

Contest Soapbox

2003 ARRL Field Day

142 Soapbox entries available

K5WNH -- Nov 19, 2003 21:24 ET



Note the insect screen for those late night contacts.



Such a beautiful sunset for such lousy band conditions!

This was my third year (1B) at this location with an R5 vertical (20/15) and trap dipole (40/80) on CW. It was also the most frustrating year due to band conditions (410 QSOs) but field day is always wonderful! The site is about 60 miles northwest of Ft. Worth, Texas (Near Chico, Tx) in Wise County. Other than a few untimely visits from cows, skunks, and an occasional raccoon, this is a terrific field day site where the only sounds are those of birds and an occasional gentle breeze in the "tree" (only one) hi. Next year, the gloves come off and the beam goes up...get ready 1B! My first field day was in 1958 (Kermit, Tx) with several to follow. However, some 38 years would pass before the opportunity to get back in the FD mode would occur and I'm hooked! It truly is the greatest thrill of amateur radio! Note: In 1999, a rare December tornado ripped through this exact spot removing a large mobile home from under the tree and taking the life of a neighbor about 1/4 mile from this location. -- *K5WNH*



There is an antenna or two there somewhere!

NS1RA -- Sep 24, 2003 18:02 ET

In addition to our regular operating positions, we set up a bonus OSCAR-40 satellite station using a cardboard-box horn antenna from the March 2003 QST. We operated the pass starting Sunday morning and many operators made their very first satellite contacts. One of the operators expressed amazement at how good the conditions were on OSCAR-40 versus how tough things were on HF. Overall, we had a blast! -- AA2TX

N5KK -- Sep 15, 2003 12:07 ET



The space weather was not the greatest, but the weather was perfect for field day. The Muskogee Amateur radio club made over 2000 Q's operating Class 2A. -- K5CM

**Melissa (N5KK) and Connie (K5CM)
operating 20 meter cw on Sunday morning
(Daughter and Father)**



Saturday evening dinner



Wayne (AA5JJ) operating 20m PSK



Paul, Phil, and Pam considering where to put the Generator.



Dave (W5AO) and Jerry (NU5S)



Dave (KA5IIS) and Connie (K5CM) setting up the GOTA station.



Dave (W5AO) and Barbra operating 40m CW



Ed (W5TM) on 40m CW



**Mitch (KC5PAC) and Mike (K5BZM)
operating 6m**

K4OO -- Aug 15, 2003 16:51 ET



W4FTY and K4ZMY GOTA Station Ops.

The Smith Chart Amateur Radio Society, K4OO did Field Day 2003 for the fourth year in a row from a remote location near Meadows of Dan, Virginia. Being a Raleigh, North Carolina club, this location is about 175 miles from Raleigh, but is well worth the trip due to the excellent location in the Blue Ridge mountains of southwestern Virginia.

We ran a 2A Low Power operation with two AB-577 military masts for the tri-band beams, a wire beam and inverted V on 40 meters, and a dipole on 80M. The weather was great except for a 2AM thunderstorm that put us off the air for a few hours on Sunday morning. The food was fantastic thanks to our excellent food



Ken K7UGT's first field day with SCARS.

committee, and we all had a great time operating.

We had over a dozen hams at the site to help with setup, operating, telling tall tales around the food tent, and overall making this another enjoyable and meaningful Field Day.

We had a great group of new hams and prospective hams who operated our GOTA station.

A big thanks to Bob, K4HA our Field Day Czar for all the planning to pull this off. A very special thanks to Arden and Golda Quesinberry, who allowed us to use this wonderful site on his Patrick County, Virginia farm. -- W4FAL -- *W4FAL*



Bert N4CW, returns to do an excellent job on CW.



John W9OHT checks out KE4U's new Ten-Tec Orion.



Ted N1UJ starts the contest on SSB.



Chuck K4NYS SCARS President, contemplating our next strategy.

W8SP -- Aug 14, 2003 00:30 ET

Mountaineer Amateur Radio Association W8SP operated once again from "on the hill" with 14 operators, 7 visitors/family members, and 2 dogs. We learned some valuable lessons in the "be prepared-all year 'round" category that will help us for FD next year!

The weather was about as close to perfect as we could hope.

Our operation was pretty easy-going, nobody had any illusions of greatness. We wanted to accomplish three things, 1) Get set up, 2) Operate as best we could, and 3) Have some fun. I think we met all of those goals



**Greg N8TJD and Alan W8OP make last-minute adjustments to the FD beam.
[WB8SCG Photo]**

pretty well.

MARA FD is almost a family reunion. Members who live far away or work hours that prevent them from coming to meetings make it for Field Day. It's always good to see friends, and hopefully everyone feels free to bring someone new to the event, just to give them an idea what Field Day and Ham Radio are all about.

Looking forward to next year, and another fine Field Day! -- *WA8YCD*



**Joe WD8EOG, Chuck K8UQY, and Bob KU8C check out the new FD Scoring Tool!
[WA8YCD Photo]**



The Covered Dish Dinner was way more popular than operating the contest!
[WA8YCD Photo]



Of course, we had to "show the colors!"
[WA8YCD Photo]

W4IE -- Aug 12, 2003 15:07 ET



Field Day is always a unique experience for the operators who invest the time to set up their rigs and run them for 24 hours straight. I liked the late night cw best of all, in spite of the nonstop rain we had here in Sarasota, Florida. The bands were busy all night. (Really busy!)

I think they should try to get everyone qrp one year the qrm problem would be much better and what better time to do qrp? All of the ops in the United States are listening for calls! There are more and more stations on the air every year, and eventually it will become a real mess. Qrp that's my solution to the future problem. This year seemed to be very good though, all courteous and very few impatient ops.

This year was interesting because of the weather, but also noteworthy because of an early morning visitor. Our Field Day set up is rather conservative. We were 3A and I was the only cw op. Everyone left around eleven pm except for one other op. He worked a few and slept ok for a good part of the night! At around three am I was in my "cw" tent send away. I set up a two-room tent and have a window a/c unit in the back



room (kinda nice in FL). The rig is always in the front room near the door, facing sideways. Anyway, I was sending to fellow in NE. and felt a "tickle" on my leg I figured it was a world class skeeter or a Florida native (cockroach) and started to bat at it with my free hand. When I glanced down to see what it was, I saw two beady eyes and a fat old rat looking up at me. Well, I scared him and he scared me, the result was rat jumping out of the tent and me missing a call to NE!

I figured we were both frightened enuff, that he wouldn't be back and continued to pound cw. In less than ten minutes I saw the rat again, doing the "Kilroy" look over the threshold of the tent door this time I noticed a stripe on her back hmmm must have been a pet from one of the classrooms. Our Field Day is held

at an elementary school. We set up remotely, but near the cover basketball court. This critter must have been a classroom pet that was "discharged" when school let out three weeks earlier. This poor domesticated rat had been in survival mode and recognized an opportunity. I scooted her away again and decided to follow her to see where she came from. I grabbed a flashlight and followed quickly I rounded the corner of the tent in the pouring rain, just in time to see the rodent duck under the tent. Just for kicks I grabbed a croissant roll off the picnic table and tossed it two feet from the tent. She ran out, grabbed the morsel, and ran back under the tent. Great! I fed the poor starving critter in the pouring rain I felt pretty good for contributing to the survival of an orphaned rodent!! But now, back to the action of cw FD. About every ten minutes "squeek" the rat would show up, walk around the shack, get another morsel from me, and run back out. At about five O' clock "Squeek" failed to return. I thought she was moving her stash of food and would be gone with the sunrise.

As people started to arrive on Sunday, however, "Squeek" arrived unabashed as people showed up and was witness by at least a half dozen FD ops. When it was time to fold up the tent, I pulled my truck and 4X6 trailer closed and loaded up the gear, antennas, and tent. When I folded up the tent, I saw two burrows; one dug for "Squeek" and another for her stash of food that she had been gathering all night. I caught a glimpse of "Squeak" when she ran for cover right under my truck. I thought she would pause and then run off to another safe spot out in the woods. When I moved the truck and trailer about 30 yards to load up the generator and fuel, I saw those beady eyes again, looking at me from under the wet tent "Squeek" had jumped up on the trailer and was an official stowaway, but, was expected to bail out before we left the property. The path is bumpy going out.

"Squeek" is now a happy tenant of the home radio shack in my garage and may be a permanent resident what a wonderful pet, they don't bark, bite, or require much at all a great souvenir from Field Day 2003. -- *KF4JRO*

WD4NIT -- Aug 10, 2003 11:49 ET

Warren, WD4NIT, finished Field Day 2003 with a 1D operation from home. The operation was less

ambitious than 2002 when I operated 1B from a campground at Carters Lake, Oakman, GA. After helping with about 20 QSOs and tear down of the WB4MZO Wedixie ARC 1A site at Carters Lake Dam day-only picnic area and an hour drive back home to Acworth; I worked from 10 PM to midnight and again after daybreak Sunday to make 36 phone QSOs under my own call. I had planned to use emergency power (1E) but settled for 1D. Thursday and Friday nights were spent camping at the same lake. Station was a Yeasu FT-100 with a MFJ 941-E matcher, 100 feet of 450 Ohm twin- line feeding an 80 meter dipole about 35 feet high. My station was not very picturesque, but the Club's site was on top of a 300 foot high dam with a lake full of clean water on one side and miles of downstream scenery on the other. Hope your Field Day was as enjoyable. -- *WD4NIT*

W2YRC -- Aug 10, 2003 10:58 ET



Where to put the antenna?

Field Day has come and gone and what remains are some really terrific memories. The Yonkers Amateur Radio Club once again set up at Redmond Field in Yonkers New York and a good time was had by all. This year's Field Day included some really great new antennas. Rich KC2HZW refurbished a Tri-band antenna and provided a monster 2 element yagi for 40 meters. Cliff KC2CXL provided a wire antenna that allowed us to work 80 and 160 meters and Brad KC2CGI made sure that no one was hungry. Darwin KC2CMQ provided yagis for 2 meter and 70 centimeters.

