

Scout Radio



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ScoutsACT Radio

ScoutsACT Radio has three functions.

- Program Support
- Technical Support
- Education

Program Support

Program support is applied in a number of ways across the scout program in the ACT.

To aid this process, ScoutsACT Radio maintains two UHF repeaters which provide coverage of the Canberra urban area and the Cotter precinct and a suite of iCom Pro41 handheld radios which are programmed to the frequency of these repeaters.

The programmed Channels are on a private commercial frequency, leased by ScoutsACT and therefore are not subject to interference from outside sources, as is the case with CB Radio.

The suite of radios is also usable away from the repeater zoned areas by switching to the secondary channels.

Group Use

The Handheld Radios are available for general use by contacting the Branch Office.

Activities where radio communication using these radios has proved useful in the past in urban environment.

- Parking Management at the Canberra Show
- Special Children's Christmas party
- Activity management at the Governor Generals Camp
- And general group activities

In more remote areas and on the secondary channels the radios typically reach about 15–17 km in ideal open terrain. Actual range varies with terrain, antenna height, and atmospheric conditions, but open flat country gives the best performance.

Major Events

If conducting major events at Camp Cottermouth the radio suite provides a range of radios programmed for the Cotter Repeater network including.

- the Icom pro41 Handhelds for general mobile use
- base station radios
- Larger Motorola handhelds more useful for Stationary Security, First Aid and Activity Area communication

Away from Cotter the same suite of radios are available and if the Terrain is challenging there is the possibility of a portable Repeater and Mast to assist the communication.

- Major events supported by ScoutsACT Radio
 - Cotter Shield
 - Cuboree
 - National Jamborees
 - GangShow
 - JOTA/JOTI

Support to Camp Cottermouth

As part of the infrastructure of Camp Cottermouth, ScoutsACT Radio provides the camp with radio connectivity, by supplying radios for use with school activity groups, through maintaining repeater connectivity for Staff hand held radios. Office base station radios and vehicle mounted radios.

We have also been able to assist in an OH&S sense by providing a repeater connected radio to Greenhills admin which Cotter staff can ask to be switched on if they are alone on site and need to go outside mobile phone range.

Technical Support

Maintenance and Development of the radio and communication equipment used by Scouts ACT falls to members of the Radio team. This may include delivery and setup for events, advice to groups on radio equipment they may own or are thinking of purchasing. Development, Construction and maintenance of electronic devices for program activities e.g. FoxHunt gear is also a function of the Radio team.

Education

The Radio Team offers a range of educational programs.

- **CB radio** for the 4WD program, on choice of equipment, radio procedures when driving in convoy.
- **General Communication**
 - how to use radios on the Scout Repeater Network

- correct radio procedures to enhance communication.
- how to stay safe on public broadcast systems (CB radio)
- **Amateur Radio Foundation Certification**
 - This is a program for Scouting Members who are looking to enhance their communication skills using Amateur radio networks. The program is certified by ACMA (the Australian Communication and Media Authority) and allows holders of the Certification and a Call Sign access to a range of communication frequencies and to be able to experiment with a variety of equipment operation in those frequency ranges.
 - More information of the Amateur Radio Foundation Course can be found at [Scout Radio Foundation Training Course](#)
- **Amateur Radio Standard and Advanced Training**
 - The radio education team does not have the capacity to run the full Standard or Advanced certification programs but can assist those members who undertake one of the courses of study available on-line. We can conduct the necessary assessments for the Regulations, Standard and Advanced examinations once the course of study is complete. For advice on the available courses of study contact radio@scoutsact.com.au

POTA/SOTA

Scouting has always been about being in the outdoors and *radio is better in the outdoors* (no manmade noise from all the electrical gadgets in the urban environment.) So, [POTA](#) and [SOTA](#), (Parks on the Air and Summits on the Air) and there is a bunch of others, this is about taking a backpack portable HF transceiver into National Parks or up a mountain and making connections with other like-minded people across Australia and around the world and there are hundreds of them on air every day..

