

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
“BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE AIR”**

On October 19th-21st, two local amateur radio clubs will help out the Boy Scouts of America with their annual Jamboree On The Air. Both the Bryan Amateur Radio Club and Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club will converge on the Bovay Scout Ranch, on the south edge of Navasota, just off of Highway-6. On Saturday, the ‘hams’ will spend 8-hours, getting Cub Scouts on the air.

This 55th annual national Jamboree, which is closed to the public, will allow cub scouts to talk to each other across the local area, state, nation, and even overseas, using ham radio. The federally licensed hams will serve as control operators for the stations, and as ‘Elmers’, or mentors, for the Cubs. This exercise will introduce the scouts to the ways in which ham radio is useful in emergencies, such as hurricanes, using portable equipment in remote locations.

Last year, the Jamboree involved 750,000 participants and over 6,000 ham radio stations at Jamboree sites. Roughly 400 Cubs will be involved in Saturday’s Navasota event.

Over the 55 years of the event’s history, technology used in the Jamboree has progressed from Morse Code with wire antennas, to voice, to Amateur TV, to digital data. This year, there will be ten sites in the state of Texas. The Navasota event will operate four radio stations, from high frequencies through VHF and UHF frequencies. One station will employ amateur TV. Also, a station with overseas capability, will employ a high-gain beam-type high-frequency antenna on a 50-foot trailer-mounted tower. This particular antenna is also used locally in regional response, such as weather emergencies.

One hands-on activity at Navasota will be a 'fox hunt', where the 'fox' is someone with a hand-held radio who is lost. Each Cub involved will carry a light-weight direction-finding antenna with his hand-held radio. They will track down the 'fox', to learn how a radio search operates. This is one of the most-fun events.

The Bryan Amateur Radio Club, will be using its call-sign, W5BCS. The Texas A&M Club has one of the oldest university call-signs in the U.S., being W5AC.

WEBSITE URLs:

Jamboree On The Air: <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

Bovay Scout Ranch: <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/bovay.php>

Bryan Amateur Radio Club: <https://www.bryanarc.org/>

Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club: <http://w5ac.tamu.edu/>

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