1971 with the call sign K2BSA. This was well before vanity call signs and demonstrated the passionate effort made by Walter, the BSA and the FCC to secure this special call sign.

Today the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association is a nonprofit organization that promotes Radio Scouting and provides a great deal of Radio Scouting information at www.k2bsa.net. Be sure to check out the history pages, including copies of the K2BFW license and Walter Maxwell's story of how the K2BSA call sign was obtained.



National Jamboree

K2BSA has been in action at every national Scout jamboree since 1977. However, Amateur Radio has been present since at least 1953, when K6BSA was in operation from Irvine, California. Jamborees are held every 4 years. Scouting estimates that roughly 50,000 Scouts have experienced Amateur Radio over the intervening 15 events.

The 2021 National Scout Jamboree will be held at Scouting's newest national high-adventure base, the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, in West Virginia. The exciting news is that the Summit will be the permanent home of the jamboree. The Amateur Radio infrastructure in place there can benefit all Scouting programs held at the Summit, as well as future jamborees. ICOM America's Jamboree sponsorship has resulted in the permanent installation of three repeaters on the property to serve not only the jamboree but also all Scouting programs at the Summit and the local community.

Local Council Station Loans

As part of the sponsorship agreement with ICOM America, up to 10 complete Amateur Radio stations will be available for long-term or short-term event loans to local councils. This will serve not only to help local Scout councils get Amateur Radio up and running, but also to create community and national visibility around Amateur Radio and Scouting.

Summary

Amateur Radio and Scouting have gone together since 1918 and over that time the activities have not only grown but thrived. The fantastic growth in the number of Scouts earning the Radio merit badge in the first decade of the 21st century is just one example. If you're involved in Radio Scouting in your local community, thank you so much for all you've done to support introducing Amateur Radio to youths. If you're not involved, what are you waiting for? Check with your local radio club and see how they're connected to Scouting. If they are, get involved. If not, check with your local Scout council to determine how you can get involved. Set up a JOTA station at a local camporee. Volunteer as a Radio merit badge counselor. It's a great time to introduce youth to the fun and adventure of Amateur Radio.

About the Author

Jim Wilson's, K5ND, day job is with the Boy Scouts of America, working in communication and publishing as director of communication services. His volunteer jobs are K2BSA Amateur Radio Association president and trustee, K2BSA 2013 jamboree chairman, national Jamboree-on-the-Air organizer and chairman of the National Radio Scouting Committee. He publishes a weblog titled "My Ham Radio Adventures" at www.k5nd.net. He began his career working at Heathkit Educational Systems, writing the General Class License Home Study Course, among many other projects and assignments. Jim, an ARRL member, can be contacted at 2605 Valleywood Dr., Grapevine, TX 76051-6584, jim.wilson@scouting.org

- Info from Jim about the World Jamboree on page 5 -

K5ND at the World Jamboree

From the editor: On July 10, Jim posted the following blog post. It's an interesting look into just a little of what goes into preparing just for the amateur radio part of an event as large as the World Jamboree.

It's time to head to the World Scout Jamboree. Just me and about 50,000 Scouts from over 160 countries. I'm hopeful that a few thousand will make it to the NA1WJ station for an introduction to the science, technology, fun, and magic of amateur radio.

The setup for me starts on July 16 with the opening on July 22. Departure happens on August 1 with tear down extending through the 2nd or 3rd. It's surprising how quickly tear down can happen when you're ready to get home to a hot shower, cold beer, and adoring wife.

For me, you can catch a glimpse of all the gear that I'm taking along in the nearby photos. It includes quite a bit of equipment for the station, some coffee and tea, as well as posters, banners, and tools. Then there is my own personal gear including uniforms, shirts, shorts, lots and lots of sox, and still more. Plus, I bring along my HT that I typically only use at Jamborees.

Over the last few weeks, everyone on the International Service Team has been in overdrive to get ready. Our main sponsor Icom America delivered their equipment in early June. MFJ provided updates to their 2017 donations quite a few months ago. DX Engineering equipment is already in place from the 2017 National Jamboree. And, JK Antennas is delivering their Yagi's this month.

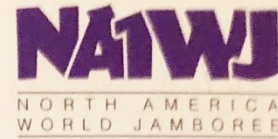
In the run up, I've mostly been trying to keep my eyes open to head off potential disasters — like the tent that was placed in the middle of the access for the bucket truck required to mount the antennas. Got that moved. But what a chore that would have been once we arrived on site, if it would have even been possible to move it.

