

May 25, 2010

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit an article for your scout publications, and THANK You for allowing GERC to participate in this spectacular event!

Sincerely,

Mark Hayden, N7YLA

GERC Coordinator

## Scouts Get On The Air!

By Mark Hayden, N7YLA, Glendora Emergency Response Communications

"CQ, CQ this is K6U, Kilo Six Uniform calling CQ!" Fifty-six Scouts earned their "First Contact" awards for talking with other amateur radio stations during the BSA Council Centennial Jamboree on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas, CA. Conducting a "GOTA" or "Get On The Air" special event, twelve amateur radio operators from the **Glendora Emergency Response Communications** group (GERC) set up their radio stations under a huge parachute shelter. In addition to three commercially available amateur radio antennas, the GERC operators constructed an antenna known as a "Black Widow" which uses telescoping fishing poles for portability.

By previous arrangement, the Scouts made contacts called QSOs with the operators at the **N16IW** amateur radio station located on the famous **USS Midway** air craft carrier berthed in San Diego. Gregory Lee, HS0ZHM, a ham friend in rural northern **Thailand** was eager to communicate with the Scouts using a new technology known as EchoLink, a combination of automated ham radios and computers. Special commemorative QSL cards made by Lee were earned by those who communicated with him.

K6U was specially approved by the FCC for the Jamboree and was intended for operation by generally inexperienced or inactive amateurs as well as by as-yet-unlicensed or "under-licensed" Scouts working under the privileges of a licensed control operator. One of the guest operators at the GOTA was Joe Davenport, AE6VX, Verdugo Hills Council Representative who rekindled his interest in ham radio with QSOs to Oregon and Texas stations. We also had visits by Smokey the Bear from the US Forest Service and cowboy Fred Thomas, of the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance.

**Photos:**



**GOTA station K6U – kilo six uniform !**



**"Black Widow" spider beam portable antenna being set up by GERC team.**



**Charlie Wallke earns his "First Contact" award**



**Scouts in line to Get On The Air !**





Scout with his First contact award

**HS0ZHM / KI6GIG**  
 Hotel Sierra Zero Zulu Hotel Mike /  
 Kilo India Six Golf India Golf

Gregory Lee  
 166 Moo 5 Ban Wangwa, Thawangpha  
 Thawangpha, Nan Prov. 55140  
 Thailand

**Atlas Moth**  
 (Attacus atlas)  
 Photo by G.K. Lee

N 19.121556  
 E 100.812806  
 ITC +7 OK09jc  
 ITU 49 CQ 26  
 Echolink node 384040  
 E-mail: ki6gig@arri.net  
 QSL by e-QSL.net

Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Freq/Mode	Power	Report

Special Jamboree event QSL card issued by Greg Lee, HS0ZHM in northern Thailand



**Scout in red shirt is William Livingston, KI6YBW who is a licensed ham at 12 years old! Here William shows his fellow Scouts how to use the radio. William is a member of GERC and Troop 360 in Glendora, CA.**



**Joe Davenport, AE6VX, Verdugo Hills Council representative works the 20 meter station.**



**Cowboy Fred Thomas has a QSO with Rich, KG6MXP in Altadena, CA**



**Smokey the Bear gets on the air too!**





**GERC hams and Smokey say Thanks for the Jamboree!**