WORLD ORGANIZATION OF INDEPENDENT SCOUT

WOIS
CAMPOREE ON THE AIR
CAMPOREE EN EL AIRE
COTA
WOIS

Camporee On The Air
SERVICE HANDBOOK

http://www.woisscouts.org

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"A pair of well-trained eyes are as good
as a dozen inexperienced eyes."
BP

Content

Presentation

COTA (Camporee on the air) organization is held by WOIS to facilitate scouts to communicate each other and with all scout-friends over the world via radio communication technologies. The COTA handbook service covers all activities including the COTA day, continuous education, promotion and development of DX abilities of WOIS units. Thus it is a continuous and world-wide mission and has to be managed by WOIS with a well-designed coordination of member countries. The project has significant difficulties and the major approach has to be the "problem solving". Every single act has to be carefully designed and a professional team has to be formed for decision making.

Coskun Pinar

World COTA Commissioner

Why the COTA Program.?

Our young people are eager for answers, knowledge and experiences that can take them to higher levels of knowledge, for that reason and with the help of our radio amateurs, we implement this activity that will help increase the global experiences of our youth at all levels , the COTA is our annual showcase where the scout groups and radio amateurs meet in a common environment to exchange experiences and solutions and get to know each other thus making the 4th articles of our law a reality.

Get ready to live the experience with your national commissioner of CAMPOREE EN EL AIRE

Successes

Forms of Communication in our COTA

HF Communication

Scouts will make two-way communication on amateur HF bands with the assistance of a lisenced leader or supervisor. Scout to scout communication is prefered, but any peer is welcome. COTA activity is not a DX contest.

Exchange: Scouts will give signal report to the peers connected. Scouts will exchange names and names of their scout units.

Log: Any software based HAM logger may be used to collect required data for QSO's. Scout name is to be recorded with other QSO info, in a suitable ADIF field. A paper log is prefered for camps where computer cannot be installed. Empty log sheet can be downloaded from <u>this</u> link.

Rules: All WOIS stations must operate in accordance with their national HAM radio regulations. Leaders are responsible for HAM radio ethics. Being polite is a must.

COTA HF Call Frequencies.

Phone Frequencies

Band	Mod	Primary	Secondary
80	SSB	3670	3795
40	SSB	7090	7195
20	SSB	14280	14125
10	SSB	28460	28525

Telegraphy Frequencies

Band	Mod	Primary	Secondary
80	CW	3512	3523
40	CW	7012	7023
20	CW	14012	14023 *
10	CW	28012	28023

*COTA OCC Beacon will be active on secondary frequency of 20 m band

Digital Modes

Band	Mod	Primary	Secondary
20	RTTY	14082	
20	PSK	14072	
20	SSTV	14230	14235

Citizen Band

Channel	Mod	Frequency
11	AM, SSB	27085
16	AM, SSB	27155

Shortwave Listening

During COTA activities SWL is adviced for scouts via any kind of receivers including online websdr services or Globaltuners. Broadcasts and 2way communications may be listened. Receptions has to be logged in terms of date, time, frequency, brief description of the broadcast. Empty log sheet can be downloaded from this link. See also "COTA Tasks for Scouts" section for SWL tasks.

VOIP Communication

A Zello channel "WOIS-COTA" has been setup for COTA activities to fasciliate group conversations among scouts. Zello application can be downloaded for cell-phones or PC's. Zello clients may be simply linked to radio rigs using the VOX function and some audio wiring.

APRS Operations

All COTA stations may broadcast info via the nearest APRS internet gateway facility

COTA Operations Control Center (OCC)

A fully equipped and powered HAM radio station TA3CX will be active during the COTA activity. The location of the OCC station is Izmir, west coast of Turkey, and the locator is KM38HI.

COTA Tasks for Scouts

1. Communicate in Short Wave: Make a two-way wireless communication (QSO) with a DX operator. Give your name and unit info to him, receive his name and station information. Don't forget to exchange signal reports. Add the QSO details to your troop's DX Log.

2. SWL (Short Wave Listening): Listen shortwave frequencies, and listen a broadcast or two-way communication among HAM operators. Try to understand the content of communication. Fill "Reception Report Form" with your handwriting. Take a photo of the report and send it to cota@woisscouts.org. Give the original copy to your troop leader. The

reports will be collected and posted to stations by COTA organization. The empty forms can be downloaded from <u>this</u> link.

3. Listen to the WOIS CW Beacon: Tune to the beacon frequency of WOIS and listen the bulletin message in form of ""QST DE TA3CX {secret}"". Try to decode Morse and get the secret message.

4. Enjoy Zello: Connect "WOIS-COTA" channel using Zello application on the computer, cell phone or wirelessly through your local gateway. Make at least one conversation and exchange name of the unit and the operator. Add the details on the station log.