I've also attempted to think through the early challenges once on the ground. This includes finding all our gear that should be at the station but in the past has been left in the warehouse or scattered in other locations.

Somehow, someday, most of our arrangements will be made in time for the opening of the Jamboree. Plus, we'll make a few adjustments to make sure we provide a great program for the Scouts.



Talk to Scouts at the World Jamboree – Here's How!



Don't miss out on a once in a lifetime chance to work NA1WJ at the World Scout Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years, most recently in Japan in 2015 with 8N23WSJ and Sweden in 2011 with SJ22S. Scouts from nearly 160 nations attend and participate in many life-changing experiences.

This is your chance to work the Scouts and help the NA1WJ station introduce amateur radio to thousands of Scouts.

Key Dates:

18 to 21 July — Early set up and some on the air contacts.

22 July to 1 August — Program Activities including getting Scouts on the air.

Program Times:

Typically 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time.

Operations will be around the clock for QSOs.

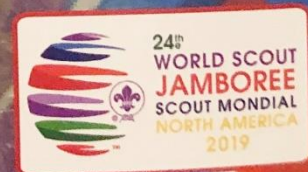
July 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				NA1WJ Jamboree Setup and Testing		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Final Testing	NA1WJ Program Activities and Scouts on the Air					
28	29	30	31			
Continued NA1WJ Scouts on the Air						

IC-7300



ID-5100A



- More info on page 7 -



Coordinate Your Calendar and Your Rig's Dial

Daytime, when your QSOs are needed for Scout demonstrations, watch for 40, 20, 17, and 15 meters.

Evenings should work well on 80 and 40 meters.

Starting points for SSB include:

80 meters	3.940 MHz
40 meters	7.190 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz
17 meters	18.140 MHz
15 meters	21.360 MHz
12 meters	24.960 MHz
10 meters	28.390 MHz
6 meters	50.160 MHz

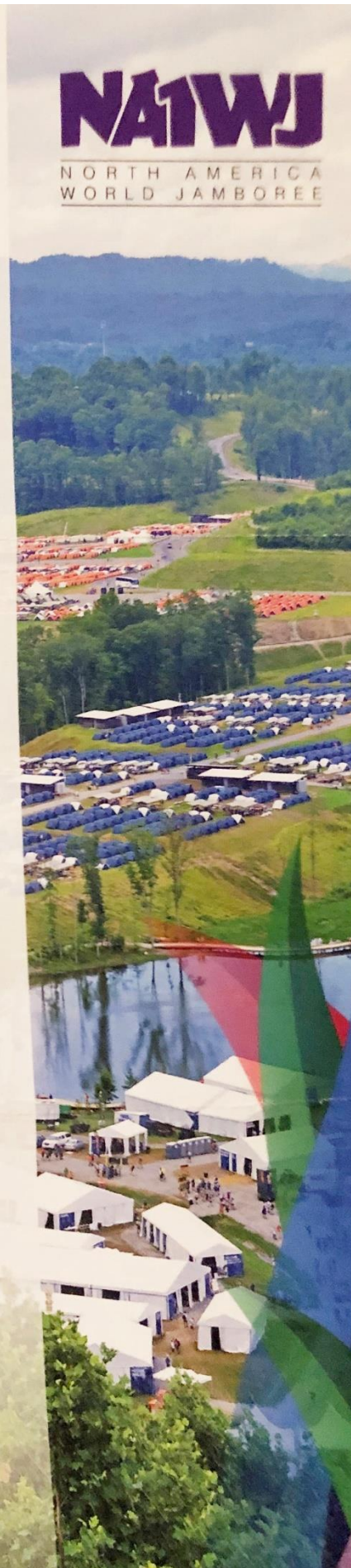
CW, PSK, and FT8 operations are also expected.
Watch for real time updates on social media and our website:

Website: www.NA1WJ.net
Facebook: [K2BSA.Scouting](https://www.facebook.com/K2BSA.Scouting)
Twitter: [NA1WJ_Scouting](https://twitter.com/NA1WJ_Scouting)

Also check out our group at na1wj+subscribe@groups.io

There is also access via VOIP channels including:

Echolink Conference Node *JAMBO*
D-Star Reflector REF033A



Amateur Radio Activities at WSJ2019

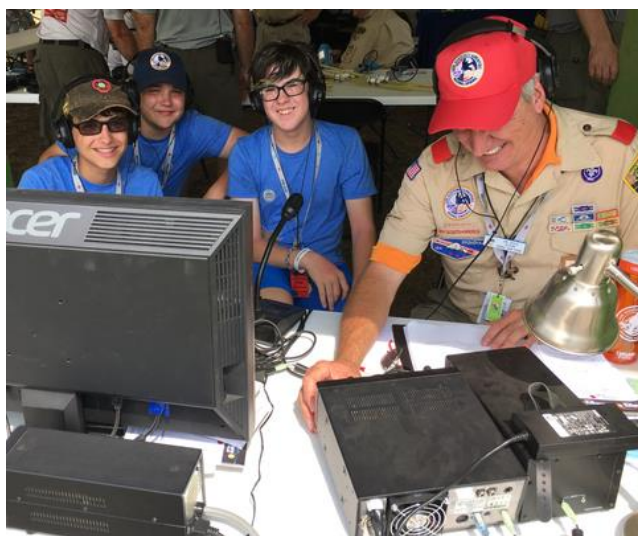
SSB HF activity, of course, is likely to be sparse due to the solar minimum, and, as most of us know, West Virginia is usually a hard reach from here in East Tennessee. Fortunately, Jim Wilson, K5ND, and his staff of volunteers have a wide variety of radio activities planned for the Scouts.

In addition to SSB, there will be activity on CW, PSK, and FT8. The digital modes will likely be most effective, and probably the most impressive to the youth. So, be sure to check the spotting networks to see when NA1WJ is active.

And don't overlook the Echolink and D-Star information listed on page 7.

But, there is still more. In conjunction with WSJ2019, there will be active stations at the **Philmont Scout Ranch** in New Mexico, **Gilwell Scout Park** outside of London, the **Netherlands Jamboree**, as well as several other locations around the world. There is a scheduled contact with the International Space Station, Pico balloons tracked via APRS, daily contacts via amateur radio satellites, maker-spaces for hands-on electronics, radio merit badge classes, and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) will be a part of the Exploration area of the Summit.

So, even if we don't get to make an HF SSB contact, rest assured that amateur radio is well represented at the Jamboree with plenty for Scouts to see and do and learn about!



Our Scouting Stories

Some of our SMARC members were gracious enough to share their Scouting memories. Enjoy them below.

Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX

I was never involved in scouting as a youth, but my son, Ted, was a Cub Scout for several years during elementary school back in the 1990's. He's in his 30's now and just got married two weeks ago.

Ted and I used to build the Pinewood Derby cars together each year. It was a fun father & son scouting activity which I recall fondly. Each year, Ted had to come up with a design idea for his car. One year, Ted said he wanted to make his Pinewood Derby car a police cruiser. He was proud of me being a police officer and was very interested in police vehicles. So, we set about building his car together.

My interest in ham radio and electronics led me to suggest hollowing out the underside of the car and fitting it with some batteries (we had to use small lithium coin cells to stay under the weight limit) and a couple of flashing red LEDs protruding up through the roof.

On derby day, several dozen scouts showed up with their cars. There were some other first responder-themed vehicles, but Ted's was the only one equipped with actual working emergency lights. It drew many compliments and he won first place for design. It sure made him proud and was a priceless bonding experience for both of us.



Dave Kaun, N9KMY

Both of my sons, now in their 40s, gained a Tech ham license to meet badge requirements in Boy Scouts and both worked their way up the ladder to Eagle. As licensed hams they took part in local bike and running events while in high school, thus using their skills and learning how to communicate. As both studied engineering, they applied for ARRL scholarships and they received a \$500 or \$1000 each year. My sons secured ROTC scholarships with one Navy and one Air Force. Today one is a Lt. Col. in the Air Force with an expertise in cyber security and about to retire. The other is a Commander in the Navy Reserve with a nuclear power specialty as a Department of Defense employee. Neither are active in ham radio today while their Dad still is. Both have sons and may well pick up a radio again in the future as they pursue Scouting.

- More on page 10 -

Our Scouting Stories, continued

David McCammon, KN4AER

I got into Scouting when I was fourteen. Each time I could advance to next rank, I did it as quickly as possible, reaching Eagle rank by sixteen, and two of the three palms by age eighteen. But, I turned eighteen before I was able to complete that last palm.