Despite 10 and 15 meters being on vacation, we still managed to work many stations thanks to the antennas we had. Yet there is more to Field Day, there are memories that will last a long time. Memories such as seeing a new ham make their fist HF contact or watching Darwin KC2CMQ "break dance" (actually I think he found a hornets nest or they found him).

What would Field Day be without a visit from "Murphy", yes Murphy's law was in effect but in the true spirit of Amateur Radio we improvised and overcame. We were honored by visits from our State Assemblyman Michael Spano and received a proclamation from our City Council President Vincenza Restiano proclaiming the Weekend Amateur Radio weekend. Most important was the opportunity to remind our elected officials that in time of need we are ready and willing to assist our community.

I guess some folks like to refer to me as the Chairman of



(L. to R.)Bill AB2HZ, Linda and Cliff KC2CXL laughing at us!

the Field Day committee, but I am only a small part of this effort. Field Day is about the hams and the hams of the Yonkers Amateur Radio Club made this a Field Day to remember. Thanks to all that helped and contacted us, look for you again at Field Day 2004! 73 -- W2CZ



This looks like a good place to start



Up goes the Tri-bander



Now to get the 40 meter yagi up



The 40 Meter beam is up!



A beauty isn't she?



Rich KC2HZW needs to capture this moment from all angles



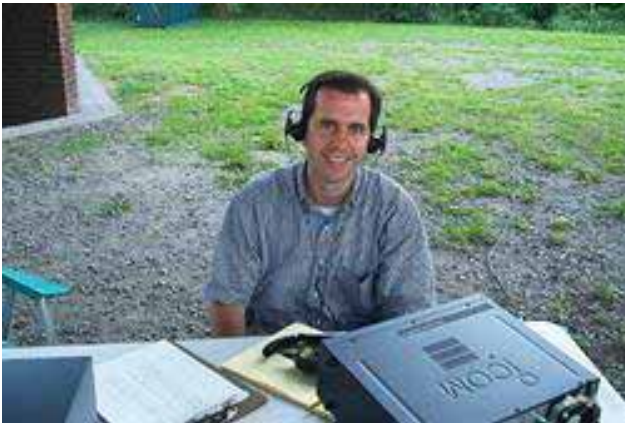
Darwin KC2CMQ points out a thing or two to Peter KC2KII



Bob WB2SHZ looking for contacts



Doug K2JJ working 40 meters



Peter KC2KII at his first Field Day



Annie KC2LJT at her second Field Day and first as a licensed ham and hubby Johnnie KC2EXA.



Annie KC2LJT enjoying making contacts



Dan AA2HX..does anyone know how many Field Days he's been at?



(from L. to R.) Dan AA2HX, Efrem W2CZ(back to camera), Frank Fallon N2FF, Hudson Division Director, and Bob AC2G



Tom AB2PP working PSK31



Rich KC2HZW telling a local reporter about ham radio. Gabe KB2MAR looks like he wants to say something to her (just don't know if its about radio)



A proclamation from the Office of the City Council President, proclaiming it Amateur Radio weekend!



(L. to R.) Brad KC2CGI and Efrem W2CZ (that's me!) getting ready for another picture



(from L. to R.) Milton KC2GWK and Stan WA2NRV dropped in to say hello



See you next year! 73



AD5CA, Mark Mireles, handles some NTS traffic for N5CRP.



KC5YKX, Reid Hill, running 15 meters on Saturday while KD5FJV, Michael Van den Eijnden looks on. We racked up 351 phone QSOs on 15, our most productive band.



The dit man K5HHS, Roger Kilingsworth and W5IM, Jim Bomer get the CW station cranking on Saturday. Roger uses a WIDE GAPPED straight key!

South Texas Amateur Radio Club held its field day event at Peary Place in Corpus Christi, Texas. This is our third year to operate from here. Peary Place is an old U.S. Navy listening post located on Oso Bay. The area is a salt marsh plus all the copper the Navy left in ground when they left makes for great ground properties.

We ran 3A STX with VHF and GOTA.

HF phone #1: Icom 746 Pro, Mini Beam 20-10m, and 40 meter KI8GX 40m sloopier from the Apr 2002 QST. HF phone #2: Yaesu MKV FT-1000MP, HyGain TH3MK3 20-10m beam, 40/80 trapped dipole. HF CW #1: Kenwood TS-520, 20 and 40m flat top dipoles, WIDE GAPPED straight key. VHF: Yaesu FT-847 (6m), Icom 706MKIIG (2m), 5 element 6m, and 13 element 2m beams. GOTA: Kenwood TS570 and a 20-80 meter trapped dipole.

All stations had networked logging computers running N3FJP's Field Day Network logging program. (FB program Scott)

The score this year was good. We did surpass last years score but it took a couple of extra bonus points to do so because Qs where down. We managed to make almost 1000 this year but with 10 being stinko, 80 being very noisy and 6 meters not making up its mind on what to do we did not make as many as last year. 15 meters was our best band as we racked up 351 phones Qs on it. I know everyone else said it was bad but not for us. Our claimed score with bonus points for 2003 is 3890.

We had more folks helping out this year than then last 2 years combined. almost 30 ppl helped setup, operate and take down the station this year. We also had lots of folks stopping by to see what was going on and in the process learned a little about ham radio.

We also had some much fine BBQ provided by the club and cooked by KD5PXB in his mobile pit. Glyn can cook some mean fajitas! What would a Texas field day



KD5UJY, James Claus, climbs the VHF tower to fix a bad run of coax. The American and ARRL flags were given to the club by W5GEL(sk).

be with out some great Texas BBQ.

To see more about the club or to download the FD Power Point presentation I put together or to see more FD pictures please visit www.N5CRP.org. (the PP and pics will be up by Aug 9th)

73 and see you next year from N5CRP in STX.

-- *KC5YKX*



KD5GJR, Randy Bates, KD5UJY, KD5UJX, Bill Albert, and others get the VHF station set up for the test.



Campsite N5CRP as the sun sets on Corpus Christi.



N5CRP crew getting after it on Sunday morning trying to make up for the missed Qs from the nap time at 3 am.



Campsite N5CRP revving up Saturday afternoon.

W6RO -- Jul 31, 2003 23:25 ET

The Associated Radio Amateurs Of Long Beach, Inc. ARALB/W6RO Field Day 2003. We set up 7A LAX, this was a great fun week end. We had a great turn out of operators and visitors. We were at Eldorado Park Long Beach, California. We have been meeting here for many years. We had a good turn out for VE testing. Our cooks Dick & Marilyn Boone KF6HKA , KF6GZF did a great job as usual, Great Food, Thank You! Thanks to all that made this a great day! 73 John KF6TTR -- *KF6TTR*

AF4NP -- Jul 31, 2003 12:34 ET



Phillip, Nathan, Glenn and Bob raise the antenna!

Here are a few of the 2002 3 Delta Champions, hoping for another repeat victory in 2003!!!! I hope you enjoy the pictures, because we sure had a great time doing the actual event! -- *KF4IZU*



Sadie (KG4EIX) tearing 40 up!



Billy (KG4DXM) working his fingers to the bones!



Phillip (AF4NP) at the 20 meter station.



Bob (KE4QCY) working away on 20 Meters!



Glenn (KE4YZK) and Nathan (KF4VJE) on 80 meters!



Tall Paul (AG4AD) arrived in the nick of time, to save the sanity of a few people.

WV0H/0 -- Aug 1, 2003 00:25 ET



Our group decided to try new out a new source of power for our Field Day operation: a 100 watt Fuel Cell loaned to us by Ball Aerospace. We found the fuel cell to be a viable alternative to more traditional portable power sources, and the by-product of water was a welcome feature during 90+ degree F temperatures!
-- *AI8Z*

Myron, WV0H and Ken, WB9QDL operating QRP equipment powered by a 100 watt Ball Aerospace fuel cell. One small hydrogen cylinder supplied enough energy for operation throughout the two-day event.

NG5M -- Jul 30, 2003 20:23 ET



Crank-up tower/trailer ready for deployment.



KD5HPK(L) and WB5FDP(R) adjust the 2el 40m beam at the CW station.

Once again Batesville ARC, North Central Arkansas ARS, and Stone County ARC combined forces for one of the best Field Day efforts in years. This year we returned to Joe WA5NFC's renowned antenna farm high up in the Ozarks atop Brock Mountain. This is the perfect QTH for Field Day as Joe's farm is on "Radio Tower Road". Also the total absence of electrical noise was quite enjoyable as there were no weak signals and the scores reflected this.

The Clubs utilized the call sign NG5M for the main SSB, CW and VHF stations, and the GOTA station ran the call AB5ER for the period. The group ran 2A this year with some potent equipment. The HF stations consisted of 50ft crank-up towers mounted on trailers sporting 10, 15 & 20m tribanders topped with 2el 40m yagis and Alpa Delta slopers for 80 and 160. All of the HF transmitters were capable of a full 150W output. Many thanks to Roger N5QS, Deacon N5YME, Glenn KV5D, Joe WA5NFC, Rick WB5FDP, Barry NI5C, Noel KD5HPK, Mark KC5EVZ, Shawn KD5OZQ, and Mike N5TUM "the set-up crew" for putting the stations together.

