

Radio Scouting History

Amateur Radio and Scouting

Philmont Training Center

July 2022



Agenda

Radio Merit Badge

National Scout Jamboree

World Scout Jamboree

BSA National Office Station

Jamboree on the Air

ARRL & BSA

Morse Code Interpreter Strip

Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

Icom America Sponsorship



JOTA 1967 at BSA HQ K2BFW

Who is K5ND?

Retired BSA Publishing Executive

BSA JOTA Coordinator, 2010 to 2018

President K2BSA ARA, 2011 to 2019

World JOTA-JOTI Team, 2014 to 2019

K2BSA Jamboree Chairman, 2013, 2017

NA1WJ Team Lead, 2019 WSJ

Radio Merit Badge SME, 2017 Revision



Radio Merit Badge

1918 Wireless Merit Badge

1923 Radio Merit Badge

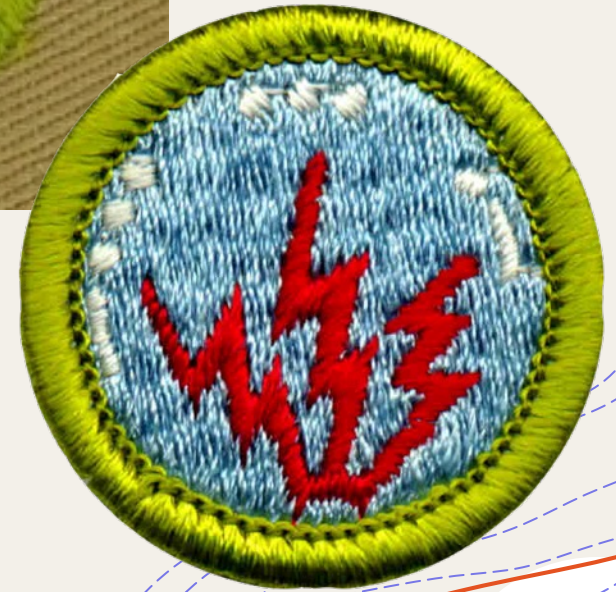
Requirements Updates

1930 — 10 wpm CW moved to 5 wpm

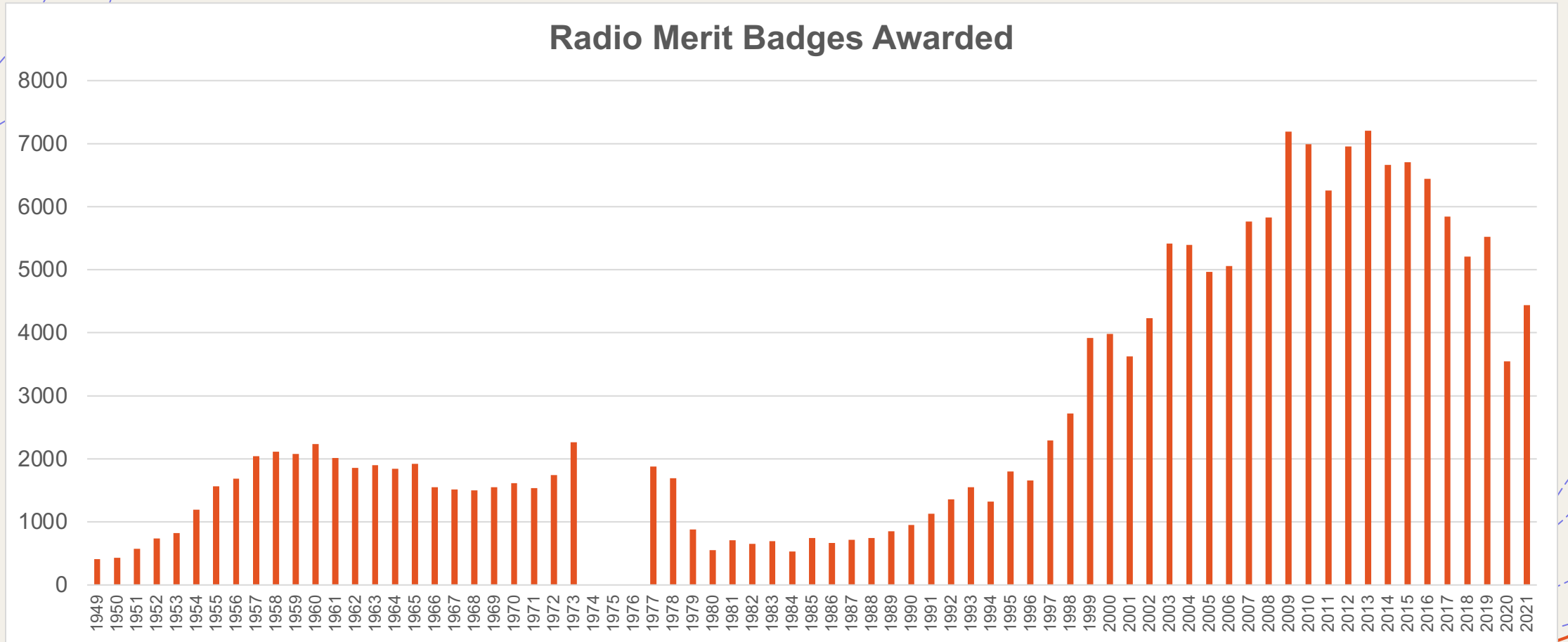
1984 — Dropped CW requirement

Three options — amateur radio,
broadcast radio, and shortwave listening