Ham radio did not enter my life until 2017, but my Scouting experience did involve a lot of CB radio while various outings. I continued to enjoy CB and talking skip until my dad passed away in 1990. He was War World Two vet who had been a radio operator while in the Army. I have many memories of Scouting. We used take at least one camping trip a month and always had church service. I will never forget doing that on Hooper Bald many times, with Bob Wilson's (KK4XA) dad Paul leading us in music after our scoutmaster Hugh Roberts led a Sunday school lesson.

Bob Wilson, KK4XA

I began Scouting in the 1970's, and my uncle Hugh Wilson was our Scoutmaster of Troop 86 in Wildwood. Scouting was a big part of my life, and I became an Eagle Scout at the age of fourteen.

Our Troop did a lot of Jeeping on trails that lead to Hooper Bald, a type of highland meadow that occurs throughout the southern Appalachian Mountains, and my dad Paul had a Jeep. Before I was even old enough to be in Scouts, I often went along with the troop on their outings. Hooper Bald was a frequent destination because many trails of varying levels of difficulty lead to it.

One foggy night while the troop was camped on Hooper Bald, another Jeep drove up and pitched a red tent. A glow from that tent drew my attention, so I and a friend walked toward it. As we got closer I could hear an engine running and the tent seemed to glow brighter as we approached. However, I noticed that the light was dimming and brightening....then I heard the sound of Morse Code and it hit me....these were ham radio operators! I had never seen anything like this, and I was pretty overwhelmed. One man came out of the tent to adjust something – that was when I noticed the wires outside – but he didn't see us. I never approached them, but I told the friend who was with me, "I'm going to do that someday." I knew that what I had seen was ham radio, but I knew no one then who was ham, and, of course, there was no Google to help me find out more.

By the time I was 11 and could officially become a Scout, my brother **Rick (KD4VSG, SK)** was 16, an Eagle Scout in our troop, and he and his best friend got into CB radio. Rick got into it big since he was working and had some money, even building a little radio shack in our garage. I got involved as much as a bigger brother would let little brothers get involved. I certainly had a bad case of radio wannabe!

Soon Rick got a mobile CB, as did his friend, so Scouting with Jeeps and CB became the norm. Over the years, I became the radio guy who would solder connections when they broke and measuring SWR as my brother had shown me when I was younger. **David McCammon KN4AER** was also in our troop, and he and his Dad got their CB call sign too and then we had 3 Jeeps with radio.

As a kid I always had a desire to learn about communicating over the air, and transmitting ones voice was a real big deal to me and still is. Through Scouting and realizing back then how I would someday venture into what would be ham radio stuck with me throughout life. Radio sure made it easier when in a convoy going over rough terrain and having problems along the way. Scouting kept me out of a lot of trouble as a child and to this day I still use skills obtained and learned through Scouting.



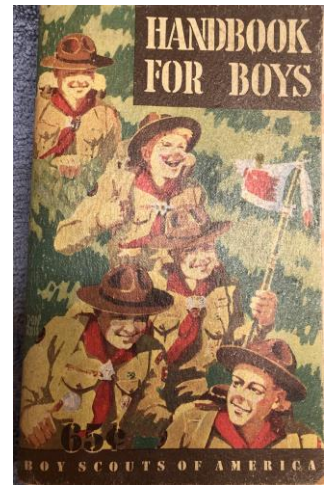
A Few Odds & Ends from K4DXV



Charter for Troop 386, 1967
I lashed the frame together in 1968



My Scout Handbook



My Dad's Scout Handbook, 1948
Dad was my Scoutmaster



Vonita Latham, KM4CLT, age 13
presenting on JOTA at the 2019
Hamvention Youth Forum



2019 Souvenir Hamvention Uniform Patch



A Project from Last Year
Restoring my 1967 Ulster BSA Pocketknife



"Mostly" Completed Restoration

Some Scenes from and about WSJ2019



The oldest Scouter at WSJ – Age 99!
Name unavailable
– photo by Ed Evans, WV8ED



Yes, he was there in person to speak to Scouts



Venturing Crew 4 from Knoxville visited WSJ on
Saturday, July 27

K2BSA
22 mins · 🌐
CQ Satellite CQ Satellite! Scouts are
enjoying their experience with the birds.
@AMSAT #hamradio #ScoutJamboree



K2BSA posted this on Facebook



A young Scout participating in ARDF