The operators posted a decent score this year with some 1500 plus Q's on CW courtesy of Rick WB5FDP, Dave K5UZ and Glenn KV5D. The SSB crew Posted some 2300 plus Q's with Patsy AD5CE, Tracey KD5ATN, Joe WA5NFC, Myrlas W5VAE, Dave K5UZ, Doug WB5OAQ, Noel KD5HPK, Shawn KD5OZQ and Mike N5TUM doing the honors. The VHF crew contributed to the above totals on both SSB and CW (though the activity was limited to mostly locals with some brief openings on the bands) with points going to Jim WB5YBK, Shawn KD5OZQ, Noel KD5HPK and Dave K5UZ. Glenn KV5D coached the GOTA bunch and added some 200 plus Q's on CW to the total. Our



The NG5M FD 2003 site as viewed from the CW tent. "The home of the 2A HF QSO Champs!"

score is around 12,000 plus pts! GUD WRK GUYS! Next year will only be better. Let's dont let the CW generator run out of gas and you SSB ops don't go to bed until properly relieved (Fifth General Order)!!

Not only was the operation was a great success in the number of QSO's, but so was the social event of Field Day. Arkansas OES/ADEM Director Bill Hicks accepted our invitation and was very impressed with the operation. The local media turned out and interviewed several members. Barry NI5C created some great BBQ for lunch and dinner while Deacon N5YME and XYL Dorothy N5YMD provided the much appreciated breakfast for some tired and hungry ops.



Arkansas OES/ADEM Director Bill Hicks: "Impressive, most impressive."

The Greatest success of this Field Day was the traditional VE Exam session which posted a 100% pass rate. The hobby gained four new hams and several upgrades were earned. -- *K5UZ*



The consummate Elmer: Dr. Myrlas Matthews W5VAE, became a silent key some 48 hrs after operating at Field Day. Myrlas was a pioneer in many facets of ham radio. We will sorely miss him. 73 ES GUD DX Elmer.



KD5ATN(F)& AD5CE(R) Managing the ever-present pile-up on SSB. It's no myth: a YL does generate a pile-up! Our secret weapon.



KD5OZQ Running on 6m SSB



**The other secret weapon: Chez Barry's.
NI5C kicks out the BBQ chicken and dogs.**



WB5FDP Running 'em on 20m CW



"It's been years since someone has logged for me." K5UZ (op) with KD5ATN (Logger) running up the score on SSB.

K2VN -- Jul 29, 2003 17:16 ET

I got to our site (Nassau Amateur Radio Club) in Eisenhower Park Nassau County NY around 10:30 pm Saturday night as we were operating 3A we had some spare operators around but no GOTA station so at about 1AM in the morning we set up one under my call. Murphy had his way of course. Firstly the antenna cable we used turned out to be defective then we had corona on the antenna but at the end two of us managed to get about 85 contacts, not enough for the bonus but still grand fun anyhow. Next year the station will be set up when all the other stations are and any surplus operators we manage it intermittently throughout the contest

Bob WA2AQQ

Robert Schoenfeld -- WA2AQQ

N0NCL -- Jul 29, 2003 23:31 ET



Dave Harmon, N0TPQ (holding Bandit) and Todd Butler, N0NCL at the microphone at sunset on the southern shore of Gray's Lake Park, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Extremely excellent weather conditions throughout the entire period for Field Day, good food, and plenty of visitors. Plans for even bigger and better things in 2004 are already underway. -- *N0NCL*

WA2DFI -- Jul 29, 2003 18:56 ET



Local newspaper reporters check out our ATV and APRS Demonstration.

BSA Explorer Post 599, Phoenix AZ Field Day
Location: Heber, AZ Class: 2A

We made over 1000 QSOs on HF. Thanks to all of the operators. We even got Craig's brother Kyle to belt out a few CQs on the GOTA station, even though he didn't actually get to work anyone.

We had demos for APRS, Packet Radio and ATV, thanks to WA9OXY and KD7FNH. It was cool watching the operators at the SSB station via the ATV radio link from the other end of the porch!

We had a visitor information table. Thanks to WA9OXY for setting it up.

We had visitors. Warren from the Salvation Army SATERN came by to check out our FD setup. Two reporters from the local newspaper also came by and took copious notes and lots of pictures for their article about our operation.

We had signs to the site from the main road, thanks to Craig's handiwork.



KD7FNH tries to stay warm on 75m early Sunday morning.



The "rocket launcher" did a fine job holding one of our two HF beams.

We had awesome antennas: two tribanders, an 80m Zepp and a 40m dipole, along with a VHF beam and a VHF/UHF dual bander. The AB-577 rocket launcher worked phenomenally well for our first tribander after a slow installation, as we were learning how to put it up. The early arrivals, KD7NZK, AC7UW, AC7FK and WA2DFI had the "fun" of figuring it all out.

The other tribander was a real problem. After nearly being unable to raise the antenna due to tree interference, the antenna was finally raised about dark. A quick check with the antenna analyzer revealed serious trouble - near infinite SWR on 10, 15 and 20m! After a quick dinner of Pizza in Heber, we hooked up the analyzer again and ran the "distance-to-fault" function. As best we could determine, the feed-line was open at the barrel connection 15 feet in the air! Since there was no way we were going to lower the antenna again unless we had to, we set up a Darwin Award entry by "guying" an extension ladder to the mast. WA2DFI climbed up the ladder to change the barrel. I am sorry to report that we did not qualify for a Darwin Award, but we did replace the feed-line and that corrected the problem!

We hung a 40m dipole off of the low tribander, and an 80m Zepp (dipole fed with open wire) off of the high tribander on the rocket launcher. Craig got to try out his new "antenna launcher" 2" wrench on a tree at one end of the Zepp. The conclusion was that it is too big and heavy. (Imagine that!) The Zepp worked like gangbusters!!! WA2DFI could run stations on 80 CW and 40 CW with ease.

During the day Saturday, AC7FK, AC7UW, KD7FNH and KD7FQI decided that we needed another 80m dipole for the GOTA and/or SSB station. They whipped one up in record time and pulled it up into the trees. By dinnertime Saturday, we had a 5th HF antenna!

KD7ROD and N8BLM put it to good use that night on the GOTA station, and KD7FNH and KD7NZK used it early Sunday morning on the SSB station.

AC7FK, our computer maestro, got the network all up



Here we are trying to reach the UHF barrel connector at 15 off the ground to change out a bad feedline. Sure wish we had tested the cable before raising the beam!



WA9OXY sets up the ATV Demonstration Station.



and running and the logging software configured on the three computers (SSB, CW, GOTA) and even gave us a mini-tutorial on this new software. It worked exceptionally well, and both HF stations could "see" what the other was working.

KD7NZK and WA2DFI were having a contest within a contest to see who could make the most QSOs during FD. The jury is still out as to who won. We will see when the entry is prepared for submission to ARRL.

And don't forget the food! WB7QGJ set a standard that will be hard to beat next Field Day! Bacon and pancakes, burgers and dogs, grilled chicken and French toast were all on the menu. Way to go Steve! Good food makes all the work, heat and no sleep all worth it.

On the trip back to Phoenix in the Valley of the Heat, both WA9OXY and WA2DFI had car problems, but that is another story....

Until next year, 73 -- *WA2DFI*

KD7NZK and KD7FQI operate the phone station.



WA2DFI has an "Oreo Attack" while WA9OXY checks the W1AW bulletin schedule in our FD "rulebook".



KD7FNH and KD7ROD man the GOTA station, with WA9OXY in the background.



The crew, L-R: WB7QGJ, WA9OXY, KD7NZK, AC7UW, KD7ROD, KD7FQI, WA2DFI, KD7FNH, AC7FK, N8BLM



Group shot in front of the historic landmark (N2CU, K2ZR, K2YW, K2QO).



The most beautiful landmark on the Buffalo waterfront (thanks to the antennas!).



Class 1A - Battery QRP. Equipment: K2, FT-817, big horizontal loop @ 30' average height, 3/2 wave dipole on 40m @ about 60', 6m dipole @ 60' and verticals for 2m and 440. Operators were K2QO, K2YW, K2ZR and N2CU.

Another great FD from the Buffalo Lighthouse on the US Coast Guard Base. We had great support from the USCG. There were loads of highlights including N2CU's first ever QSO on 6M. It was a dandy as CO0US called us. Near the end of the exercise, a rainstorm with thunder and lightning blew in. N2CU and K2QO had to sprint to their cars when sparks began flying off the coax! This kept us off the air for a 1/2 hour and caused us to miss our 600 QSO goal on HF. -- N2CU

The USCG Station Keeper pays us a visit. He actually spent a lot of time watching us. Not shown in this picture is the boat of Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge being outfitted on base and being delivered the following week.



Dick, K2ZR, during a lull in the action.



Our literature display.

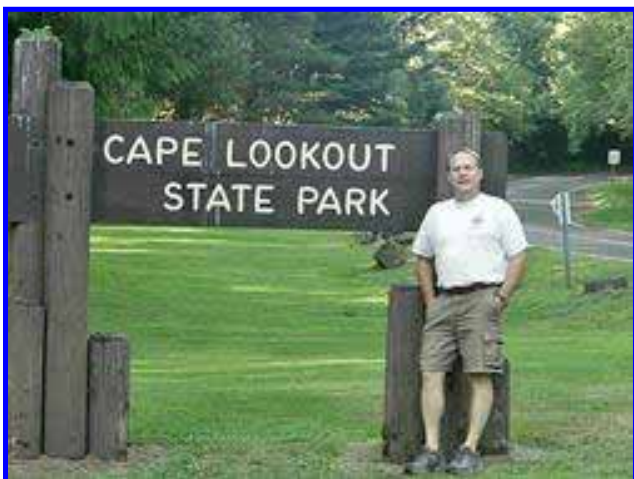


The mayor of Akron, NY (Ray, KD2GC) stops in to check N2CU's rate.



N2CU, K2QO (obscured) and K2ZR working HF and tuning on VHF.