5. Test your HAM Knowledge: Visit HAM-Quiz link in the COTA web page and complete the quiz to test your HAM knowledge. If you don't have internet access at the camp, your leader can provide quiz paper for you.

6. Participate in your local radio network: With your PMR or FMS handheld radio, participates the network activity in your troop. Make your announcement like ""This is {YourName} from {TroopName}, {YourMessage}. Your short message may be a salutation to world scouts. Your leader will record the session and share it among COTA website.

7. Seek WOIS APRS Nodes: Using APRS software, locate the WOIS nodes on the word. WOIS OCC node publishes a secret message. Try to find the secret sentence and report it to your leader..

8. Spot your location on APRS: Either by using VHF-UHF radio or computer and cell phones, spot the geo-location of your camp ground to APRS network. Publish your greetings to world scouts within your APRS message.

9. Send a Radio Teletype Message to World Scouts: Use your computer and HF transceiver to broadcast a RTTY or PSK greeting message for Word Scouts. Each message will bring you COTA score and all messages will be published in the Annual COTA report.

10. Broadcast a SSTV Picture: Take a photo on your camp ground and send the photo via Slow Scan Television, using your computer and HF transceiver.

COTA Contest and Certificate Program

A well designed and managed DX contest has to be considered on the COTA day. Radio amateurs and scout units make contacts and collect QSO points. The logs are evaluated and cross-checked by WOIS and awards are served online through COTA web page.

COTA DX certification program has to be managed covering all year. Ham operators contact scout stations and collect QSO's all the year. This will provide scouts units to organize their field days, and DX activities all among the year.

COTA-ID: WOIS assigns a unique code for all units for use in the COTA activities. The concept is similar for IOTA and Lighthouse activation project s well known by HAM radio operators. The criteria of the COTA-ID standard is:

> COTA ID has to be has to be announced via the phonetic alphabet It has to be as short as possible

It has to be free of numbers as numbers conflict in the communications.

It has to be well distinguished from call signs, locators and other conventions.

We recommend a 3-letter convention as COTA-ID. Each unit may apply for a COTA –ID online through COTA Website and their ID is assigned randomly with a server software. Non WOIS scout troops may also have a COTA-ID. The COTA-ID is used in the DX contest, Dxpeditions and Certificate program.

COTA DX Contest

Based on the discussions with our leaders and radio amateurs we have designed the scope and the rules of COTA-CONTEST. The draft of the contest is summarized below:

a.-Contest starts at the COTA date, 00:00z and lasts 48 hours

b.-Ham operators collect COTA-ID's from scout stations to get a single QSO point

c.-Location factor: Each DXCC entry is counted as a factor

d.-Scout factor: Each scout operator by name is counted as a factor

Note Format:

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QSO: [BAND] [MODE] [DATE] [TIME] [CALL] [STX] [COTACALL] [COTA-ID] [OPERATOR]
QSO: 14000    PH 2018/09/07 1407 TA3CX  59    45 TC3P    ACR    JASMIN
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Categories:

CATEGORY-MEDIA: AIR, ECHOLINK
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP, MULTI-OP
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL, ECHOLINK, 10M, 20M, 40M, 80M
CATEGORY-MODE: ALL, PHONE, CW, DIGI
CATEGORY-POWER: HIGH, LOW
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: ASSISTED, NON-ASSISTED
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE, TWO, MULTI

Operation:

Non-Scout stations will exchange only the signal report, while scouts will exchange COTA-ID and operator short name with their signal report. Logs will be sent to WOIS COTA service via email in standard cabrilio format.

Awarding:

First, second and third degrees in each category and each continent will be awarded. ECHOLINK is a new category for our contest although signal reporting is not needed for any

QSO:

Evaluation will last in one month and crosschecking is done with our software. Awards can be downloaded from the COTA Webpage.

Certificate and Diploma Program

Collect COTA-ID's from scouts, all among the year. Send logs anytime in the year until 31 Dec

