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Date: 21 October 2007

Jamboree On The Air

Scouts and Cubs from Tynemouth were amongst the thousands around the world to take part in the annual Jamboree on the Air this weekend thanks to the help of Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club.

Lord Baden – Powell held the first world Jamboree after World War One in the hope that Scouts from different countries would make friends and help prevent such wars from taking place again. Most people think that attending large events such as the recent world Jamboree at Hylands Park in Essex is the only way to do this but there is another, more affordable way.

Michael Dale MBE, Scout Leader with the 3rd Tynemouth said “Modern communication technology offers all members of the Scout movement throughout the world the opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving their home town”. He added “Each year about half-a-million Scouts and Guides “get together” over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and via the internet for the Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI)”.

Tony Regnart, Secretary of Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club “We set up two High Frequency (HF) radios and one Very High Frequency (VHF) radio which the Scouts and Cubs seemed to really enjoy using” he went on to say “We managed to teach them some of the skills needed to help them gain the Cub and Scout communicators badges and have offered to come back again to help anyone who didn’t quite manage to do it all on the day”.

The Cubs and Scouts managed to make contact with both local event stations in Blyth, Cramlington, Hartlepool, Barnsley and even, by pure chance, a former member of the 3rd Tynemouth now living in East Yorkshire, as well as stations further a field including Sicily, Greece, Geneva, Canada, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Hungary.

One of the biggest surprises of the day was the Cubs and Scouts interest in morse code. Tony Regnart said “Glen Thompson, our Special Events Manager had connected a laptop to one of the HF radios which allowed Cubs and Scouts to type a message which the computer converted into morse code and transmitted. The received message was

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District Chairman: Don Charlton

District Commissioner: Peter Thorp

Patron HM The Queen **President** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout** Peter Duncan

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“read” by the computer and then displayed on the screen. The surprising thing was that once they saw we had morse code keys, they preferred using those to the computer”.

All of the Scout Sections in Tynemouth District are open to boys and girls aged between 6 and 25; the adult section is open from 25 to 60 plus. If you would like to join the worlds largest co-educational youth organisation, at any level, you can call the Northumberland Scout's County Office on 0191 2668822, visit www.tynemouthscouts.org.uk or the national site at www.scouts.org.uk or e-mail media@tynemouthscouts.org.uk for more information.