WA7PRC -- Jul 28, 2003 21:53 ET



Fone Op Evan (N7MCG) -- Just arrived at Cape Lookout State Park

I've operated FD a number of times over the years. This time was again with my long-time friend Evan Green (N7MCG). What made it different was that Evan brought four of his Boy Scouts, David Brinker, Aaron Weiss, Matt Bloom, and Matt Tierney. All four Scouts proved to be very hard working, and quick learners. Our location was Cape Lookout State Park, near Netarts, OR (on the Pacific coast).

Once again, Old Man Murphy was doing his worst... before I made the 275 mile trek. A coworker of mine, Gordon Wood (KD4SYX) whipped together a couple of regulated switching power supplies... one to ensure a steady 14V @ 20A to the rig, and a 16V @ 4.5A unit to operate Evan's laptop PC. The laptop switcher worked when I shipped it to Evan but when he tried it Thursday evening, it didn't work... the switching FET had broken its leads. I was able to find a reasonable replacement in my junk box but didn't know if it was any good... and was 200 miles away from trying it! Thankfully, when I arrived the following afternoon, it worked! The big switcher worked flawlessly... maybe material for a QST or handbook article?

Next, I nearly forgot to bring the anchor stakes for the



Evan (N7MCG) -- operating the "Arm-strong" mast rotator.

homebrew 40' tilt-up mast. Thankfully, I remembered before driving too far.

Then, Murphy tried to keep us in the dark -- Evan's battery for the lights in his tent trailer was dry (and dead). It took 20 oz of water in EACH cell. We could only hope that charging it as we drove to the coast would bring it up. It did, just barely.

Upon arrival at Cape Lookout State Park, we were then told that our site was a drain field (for runoff water) and we were not to drive anything into the ground there. Oy! Thank goodness for bringing along a 600' spool of rope... we used ALL of it! The Cushcraft A3S we used was brand-new, and performed flawlessly. But, because

we had to assemble it from scratch, and because of the constraints on placement of the mast's guy anchors, we decided to begin setup prior to 1800Z. I dunno why but, that seemed to take a LOT longer than in previous years. We weren't on the air 'til nearly 2230!

The scouts made most of the contacts, trading operating and logging duties while Evan & I supervised. Though none had ANY operating time prior to this event, they each did remarkably well. When their ears were fried from the din, Evan would take a turn... he had a couple of good streaks where the 'Q-meter' would go up sharply. Then, I'd bang out a few Qs on CW. Though I'm mighty rusty, I still managed to grab a few to punch the score up a bit.

As it turned out, though Murphy was definitely in our camp, Mother Nature finally did us in. The Oregon coast can be pretty windy. It was pretty breezy overnight and didn't let up in the morning. We were advised that a weather system was coming in (and it looked like it). So, rather than break camp in a rainstorm, we decided to knock off early (1640Z).

My plans for the next FD include:

1) Bigger site, 2) Taller mast (60' should help the 80/40m inverted vees), and 3) MORE CW operation

To see all the photos of our operation, please go to <http://www.geocities.com/bswadener/fd2003/>

Vy 73, Bryan Swadener -- WA7PRC

K7SEL -- Jul 28, 2003 14:29 ET

Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Amateur Radio Club making Field Day Safer, More Reliable, and More Economical from Viola, Idaho -- K7MM



Multiop effort: K9BRUNO and Ron, N7CE!



Morning sun, Idaho sky filled with FD antennas; what could be better?

W0GCJ -- Jul 29, 2003 11:10 ET

Would the fortunes of Field Day smile on us once again with perfect weather for the entire 24 hour period? No!

At least Saturday morning started clear and calm after a few storms had moved through the area around midnight. Storms were predicted for later that night.

For 2003 the Marshall Co. ARC setup Field Day in Lion's Park in Marysville, KS. Once again we



Our solar charger and battery. NØNB at the controls while KØBYK looks on.



6m and 2m loops and Volleyball Mast Support (TM).

planned to operate as class 1A using a solar panel and battery as our primary power source thus eliminating the noisy generator and its maintenance demands. The operator list included ACØI, AEØG (visiting from Lincoln, NE), KØBYK, KCØMLS, NØPGE, NØRKN, NØNB, and several XYLs who saw to it that we had plenty of good things to eat.

Setup went well even though stringing up the G5RV was an interesting game of "Tossing the Weighted String Over the Perfect Limb". Several good laughs were had during this phase. Yes, there are ways to launch a line perfectly the first time, but why waste the opportunity to make a fool of oneself?

With the HF antenna in place our attention turned toward supporting the 6m and 2m loops. We quickly spied a pair volleyball net supports and dropped the push-up mast into one of them. The supports have old tires filled with concrete for stability and portability and worked perfectly for the light weight antennas. Unfortunately, neither 6m or 2m ever opened enough for a contact.

Around midnight (0500z) the storms rolled in as predicted. Fortunately, the heavy stuff split and went around to the south of us. We encountered some rain and moderate lightning. Of course, we kept the station unplugged and caught some sleep. Around 2 AM we deemed it same enough to put the station back on the air until about 4:30 AM when another cell rolled through keeping the station shut down until about 6:30 AM.

The rest of the FD period went by without incident although a nearby pavilion was host to a church group's potluck dinner which gave us an opportunity to answer some questions about Amateur Radio and provide some local PR.

We didn't make the most contacts, but we made up for it in trying a few different things again this year and we will work toward more success next year. It would have been nice to have 6m and 2m provide some openings, but they always seem rather dead on FD. We enjoyed



meeting and playing host to AEØG who was visiting his folks in long term care in Marysville.

See you in 2004!

-- *NØNB*

The 2m Big Wheel and the KB6KQ 6m loop looked great--the bands weren't.



NØPGE coaches while AEØG logs and ACØI works the band.



Our battery and solar charge controller. NØPGE seems pleased with the progress while NØNB works the band (while trying to not be too distracted by the tray of delicious cookies to his left).

K5RN -- Jul 28, 2003 12:59 ET



Rockwall Amateur Radio Club, Rockwall Texas.

<http://www.rockwall-arc.org> -- *NIQXV*

40' push up poll supporting mutilple dipoles with the sunrise over Rockwall, Texas

N4OLN -- Jul 27, 2003 18:41 ET

Had a great time inspite of the poor conditions. The only band I operated was 40 meters cw. 90% of my contacts were up on the novice portion of the band. I felt they need to have some fun making contacts too. Lets all remember what QRS stands for. Slow down.



N4OLN Field Day setup.

A friend of mine saw a picture of me at the rig and said, "You still use a straight key?" Yup!

The rig used was a Yeasu FT101B with a straight 40 meter dipole between two tall southern pine trees fed by rg58 direct to the rig. The rig was battery powered the whole time thanks to Mike W3IRZ.

Field Day is a great contest and a good time to bone up on your operating skills.

73's, Gary -- *N4OLN*



N4OLN at the rig.

WD8AAU -- Jul 28, 2003 12:48 ET



The WD8AAU Field Day operation was a little different this year. I operated mobile from my bicycle. All operations took place on a bicycle trail operated by the county park system and from a county park in and around the Dayton, Ohio area. (Creekside Trail and Eastwood MetroPark)

I had a ton of fun. I only operated a few hours total. An hour or so Saturday night, and the last 2 hours Sunday. Minimum number of contacts (only 15), but maximum enjoyment. I could almost hear the jaws drop when I signed as bicycle mobile. If you ever want people to point and ask "what is that thing?", just hang a 20 meter verticle off the back of your bike.

My field day operating position. Photo taken at Eastwood MetroPark.



Close up of the rig. Notice the PTT under the brake lever where my thumb can get to it.



Dan (WD8AAU) standing with the bike. Helment is on!



A view of Eastwood. I backed the bike up to water's edge. I wanted to see if a body of water under the verticle would help propagation. If it did, I didn't notice.



This is along the Creekside Trail. I thought if there would be one place I would have trouble, here it is. Just the opposite. I had several of my QSOs in this section of the trail

KC0AHN -- Jul 27, 2003 23:05 ET



10m & 80m station crew - pressed into 40m PSK-31 action!

The Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society of Wichita, KS setup their field day station at the ranch of KA0MR, Bob Bailey, between the Central Kansas towns of Moundridge and Hesston. This field day marks the 7th consecutive year that the BEARS/Wichita, KS club has participated. 25+ members, friends, and family members set up the 5A Kansas stations. This year we erected 5 screen tents for each of our stations. We ran a 15m vertical, 20m beam antenna, 40m vertical, a DX-LB+ for 40m and 80m PSK-31 and voice, and a 6 element beam on 6m. For our satellite station we had a 4 foot dish for the 13cm downlink on AO-40 and a pair of circularly polarized 70cm and 2m antennas.

The sky was quite colorful with the reflection of the burning wheat fields reflected in the smoke and Kansas dust.

As we setup for field day, we noted a thunderstorm forming about 2 miles to the south - it moved away



40m station crew - racking up the CW contacts!

from us and turned into a severe line of thunderstorms. Dodging that bullet, we all smiled; but we weren't so lucky that night. A line of storms raced down on us as we protected our equipment and took cover.

Unfortunately the storm was with us from about 2 AM through 10 AM - with a steady downpour of rain. With rain puddles everywhere at the ranch, we decided running 120 volt AC to everyone's tent was not the better part of valor... We closed our field day early.

Our preparation and participation resulted in a higher score this year than in any previous year - even though we were actively making contacts only half the time! Everyone decided that although the rain put a damper on field day - we still had a good time and we were already talking about next year! -- *NOLD*



15m station crew - good propagation in the afternoon



Satellite Crew - Calibrating the 70cm antenna - storm brewing in the background...



20m Station Crew - everyone wanted to be on 20m!



Dust and clouds lit by burning wheat fields at sunset



KZ0P, KB0YWM, and KA0MR preparing the 20m PSK station



KA0MR (pictured), Mary Jo Bailey, and Don Urban planned, prepared, and barbequed a wonderful meal



KC0MTM, Samantha Wing, was our youngest ham

K7ZC -- Jul 27, 2003 01:32 ET



The Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club from Bellingham, Wa. operated as 2-Alpha Western Washington plus a VHF/UHF and GOTA station. Bonus point included Portable Packet, APRS Demo and Laser Communications.