2017 — Added amateur radio direction
finding (foxhunting) option. Modified
shortwave listening to include medium
wave listening.



Radio Merit Badge



National Scout Jamboree

1953 — K6BSA, Irvine Ranch, CA

1957 — K3BSA, Valley Forge, PA

1960 — K0BSA, Colorado Springs, CO

1964 — K3BSA, Valley Forge, PA

1969 — KF7BSA, Farragut State Park, ID

1973 — KJ7BSA, Farragut State Park, ID
and KJ3BSA, Moraine State Park, PA

1977 — K2BSA, Moraine State Park, PA

1981 - 2010 — K2BSA, Fort AP Hill, VA

2013 + — K2BSA, SBR, WV



World Jamborees in the USA

1967 — K7WSJ, Farragut State Park, ID

2019 — NA1WJ, hosted by North
American team (USA, Canada, Mexico)

Many amateur radio operations have
been held at other World Jamborees. The
first official station may have been
GB3SP in 1957.



BSA National Office Stations

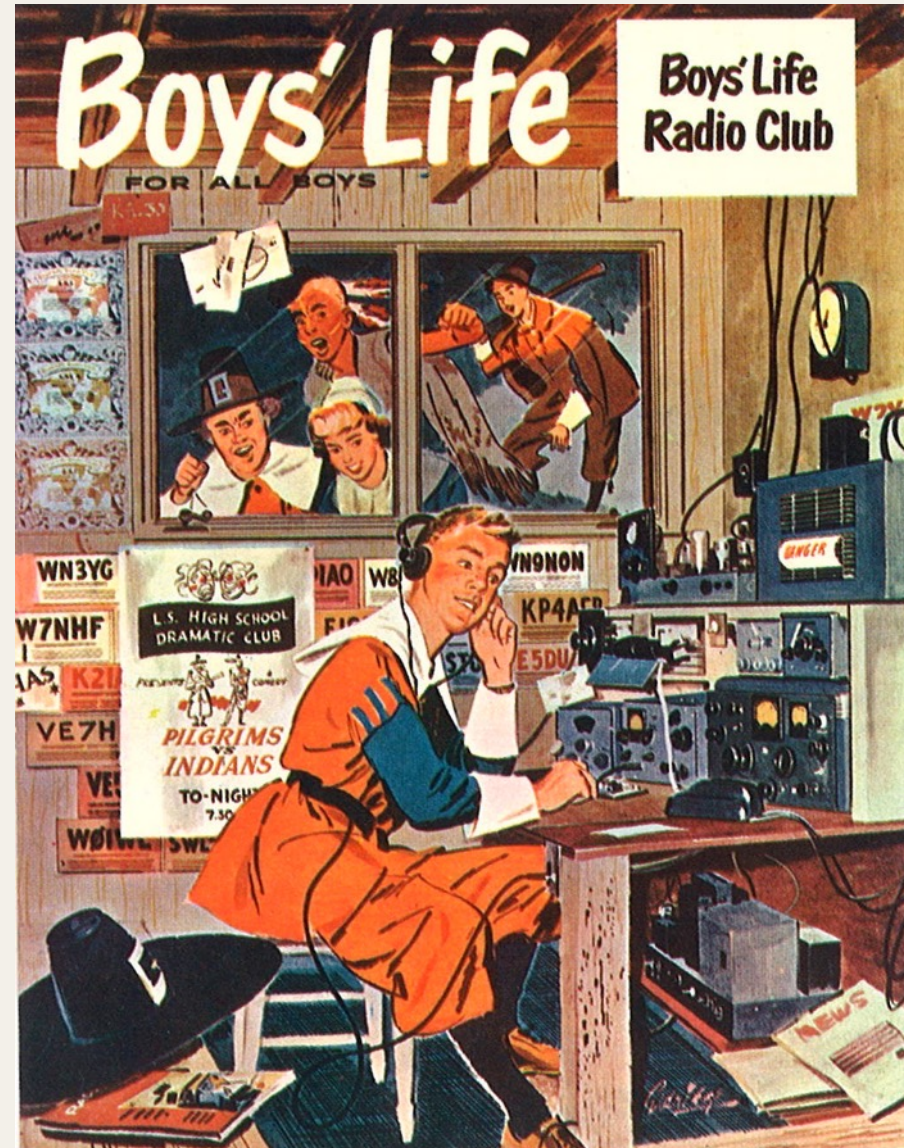
1952 — K2BFW, Schiff Scout
Reservation, NJ