Certificates will be ready at the end of January in each year

Certificates

1.-General participation certificate: Collect at least 3 COTA-ID
2.-Silver: Collect at least 5 COTA-ID
3.-Gold: Collect at least 10 COTA-ID
4.-Platinum (WA-COTA Diploma, "Worked all COTA"): Collect most of (%90) the COTA-ID's. %100 may be impossible because of the continuous new activations in the year.
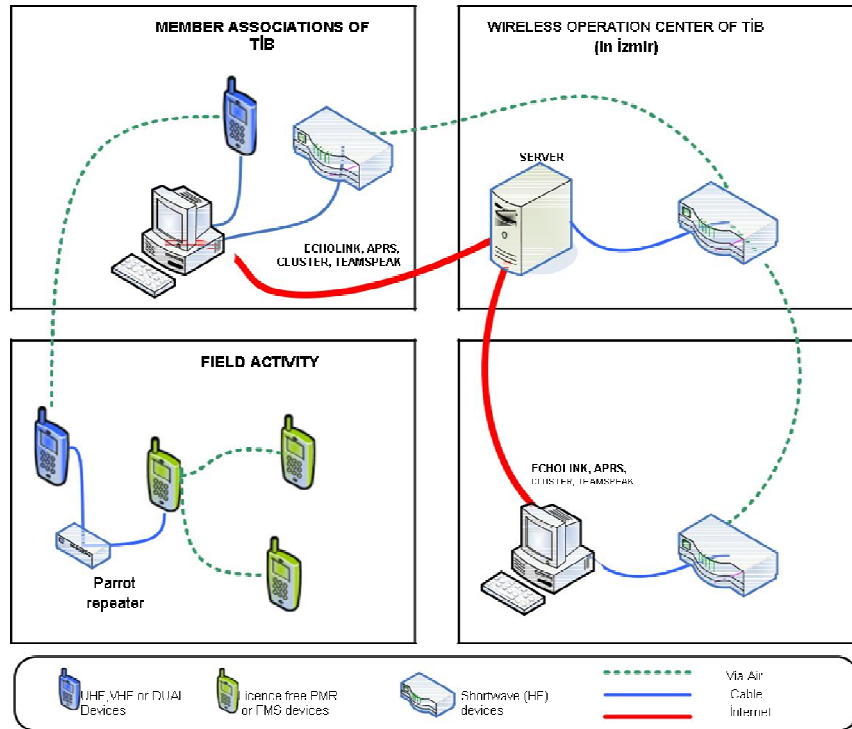
DXpeditions, Special Call Activities and Field Days.

Each unit may organize their DX activities such as field days and use COTA-ID on the air. All activities related with radio communication have to be announced in our COTA calendar. They are considered as a well preparation to JOTA day and a continuous education of scouts for radio communications. In other words we have to support such activities of our troops.

Continuous Mission

COTA is said to be a general concept facilitating scouts to scouts radio communication. Scouts have to use radio communication not for only COTA day. Radio communication can be used in all open field activities of the scouts to provide troop communication. Thus radio communication capabilities of every single WOIS units have to be improved. Leaders have to be trained and have their own HAM licenses. Every WOIS unit has to be equipped with handhelds and preferably a HF radio station. Our radio target in Turkey is summarized in the diagram below.

WOIS Organizations should also consider COTA activities on an ongoing basis. We can not perform this activity with third-party support (ie, HAM professionals not explorers) forever. We have to develop our own radio telecommunication capabilities in each Association and Scout Units. This means that continuous education, exchange of ideas and collaboration are required.

Resources

- WOIS COTA Info: www.woisscouts.org, Be informed about WOIS COTA activities.

- IARU Regions: www.iaru.org/regions.html, HAM regions, atlas and bandplans from offical IARU website.

- WebSdr: www.websdr.org , Listen shortwave frequencies via internet. Select a receiver and enjoy SWL. Tune WOIS COTA HF frequencies and try to receive scout talks.

- Global Tuners: www.globaltuners.com , Listen free online radios tuned by yourself. Sign-up required. Please be respectfull the other users tuning the receiver.

- QRZ Database: www.qrz.com , Search amateur callsigns and get info about the stations. Provide information about your COTA station at QRZ database.

- DX Summit: www.dxsummit.fi , Seek activities on HAM bands. Search other WOIS COTA stations for recent activities. Broadcast yours.

- APRS: http://aprs.fi , Keep track of COTA stations. Broadcast yours.

- Zello: www.zello.com Download and install Zello.

Reccomended Setup for COTA Stations

- A HF transciever with at least 100W.
- A Multiband HF antenna.
- PC and Internet connection
- VHF, UHF transciever for local activities
- Software for logging, digital modes and APRS

Before COTA: Share Your Plans

Please download and fill the activity information form and send it to coti@woisscouts.org

After COTA: Report and Share Your Activity

Write a report about your activity including the information:

1.   Callsign of the station: If you organize a SWL only activity, skip this.

2.   Type of activity: A camp, a field-day, an office session etc.

3.   Location of activity, coordinates, grid square, a map etc. Describe local properties of the location.

4.   Weather during activity.

5.   Participants: How many scouts, leaders, support staff etc. Give all names and callsigns.

6.   Station Logs: Two-way QSO's and SWL logs have to be included to report in any format. ADIF is prefered. Hand-writen logs may be scanned and included to report.

7.   Program of the activity: Try to describe activities hour by hour. Indicate scouting activities, meals, ceremonies, camp fire activities etc.

8.   If received, write "the secret code" broadcasted from WOIS CW Beacon. See: "COTA Tasks for Scouts"

9.   Media: Include photos, short video clips, audio recordings taken at the activity.

10.   Messages and ideas: Share your ideas and messages with WOIS scouts globally.

COTA EMAIL

Send your repots to woiscota@gmail.com