Our local ARES~RACES provided two communications vans for our SSB and CW stations. HF conditions were poor early in the contest while the VHF/UHF station was racking up points as the Southwest opened up on 6 meters. This was also the first time we operated JT44 digital mode on 2meters and 440. That was very cool!

Doyle Bennink, KC7GX climbs top of tower to make adjustment to CW antenna. Mt. Baker in the background. WHAT A VIEW.



Putting up towers is a major team effort. Also part of the fun of field day.

Expansive location provided room to take advantage of the 1000 ft diameter rule so intermod was not a problem and by Saturday evening, the CW and SSB stations caught up and passed our VHF/UHF station.

Besides operating 15 hours straight, the most fun for me is always the Friday afternoon/evening setup and the meals, where we all get together and share our fieldday experiences. Lots of hard work and lots of fun.
-- KK7LK



Caleb Gerbrandt, KD7RDY, one of our new Youth Club members, and already an Extra Class, takes the first shift on the CW station in the new RACES van.

N5ESE -- Jul 26, 2003 20:15 ET

N5ESE (w/ N2KTY) Field Day An early morning start gave us time to avoid the June Texas sun while antenna raising and helped ensure that our QRP/battery powered station was functional & interconnected before starting time. Our 40m inverted Vee, suspended by a 30' fiberglass pole & homemade quadpod, was fed by hand-made open ladder line. Murphy, of Murphy's Law fame, kept us on our toes. Fortunately, extra connectors, spare accessories, a butane soldering pencil and modest ingenuity sent him on his way. The main radio was a very smart Elecraft K-1, with occasional use of an AT-Sprint x'ceiver housed in an Altoids box.. For other bands beyond 40m, we creatively reconfigured the feed line as the vertical radiating element, with short radials on the ground to act as a counterpoise. All antenna/band configurations were confirmed ahead of time & tuner positions recorded as backup to the K1's built in tuner. Operation was from a card table, under a shady stand of trees, protected further by a canvas tarp. Nighttime operation was supplemented with several well-placed white LED lamps



Monty N2ESE (L) & Gary N2KTY (R)

and a fluorescent camp lamp which was surprisingly clean of RFI. We were an easy stone's throw from Lake Travis shore & enjoyed the view, and a dip during breaks. With less than 5 watts, we were able to amply work both coasts, and contacts in Canada as well as 1 DX contact with Cuba. Entire weekend was driven off of one 7AH gel cell. QRP FD, what a way to go!

-- N5ESE

K7EAR -- Jul 26, 2003 12:38 ET



Field Day site, Our comm bus and 3 towers on hill, 2 CW 1 SSB and the VHF mast/flagpole on the bus

The Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society set up for field day at Clark Peak Campground on Mt Graham near Safford, AZ. At about 9,000 feet in the tall pines, it was a real relief from the desert below. We operated 3A QRP from the club bus. Due to the fire restrictions in place, we were not allowed to run the generator from 1 PM until 1 AM to power the computers (ALL the radios ran off solar charged batteries), so for 12 hours, everything ran off batteries charged by the solar system. 2 80 watt panels and 5 deep cycle batteries! Band conditions were poor but we managed to pile up a decent number of QSO's and bonus points and everybody had a great time! For more pictures and scores go to our website.

<http://www.eaars.com/03fieldday.html> -- WB7ONJ

WD9EWK -- Jul 25, 2003 13:56 ET

Another fun year in northern Arizona, this time using a new IC-703 instead of my FT-817. Propagation wasn't as good, but I kept making QSOs by moving down to 40m instead of listening to static on 15m or 10m. Fewer bonus points this year compared to 2002 (only the 100% emergency power and public-location bonuses), but more QSOs in 6 hours on the air (51 QSOs, all SSB). In the shade, 25 to 30 degrees cooler than my home (Phoenix AZ area), a great excuse to get out of town - even for a day-trip!

More information about my Field Day 2003 effort is at:



<http://www.qsl.net/wd9ewk/fd2003.html>

73! -- *WD9EWK*

**My station - IC-703, LDG Z11 auto-tuner
(wider tuning range than 703's tuner),
xPower 300 12V/21Ah gel-cell pack**

W8JXN -- Jul 24, 2003 14:33 ET



VHF Tower with 2 & 6 meter beams

The Cascades Amateur Radio Society operated the 2003 Field Day from a new site at the Jackson Catholic Middle School in central Jackson Michigan. The club call W8JXN was used.

One tower held the 2M and 6M beams, a second tower supported the 80-10 folded dipole, the third tower had the 20M single element beam. Denny (KC8IJZ) has the most unique antenna mounts ever seen: two antique metal wagon wheels flat on the ground with masts set into the axle holes. We did find out how had the ground is on the ball field when we tried to twist in the anchors to one of the towers. Next year we move that tower. We had generator power for the entire Field Day, only running out of gas while trying to copy the ARRL Field Day Bulletin ! Ron (WA8YIH) provided a battery powered Icom 706 station and stayed up operating almost all weekend.

The Middle School also left the gym unlocked so we could use the restrooms during the weekend.

Some excitement was had when a severe thunderstorm shifted operations from Field Day to a severe weather net Saturday afternoon.

The Vice Mayor of Jackson, Dan Green and Karen Randall, the Executive Director South Central



Overview of the site

Michigan Chapter, American Red Cross visited the site.

The club president Dick (KA8VLN) made a banner and set up an information table. He also spent some time "operating" the 20M station.

Many thanks to all of the hams who participated: W3IGT, N8WIX, AB8PU, KC8UXX, AB8PW, KC8TDN, KB8YQA, WA8AEN, WD8PMD, KA8VMJ, KB8ZVH, WN8MUP and any others who I forgot to write down. Also thanks to April, Mary and other XYL's who provided food and assistance. Also to the other family members (especially YL Sarah) who helped out.

John Cooley, Chairman CARS Field Day -- *WB8WBN*



20 meter (KC8UXX) and 2 meter SSB (W3IGT) stations



Club President Dick KA8VLN "operating" the 20 meter station



Ron (WA8YIH) at the battery powered Icom



Denny (KC8IJZ) operating 6M SSB

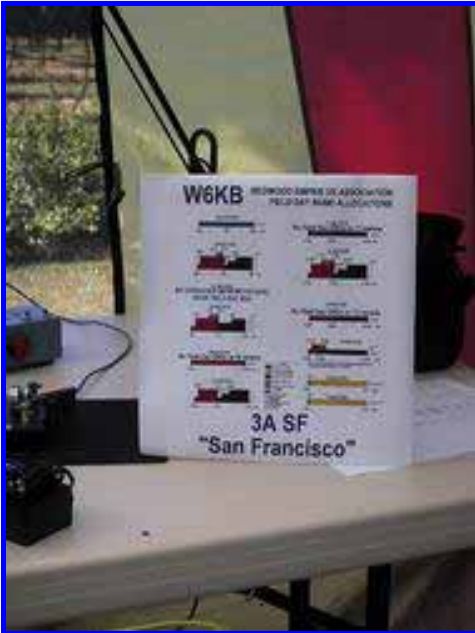


Dan Greer with John (WB8WBN) and Dick (KA8VLN)



Karen Randall from the American Red Cross visits

W6KB -- Jul 23, 2003 17:42 ET



Redwood Empire DX Association operating 3A SF from a vineyard in Sonoma County, California.

The Redwood Empire DX Association, operating from a vineyard in Sonoma Co. California, directs you to a slideshow gallery of images. Please enter this URL in your web browser.

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F59A31E55>

Go to a summary of our operation also posted on Soapbox by Field Day Chairman, Mike, K6PUD.

TNX es 73 de Marilyn -- N6VAW

W6PRI -- Jul 23, 2003 15:14 ET

Field Day was a real challenge operating class 1E, Battery and QRP. 20 meters was THE band this year. Thanks to everyone who participated. I was hoping for more digital activity. Hope to see everyone again next year. -- W6PRI

W0GG -- Jul 23, 2003 12:53 ET



Doug, W0AH, puts the finishing touches on the VHF antennas at W0GG.

As an ARRL Director, I've visited many FD sites through the years. W0GG, Class 3A, located at a beautiful site at 9,000 feet near Pike's Peak, was the most professional I've ever seen, with multiple 50 foot telescoping towers supporting wires and mono band yagis, and a fantastic power distribution system. Congratulations to W0GG and crew on an outstanding entry. -- W0CP

K4JSI -- Jul 23, 2003 13:27 ET

Field Day 2003 was enjoyable but I kept it pretty low-key. I operated from MDC (our back yard) as battery-powered Class 1B using QRP on 40 and 20 meters only. I slung a homebrew half-sized OH2NE 1/3 multiband antenna from the house to a tree in our neighbor's yard. That gave me a dipole on 40 and two halfwaves in-phase on 20. The rigs were the old Oak Hills QRP-40 and QRP-20, although I played a bit with a Ten Tec 1340. The ATU was a MFJ 971, which works well for me.

Results from 11 to 12 hours of operation were 58 QSOs on 20 and 60 QSOs on 40, and I claimed the emergency power bonus, having taken the starch out of three of my SLA batteries. It was nice to have single-signal reception instead of using gear with direct-conversion receivers which I'd used in the two previous field days.

While I enjoy 1B Field Day operation, I think I'll join a group for Field Day 2004. My first Field Day (as a new Novice) was with the Ithaca (NY) Mike and Key Club in 1955 and I haven't missed many since. Even operated Field Day 1966 with the Radio Club of Tacoma, WA, two weeks before I left for service in Vietnam. I've always thought of Field Day as the premiere amateur radio operating activity!