Future Directions

As we move forward, we have plans to

- establish an enlarged STEM and Technology Hub housing our Radio Shack and a Weather Station
- Providing remote access to the HF transmitters in the Radio Shack
- Build a VHF/UHF (2M/70cm) repeater station with the capacity to link to other branch repeater networks.
- Develop a 5-day Technology Camp
- Provide at least 1 Backpack Portable HF Radio for POTA and SOTA (Users will require at least a Foundation qualification and Call Sign)



ScoutsACT Radio Calendar 2026

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
May	3 rd	9-12am	Shack Sunday - Reopening of the renovated Radio shack	Camp Cottermouth
	10 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	17 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	24 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	31 st	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	31 st	3-5pm	Tech Sunday	Mt Mugga Scout Hall
June	7 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth Mt Mugga Scout Hall
	13 th - 14 th	9am-5pm	Foundation Amateur Radio Certification Course	
	14 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	21 st	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	29 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	29 th	3-5pm	TechSunday (programming handhelds)	Mt Mugga Scout Hall
July	4 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	11 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	18 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	25 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	25 th	3-5pm	Tech Sunday	Mt Mugga Scout Hall
August	2 nd	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	9 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	16 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	23 rd	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	30 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	30 th	1-5pm	Tech Sunday (Antenna Workshop)	Mt Mugga Scout Hall
September	6 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	13 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	20 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	27 th	9-12am	AA Expo	Camp Cottermouth
	30 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	30 th	3-5pm	Tech Sunday (Foxhunts and how to play)	Mt Mugga Scout Hall
October	4 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	11 th	9-....	JOTA preparation	Camp Cottermouth
	17 th -18 th	All weekend	JOTI/JOTI	Camp Cottermouth
November	1 st	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	8 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	15 th	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth
	22 nd	9-12am	Shack Sunday	Camp Cottermouth

	29 th 29 th	9-12am 3-5pm	Shack Sunday Tech Sunday	Camp Cottermouth Mt Mugga Scout Hall
December				

Shack Sunday

Each Sunday morning from 9 to 12am the Radio Shack at Camp Cottermouth will be open and operating. This is to allow opportunity for those youth members and adult members who are qualified, to use the radio equipment at the Camp. It is also a chance for other individual youth and adult members and Patrols that might be looking to develop an SIA in STEM to come and learn about amateur radio and the opportunities it opens into the world of radio and electronics.

Youth members coming to the Shack Sunday **must** be accompanied by a Leader or an Adult (Parent/Carer), as it can't be guaranteed to always have two members of the Radio team present.

If you intend coming to Shack Sunday, please email complete the appropriate group level paperwork and notify radio@scoutsact.com.au by Wednesday of that week.

Tech Sunday

Tech Sundays are mainly for those members of Scouts who have received an ACMA qualification. The aim is to improve their skills and to develop a wider understanding of Amateur Radio. Some months may be a presentation on a radio topic by a member to the Radio team or by someone from CRARC (Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club) other activities may include antenna building and use of equipment.

Tech Sundays normally run on the last Sunday of the month normally from 3 to 5 pm at the Mt Mugga Scout Hall 17 Astrolabe Street Red Hill.

Although primarily for the Tech team visitors are welcome.

Foundation Certification Training

To operate Amateur Radio equipment under a Class Licence issued by ACMA (Australian Communication and Media Authority) you need to gain a qualification and a Call Sign in one of three categories.

- Foundation
- Standard and
- Advanced

ScoutsACT offers a training course at the Foundation Level and assistance to those studying for the higher qualifications. Learn more about the program at [Foundation Training Course](#).

JOTA/JOTI

JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) has been a fixture in the International Scouting Program on the third Wednesday in October since its inception in 1958. The aim is to promote world-wide communication and friendship using Amateur Radio. To find out more about this international program visit [JOTA/JOTI](#)

In 2026 ScoutsACT will be holding a Camp at Camp Cottermouth. The JOTA organising Committee will provide a wide range of activities that have a focus on radio communication while also provide activities with a wider appeal.

This year JOTA/JOTI follows close on the heels of Cuboree and so we are aiming more at the Scout /Venturer /Rover Sections of the Youth program. Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts won't be left out but there will be a reduced range of activities for that age group.

Full detail and the registration process for JOTA/JOTI 26 will be available in late July/early August once Scouts Australia release the details.

BUT Mark the DATE 17/18 October – Plan to be there.



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