Boys' Life Radio Club

1971 — K2BSA, New Brunswick, NJ

1979 — K2BSA, Irving, TX

K2BSA Amateur Radio Association
founded, 5 members in 2011, now 500+
Lifetime dues \$12



Jamboree on the Air

1957 — Started from discussion at the GB3SP World Jamboree operation.

Annual event with Scout participation around the world. Jamboree on the Internet started 1995.

Third weekend in October, Friday to Sunday.

Go where the Scouts are — activity supporting an existing camporee.



ARRL & BSA

ARRL assistance with Radio Merit Badge and support to JOTA and Jamboree.

Official Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011.

2014 — ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award.

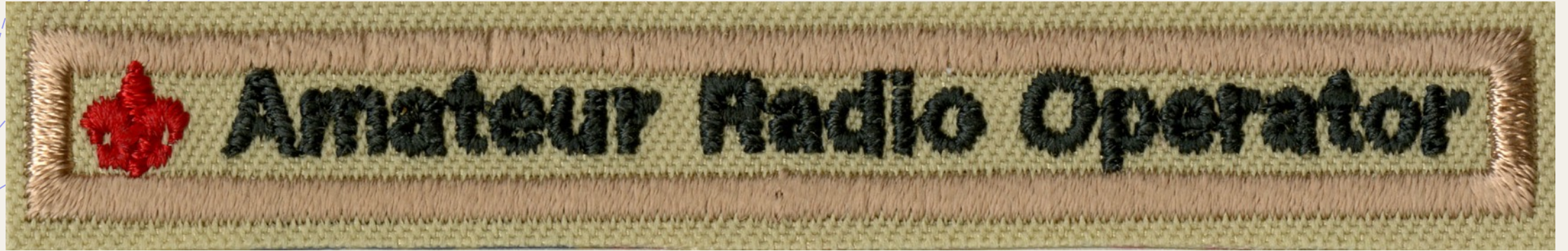
Requirements include satisfying 5 of 10 items that include JOTA, Radio MB, Camp support, and Jamboree. Requires ARRL Section Manager approval.





Morse Code Interpreter Strip

- + Introduced in 2013.
- + 5 wpm requirements.
- + CW Ops Award in 2017 to BSA for efforts advancing the art of communicating with Morse code.



Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

- + Based on rating strips from 1940s for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts, called the Scout Radioman personal interest badge.
- + Introduced 2013 and withdrawn 2018.
- + Any licensed youth or leader may wear the rating strip.
- + Still available for uniform wear.