-- K4JSI

KB4PPE -- Jul 22, 2003 20:14 ET

It was a great event, and I plan to operate in it more often. My stn consisted of a Ten Tec Scout (set @ 5 watts), a 130 ft dipole fed with ladder line via a homebrew tuner, a 50 watt pv to 2 deep cycle lead acid batteries, and a gas generator- which I did not need to fire up throughout the event- 100 % natural power. It was a good exercise for the inevitable. Until next year.... 73, Bill Shuler -- KB4PPE

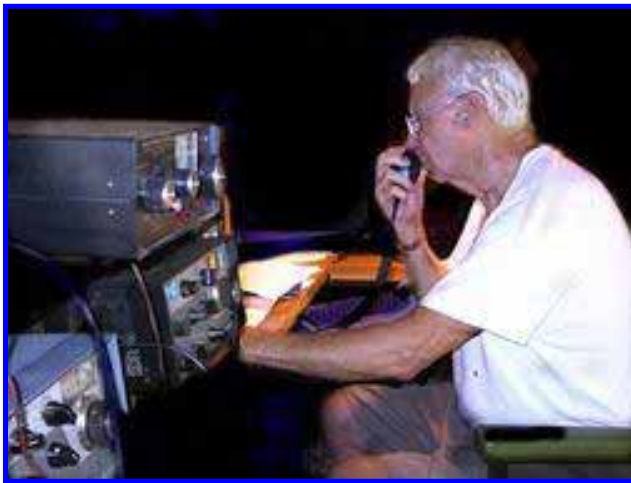
K4YNZ -- Jul 22, 2003 17:34 ET

The K4YNZ 5E AL Field Day effort was a combination of old and new technologies. We used electronic logging,(GenLog),but backed it up with paper scratch pads and dupe sheets. We ran three



K4HFX working PSK in the early morning

PSK 31 stations, and two Phone stations, using the latest SG2020ADSP, and ICOM 706 radios, but they were fed with older, tried and true wire antennas. And, near our location, in rural Springville, about 30 miles NE of Birmingham, we ate supper, at a 40 year old BBQ diner, while watching the news off a Satellite feed, in the dining room. Ed Bruchac N4ZUM -- *N4ZUM*



K4YNZ working 20M phone, surrounded by his collection of Drake transceivers



KE4ADV and W4PTB working 20M PSK, on an IC 706 and Dell laptop, late Saturday night



N4ZUM working PSK on SG2020 and Dell laptop,late Saturday night



W4PTB working 20M PSK early Sunday morning



KA4AJA working 40M phone on an IC-706



K4AAF working 15M PSK on an SG 2020



K4JDH and the "Hexed" Beam!"



**K4YNZ qth in Springville,Alabama,EM-63.
An Alabama Field Day is going to have
trucks. (N4ZUM's Volvo was made
an,"Honorary Swedish Pickup".)**

K7VIT -- Jul 22, 2003 17:33 ET



**Left to right John N7UPM, John N7AAM,
Jerry K7VIT, and Chris N7UBS (GOTA) seek
out some hard won QSO's under cold band
conditions on a hot early Saturday FD
afternoon. The temperature reached 95°
F./35° C. Photo courtesy of John
KX7YT/S21YV.**



**The K7VIT setup at Crossroads Christian
School (www.ccscougars.com) providing an
opportunity for the young and all ages to
see what HAM RADIO and emergency
preparedness is all about. Photo courtesy of
John KX7YT/S21YV.**

The QUality Amateur Radio Klub (QUARK) went to NE Portland, Oregon to set up for Field Day this year. The site was selected to give Crossroads Christian School students, the Cougars, as well all others who are young at heart, the chance to see HAM Radio and emergency communications in action during Field Day.

This was a challenging Field Day because band conditions were somewhat disturbed so stations were sparse in the early going. The squint angle on AO-40 proved to be a bit too much to overcome by Field Day time for our satellite station. As the band warmed up so did our QSO count and our weather. The temperature finally reached a high of 95° F./35° C in the afternoon. Fortunately, one of our group brought along an oscillating fan, a Colpitts, I believe.

We were very proud to have Field Day participants with all ranges of experience from being licensed over 40 years to the Ham candidate waiting to take his test who spoke on the radio under the encouraging eyes of friends. Those who had not seen Ham Radio up close and personal before also got to sit in the operating chair. While we only operated for Saturday afternoon and evening, we sure had fun. See you on Field Day next year! ... Oh yeah, and a few of the tests in between. -- K7VIT



Left to right, the Gang of 4: John KX7YT/S21YV, Jerry K7VIT, Chris N7UBS (GOTA), and John N7AAM display their ARRL/ARES/Field Day banner (and pride) while standing in front of a mighty fine "antenna support structure." Photo courtesy of Christine, XYL of KX7YT/S21YV.

K1LU -- Jul 22, 2003 14:58 ET



K1LU at the radio with N1XYA at the log attempting to observe reflection enhancement from a hill near the water.

Who says Field Day can't be fun. We decided to operate from the boat this year because it was hot in Northern California. Never having done this before we learned a lot about what works and what doesn't.

On board, drift has a new meaning. We used a portable loaded dipole on a tripod about 15 feet above deck. It worked OK, but as the wind moved the boat from side to side on the anchor point we would experience the pattern of the dipole which just added to the already intense QSB of the day!

We did make contacts, but it wasn't until we restructured the dipole into a vertical with the lower half being a 60 foot piece of bare copper wire tossed overboard that things really started to happen.

The picture is of K1LU (Len) at the radio with N1XYA (Vicki) doing the logging and/or dupe checking. We operated SSB and CW. It was difficult to hear the radio with the wind noise until we went to headphones, but that proved to be a bigger problem because the logger had to be instructed by the operator. The solution turned out to be a tape cartridge inserted into the boats stereo system which supplied over 100 watts of audio on receive.

We moved around several times to test reflections off of hills that surrounded Folsom Lake, but band

conditions were such that no noticeable difference was recorded. If it was there, the normal QSB masked the effect.

Engine QRN was reduced by battery operating, and swimming breaks started to get more frequent as the day progressed. Food and drinks were coordinated by Vicki, N1XYA who did an excellent job of preparing a gourmet menu ahead of time. It certainly was a different type of Field Day, being mobile on the water, but it was interesting to be near a site identified for Homeland Security (Folsom Dam) and to have some practice understanding what it might be like to get the site active on HF from the water.

K1LU Leonard J. Umina -- *K1LU*

W6KB -- Jul 22, 2003 01:57 ET



The REDXA Field Day site from the Southwest corner of the vineyard.

Field Day 2003

Oh what a Field Day it was!

The Redwood Empire DX Association has successfully concluded its Field Day exercise for 2003 and what an adventure it was. We knew going in that Mother Nature was against us on all fronts and she didn't disappoint. Friday was the hottest day of the year. It topped 100 degrees in the normally cool and temperate Russian River Valley. I was joined by club members Rich W6UDS, John KE6ZFN, Fred N6YEU, Dave W8NF, Jim KE6UAR, Frank KD6KVL and Fred KQ6OB for setup. The club owes a debt of thanks to these guys for taking a day off and braving the weather.

The heat of the day forced us to rethink our tower plans. The club has 4 of the (way cool) military surplus "rocket launcher" antenna masts. However with the weather threatening, we decided to erect only two of the masts. One held the clubs 2 element 40 and 4 element 20 meter beams and a dipole for 40 meters. The other held the clubs 5 element 15 meter beam and 80 meter dipole. A quick check with a SWR analyzer gave us some concern. The 40M beam barely tucked under 2:1 in the phone band and the 15M beam was flat from 20.995 to 21.995. Still they were up and usable and that was a good start. Whatever would happen in the next 24 hours would happen.

The heat also meant rethinking where our operating tents would go. Originally they were going to go around the perimeter of the encampment. With the mercury spiking, we decided to move them in under the shade of the trees where we were going to put the personal tents. With the noon sun beating down on us, we would set something up and then go rest, and then set something up and then go rest. Somehow or other we finished set up and then moved the generator that normally powers the well as far as we could get it into the vineyard. A quick pull on the crank and it jumped to life and we were on the air!

We puttered around on the air until dinner. The cooks at the West Valley ARA started a tradition several years ago of having something special for dinner for those that were intrepid enough to come out for setup on Friday. I decided to continue that tradition and dinner was grilled portabello mushrooms covered in Brie cheese with salad and several bottles of wine (well, it is a vineyard after all). The mushrooms, cheese, salad and plenty of wine set us right for the evening. Some time after dark, we put the generator to bed. Those of us that remained sat back and enjoyed the starry night as we talked of many things.

Saturday morning found the HF stations well set up, so we added a vertical for 2 Meters and 70 CM and a beam for 6 Meters. We topped off the generator and shared a continental breakfast of bagels, donuts and rolls with fresh lattes (my wife just got an espresso machine). Saturday turned out to be as fair and lovely as Friday was hot and awful. The weather was as wonderful as you could ask for during a Field Day. The space weather was another story. There has for some time been an ENORMOUS coronal hole of the face of the sun and it was doing its best to ruin our fun. The conditions showed as the contest started. I opened on 15 CW and things were so quiet that I kept checking the attenuator to make sure it wasn't turned on. Quiet or no, we kept at it and the contacts started to fill the log. The story was similar on 40. 20 however was hopping and the ops there were busy. We churned away at the bands and the QSO totals started to climb. Meanwhile an active hot stove league had started under the main shade canopy.

The dinner bell rang and we abandoned our stations (mostly) for some grub. Compared to Friday's affair Saturday's dinner was basic and down home. Hamburgers on the grill, salad, potato salad and more wine (I brought a case and a half). I had to turn the grill over to Fred KQ6OB half way through the affair as our first satellite pass of the day was imminent. We had no luck during that pass or for that matter during the whole of the event. The FM birds are a little tougher to work than the articles in QST would have you believe. Back at the common area, cake was just being cut. My first son Bryce was born 18 hours after Field Day 4 years ago and every second or third year his birthday falls directly on Field Day itself. This was one of those years and there was cake for everyone.

After dinner it was back to the bands. I don't know if it was E-Skip or just the 0's and 7's running out of East Coast stations to work but they gave us a last hurrah before 15 gave up the ghost. Meanwhile over in the 40 Meter tent, Dave W8NF was passing our Section Manager his message on the state of our site. Back in my tent, the VHF stations had been active. We had already made a number of contacts on 2M and 70CM simplex and 6M SSB. Then Courtland KA5S showed up with his log periodic and put us on the air on 2M and 70CM SSB. While not our most competitive station, the VHF station did rack up a number of Q's for us and was a pleasant place to go to tootle around on the bands.

80 Meters finally opened up for us and if we thought that the silence of 15 meters was a challenge, it was nothing compared to the deafening thunder on 80 meters. The static crashes sounded like the finale of the 1812 Overture! QRN or no we soldiered on. I turned the station over to Fred KQ6OB at 3 AM and when I woke up 3 hours later I found that 40 Meters had made up in the night for its slow start and 20 Meters had just kept on clicking. 80 had ended up being fairly productive on phone as well (CW was a disappointment). At that time, the band had closed and 15 hadn't opened so Fred and I started prepping pancakes and sausages for everyone. By the time we finished 15 was just squeaking open and

we worked it till the last bell sounded.

A few hours later everything was cleaned up and only footprints in the grass showed that anything had taken place at the vineyard. Despite the weather (both types) I have to say that this weekends event was a complete blast and reaffirmed my feeling that Field Day has to be the best day of the Ham Radio calendar. I'm already looking forward to next years event! -- *K6PUD*

VE3FAL -- Jul 21, 2003 23:15 ET

Another great field day. Dave (VE3AVS) and myself set ourselves up in my tent trailer, and operated 2B ON for field day. We used an FT817 and OHR HP 1.5 watt rig on 40, and the 817 for 80,20 and 15 meters running 2.5 watts, using all battery power. We used dipoles for antennas, and even used my HYGAIN tapetenna for 80. We managed to rack up 162 q's and finished with a score of 1820 after bonus points, not a bad run for 20 hours using QRP in some very QRO band segments. We stuck solely to cw and, and just kept pounding away putting our call in when we could. Next year, we will try and break the 2000 point mark, but each year we keep improving. Thanks to all who pulled our QRP signals out, shows we have some very good operators who have good ears. I think the most annoying thing was, hearing stations calling cq, stopping, plugging in our call, and when we stopped, they were again calling cq as if they never even listened to see if someone was in there. Found lots of this going on , and mostly on 20 meters. Listening is just as important as calling. Anyway, see you all next year. -- *VE3FAL*

N8IA -- Jul 21, 2003 23:22 ET



Hot air balloons float by during setup Friday evening

Operated 1B solo effort from the family farm near Howell, MI

I got some setup started including the operating tent on Friday night. The Michigan Challenge Balloonfest was taking place about 10 miles west of the QTH, and an hour before sunset I was visited by a number of balloons all around me!

I finished my setup by the 1800Z start time on Saturday. The station is an Icom 735, Yaesu FT100, a 40 meter vertical, with 8 quarterwave radials, held up by a 33 foot collapsable fiberglass pole, and a G5RV up in the trees at the "great" height of 35 feet.

It was very windy Saturday afternoon, and my 40M vertical looked like I was trying to land a shark! It fell over a couple times, so just had to run out and tip it right back up! Had to QRT for a while early Saturday evening for thunderstorms, but was back in business by sunset, and it turned out to be a beautiful clear night. It



A windy Saturday afternoon

was great having both the G5RV and the vertical to use on 40M. I kept switching between them, using the G5RV for contacts out to several hundred miles, and the vertical, for the longer haul paths. The vertical worked quite well out to the West coast and Hawaii in the middle of the night. I finally QRT'd and got some sleep at sunrise. I got back on the air around 1400Z and finished up primarily on 40M CW. I had my best rates the last few hours, the rate meter on CT was showing in the mid 80's per hour.



The operating position

My goal was 700 QSOs, I made nearly 600, but the condx stunk on 10/15 and I had to QRT for WX on Saturday evening, so overall the operation was successful!

73 Dave - N8IA - 1B Michigan -- *N8IA*



The 40 meter vertical



The 40M vertical feedpoint and radial connection (yes it worked!)

N6R -- Jul 20, 2003 22:41 ET

The Ventura Co. (CA) Amateur Radio Society (VCARS) operated Field Day 2003 from the grounds of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, Simi Valley, CA. Special Events Callsign, N6R, was utilized to commemorate the lives of President Ronald and Mrs. Nancy Reagan. This was the third year for VCARS to operate from this location.

Approximately 700 museum visitors passed through our operating area and by our P.I.O. booth. Approximately 150 people were briefed at our P.I.O. Booth.

Amateur Radio Public Relations was the stated primary goal of our Field Day 2003 operation with QSOs/Score as a secondary goal.

We had a 'clean sweep' of coverage in the "Ventura Co. Star", including a substantial article with a color picture + black and white picture on Page B-1. VCARS was mentioned numerous times in local radio and printed media during the weeks before Field Day. VCARS was presented with an "Amateur Radio Week" Proclamation by the City of Thousand Oaks (CA) during a City Council meeting; the Mayor of the City of Simi Valley (CA) presented the club with one also.

Approximately 600 QSOs were achieved with an 8-A entry. The 20 meter SSB station was located at the P.I.O. Booth for maximum public visibility of a busy band. At various times, bands 80 meters through 70 centimeters were utilized. Eleven 15 meter QSOs were made with solar cells as the power source. APRS was also demonstrated. Approximately 47 U.S. States and most Canadian Provinces were worked and several DX stations were worked, including the CO0 Field day operation.

President: Rick Tate, KN6NO Field Day Co-Chairman: Terry Graves, K7FE Field Day Co-Chairman: John Love, K6ARA

bt73 Peter Heins, N6ZE Ventura Co. (CA) Amateur Radio Society (VCARS) -- N6ZE

KU6S -- Jul 18, 2003 14:55 ET

South Bay Amateur Radio Association - Field Day 2003

Site: Lake Elizabeth - Central Park, Fremont CA.

5A East Bay (EB)

Stations set up for 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M (GOTA - WS6S), 10M, 2M & 70CM. -- WT6K

KN6OX -- Jul 20, 2003 21:00 ET



40 meter 2 element inverted V beam

The Cosumnes River BBQ and Mooing Cow Society operated KN6OX 2A SV from my family's barn located near Latrobe, El Dorado County California.

The following were ether operators or assisted in the setup or take down; KN6OX, K6RC, K6GV, K6PG, KN6UV, WB6AOK, WB6OVH, KB6DSA, N6SNO, KG6PON, KG6EOT, N6DW, WV6J and KE6DWI. I am sorry if I left anyone out.

Frank N6SNO took time out from operating to do a great BBQ, which included ribs, tri-tip and chicken covered with his special sauce.

Frank also came up with this year's name when he complained about the mooing cows.

This year the stations were ICOM 765's paired with a Collins 30L1 and a Heathkit SB200. We did this to give us a little extra kick. The logging was done with networked laptops running WriteLog. A stand-alone ICOM 706 MarkIIIG was used for the VHF/UHF station on 6 meters.

Using the amps cut our score down, but add lots of fun with the pile-ups and high QSO count.

The antennas were a 4 element 20 meter mono bander at 40 feet, a 4 element 15 meter mono bander, a 2 element 40 meter inverted V wire beam and a dipole at 40 feet for 80 meters.



20 Meter and 80 meter dipole

We endured the 100+ tempter by using a very strict hydration program to consume lots of fluids and beverages. -- *KN6OX*



6 meter ant



KE6DWI and KN6OX looking over the FD rules



K6GV



K6PG operating the natural power station



K6RC



KE6DWI WV6J and K6PG



WB6OVH



The Group

K9FWH -- Jul 20, 2003 18:46 ET



K9FWH screaming into the FT-817 during the "great run".

What fun! Perched atop the "penthouse" at my workplace in Madison, WI, using a FT-817 and a Cushcraft MA5V vertical about 40 feet above the local topography, NX9R and I managed a great run of about 40 contacts using 2.5 watts. The FT-817's batteries died out about 2.5 hr into the contest so we retired to the back porch at the home QTH where we did pretty well until the bands fell out about 0300Z. Spent the next morning visiting other sites around Madison (including the first station we worked the previous day). First FD since I've been back on the air after a 20-year break, didn't know what I was missing! We'll be getting better batteries for next year! -- *K9FWH*



NX9R picks his way through the wall-to-wall QSOs on our 15 meter "run".



Jim, NX9R, poses with the MA5V vertical and its excellent perch above the Nine Springs E-way south of Madison. 360 degree unobstructed view!

W4ARM -- Jul 20, 2003 10:23 ET

Our location gave us a good height advantage from the roof (about 60 ft up) of a parking garage using the tribander. We also had a 40m dipole at about 70 ft. The station was set up on the floor below in the shade from the 90+ degree heat on the roof. Propagation was very challenging. All HF bands closed down for us from 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM local on Sunday morning. Last couple hours of event were most productive on 15 CW. Operators were Joe W4SAA, Ed N4EJG and Al W4ARM. Thanks to Ed



The three of us next to the 3 element Yagi on a push up pole attached to the Car Wash canopy on the roof of the parking garage at about 60 feet.

and Joe for their great help in the setup and teardown. Thanks to Joe for providing the gear and antennas! And of course, thanks to all those who worked us during Field Day 2003. -- W4ARM



Joe W4SAA on the left and Al W4ARM on right



Joe W4SAA operating with Ed N4EJG observing



The beam & push up pole ready to roll in Joe's (W4SAA)car. W4ARM AI on the right.