Icom America

Formal agreement in 2012

Support to Jamborees

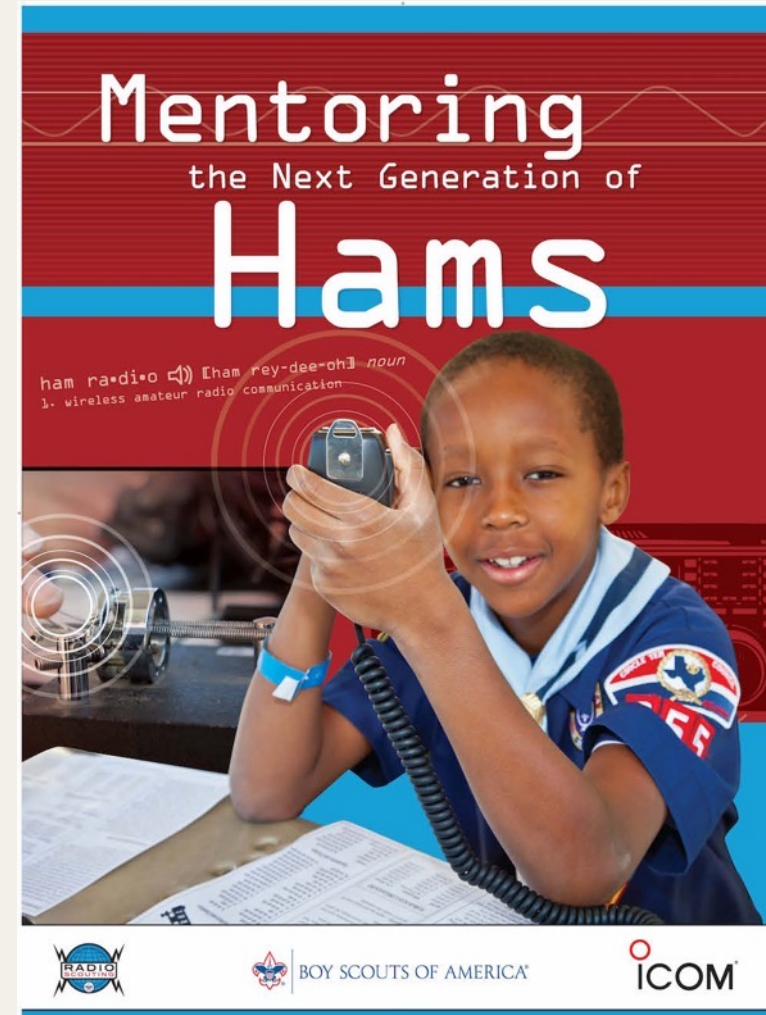
K2BSA Radios

WV8BSA Repeaters

Scout Loan Station Program

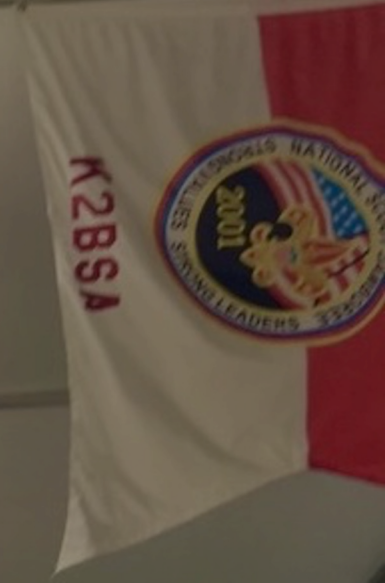
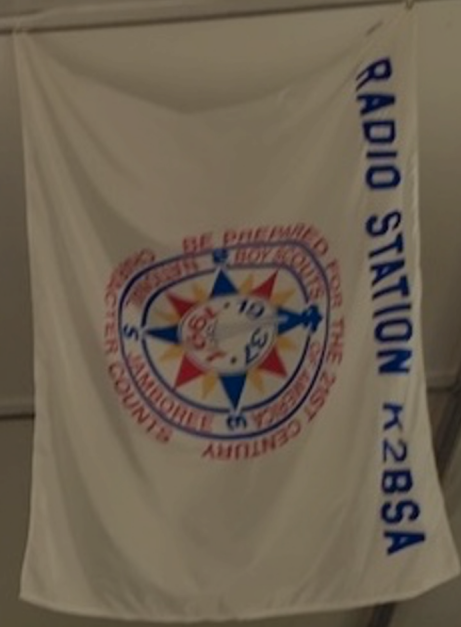
10 complete stations with IC-7300

Available for loan to Scout events



Sources for Further Information

- + Radio MB History <https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badge/>
- + Radio MB Requirements <https://k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badge-2/>
- + Jamboree History <https://k2bsa.net/jamboree-2/>
- + BSA National Office <https://k2bsa.net/radio-station/>
- + Jamboree on the Air <https://k2bsa.net/jota/>
- + BSA and ARRL <https://k2bsa.net/bsa-arrl/>
- + Service to Scouting Award <https://k2bsa.net/arrl-service-to-scouting-award/>
- + Morse Code Interpreter Strip <https://k2bsa.net/morse-code/>
- + Operator Rating Strip <https://k2bsa.net/operator-rating/>
- + Icom America <https://k2bsa.net/icom/>



Questions Answers Stories