N5EOC -- Jul 18, 2003 11:21 ET



The N5EOC Field Day was our club's first Field Day effort and was a huge success.

Our visibility and public awareness at the Southlake, TX city center gazebo was enhanced by the presence of a beam perched 95 feet high on a ladder truck. Many visitors stopped by and looked at our operation, talked with members and read the brochures that detailed how amateur radio supports the community and country.

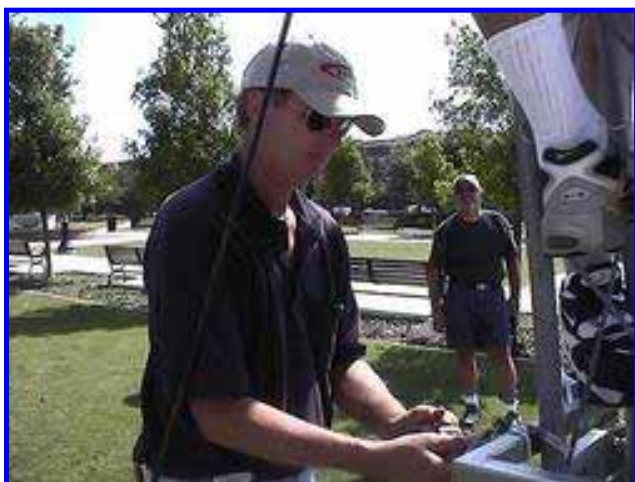
-- W5AP

N5EOC high visibility Field Day location in Southlake, TX









KU6S -- Jul 17, 2003 22:36 ET

South Bay Amateur Radio Field Day 2003 -- *WT6K*



Assembling the 20M Yagi.



Soldering the 1:1 Balun



20M Yagi Tower Portable Base.



Josh KG6HDT logging 10M QSO with Father Adam KG6HDR

K4TS -- Jul 17, 2003 21:33 ET



W4SHG AO-40 3.1 Meter Satellite Dish with the W0LMD Tri-Band Patch Feed. What a thrill to drag this through town on a trailer.

Well its time to report on another superior Field Day effort exerted by the members of the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club (RVARC). It started a bit early for some of us as our group intended on making the most from the free stations both VHF/UHF and Satellite. As usual we had our bread and butter operators on 40 and 20 meters and an 80, 15 and 10 station.

The setup started late Friday as material had to be delivered to build the Satellite and VHF station as our intentions were to gain upward to 300 plus contacts on both the VHF/UHF and Satellite stations. This would add nicely to the tremendous scores, which we expected on 40 and 20 meters. We also had a PSK station set up to attempt some digital contacts on various bands. The total effort will be categorized as a 4A entry.

Friday evening the Satellite was moved from its design location to it's Field Day location. This was a nightmare as my idea of throwing it on a flat bed trailer was good however; I (W4SHG) overlooked the total installed height of 14 feet and the punishment of the road on a 3.1 meter or 11 foot dish. The little bumps in the road just beat that poor dish up. Nonetheless the unit got to our Field Day location Friday evening.



K4TS setup lifting and installing the 10 / 15 Meter Beam using our soon to be UHF/VHF tower. This is the easy way.



The Competition is On, in the foreground W4SHG preparing for the battle between WB4LNT Mr. 20 Meters in the background. The intensity builds

The dish was a converted TVRO dish with a W0LMD designed tri-band circular patch constructed and tuned by W4SHG. The idea was to work the bird as much as possible and augment those totals with the VHF/UHF station. Friday late we set up the unit installing the feed arm and setting up the counter balances to accommodate the weight of the dish and its feed assembly.

Also delivered to aid in gaining bit of height on our VHF/UHF station was a nice donated 65 foot lift from our local NEFF Rental store. Installed in the lift was a makeshift Rohn 25 bracket crafted by W4SHG, N3KWA and W4LLK. This bracket was built to allow for the placement on at least two (2) sections of ROHN 25 tower, which would support a 6 element 6 meter W4SHG homebrew, a 13B2 Cushcraft for 2 meters and a 22 element long yagi for 70cm built by the good folks at Gulf Alpha Antennas. These on the two sections of Rohn tower were spun by a little Yaesu 550 rotor. Inside the bucket were 3 150watt brick amps for each band all feed by either LMR-400 or Andrews ½ SuperFLex Hard Line. Serious weren't we. We had to be our ground elevation was 2 feet ASL. The total height with tower and mast was 100 feet. Wow this meant we were now 102 feet above sea level.

Most was assembled Friday night and then Saturday morning the rest of the clan came rolling in. KG4RZM was in charge of tracking the bonus points and KB4XF utilized his talents in aiding the folks setting up at the GOTA station. WB4LNT a long time 20 Meter operator came in and very simply operated 20 meter CW by himself. That's right the whole Field Day. This is a serious amateur radio operator and all in the club notice his attendance and participation as everyone looks to him and KB4XF when in need of answers. K4IA and K4GMH were our serious contesters as they set up on 40 meters and rolled off over 1000 contacts on CW and Phone. No games at this operating station.

We had a little contest between the VHF/Satellite and our 20 Meter station. I was sure that we could be competitive at the VHF and Satellite station however when all was done Mr. 20 Meters WB4LNT and single



The K4TS 2003 Field Day site all stations up and operating



Yes, I beat the VHF/UHF and Satellite station in points single handedly but what is this that was nipping at my heels all weekend? Maybe I better get a bigger antenna next year.

handedly beaten us in points. When I say us many folks came over to operate in the VHF/UHF and Satellite station. Even N4NW Virginia Emergency Section Coordinator showed up and pounded on 6 Meters for a bit. This was surely just an excuse to show up around supertime. AK1E and his Wife KD4CVC came in on Sunday morning and ground out over 50 satellite contacts on AO-40. I think everyone had a good time especially those working the satellite on QRP power of 500 milliwatts to 4 watts on 1269 mhz. This is the beauty of a good feed and a large dish for AO-40. The beacon showed up and 20 over 9 when we had a reasonable squint angle under 25 degrees.

The food was terrific and K4THY and her husband W4LLK did a tremendous amount of work as did our logistics band captain Roger KG4VYJ. This fellow orchestrated a tremendous effort in getting the tents and food organized. This was crucial in having a good Field Day and he pulled it off quite nicely.

Later in the afternoon I had a chance at working W0LMD the designer of this Satellite Tri-Band patch feed. I thought it might be nice to attempt a SSTV transmission through AO-40 and did so with Robert. Nice finish to a great VHF/Satellite Field Day effort.

The HF guys grinded away just racking up the contacts. This year yielded some pretty poor conditions for HF at least on Saturday. Many of the HF operators indicated that bands were just flat. Nonetheless both of the bread and butter stations cranked out over 1500 contacts and with the satellite/vhf and PSK we ought to get close to 1800. Our VHF/UHF Satellite totals were 214. Not bad

however we missed our goal of 300. It seems many Field Day locations just don't utilize anything higher than 6 meters. Contacts on 2 meters were down and virtually non-existent on 70cm.

Thanks to all the operators who aided in the RVARC effort as there are too many to list. I was very impressed with the quantity of folks who stayed and helped tear down. It was close to 100 degrees with very high humidity on Sunday afternoon. We will perform better on the higher bands next year. We look forward to it, as we will have a bigger larger higher VHF/UHF station. Who knows we might even do some microwave next year.

Even though the VHF/UHF and Satellite station lost, just barely to Mr. 20 Meter CW this year, he should take note that we will be gunning for him next year. We will prevail in 2004.

Respectfully submitted for the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club -- *W4SHG*

N1EV -- Jul 17, 2003 09:07 ET



The Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club - Norwalk, CT

Our Field Day this year was the best ever. While the bands were not as good as in years past, we had more overnight operators and did much more CW. See <http://www.gnarc.org/fd03.htm> for Our results and more photos. -- *K3EIN*

Local Newspaper coverage



Our site at Vets Park in Norwalk



Our "Crack" CW Operator



And our newest CW Operator



First light on Sunday morning



Our Satellite Station



Getting the TriBander ready to go up



A Visit by our Section Manager Betsey Doane/K1EIC



Some last minute adjustments before we put it up



This thing ran the whole Event.

W7RDR -- Jul 16, 2003 14:43 ET



Field Day setup

Peninsula Hams Practiced Emergency Communication Skills During Field Day on the Long Beach Peninsula of Washington State

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club (PCARC) of Washington State held their second Field Day operating event the weekend of June 28 at the Nahcotta Mooring Basin and adjoining property of Morehead Park. This waterfront area has proven to be an excellent site for radio transmissions and has now for a second time been used through the generosity of both Port of Peninsula and Ocean Park Retreat Centers.

Several Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) were contacted throughout the country. Dan Dimick



Sunrise over Wilapa Bay

demonstrated digital message handling thru packet radio which functions somewhat like an internet without wires. Dan also demonstrated APRS which radios GPS location, speed and heading data to other APRS equipped stations, both fixed and mobile and the results are displayed on a laptop or other computer screen. For emergency use, APRS can show EOC commanders where their mobile assets are and track their progress. Field Day chairman Bob Cline said the rumor is not correct that Dan has a unit mounted on his wife's car.



Bob Cline N7CVW and Clyde Sayce W7YQB

The public was invited and visitors included Pacific County Commissioner Bud Cuffel who observed the club's ability to quickly put together a field operating station and help set up the antennas. PCARC made 292 radio contacts versus 194 last year with other amateur stations ranging from Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Florida, four provinces of Canada and 35 states. Last year we contacted 29 states. This Field Day demonstrated the capability of radio amateurs of Pacific County to contact nearly every state and province in an emergency. The photo shows Stephanie Fritts, Pacific County Emergency Services Coordinator making radio contacts and Clyde Sayce, Port of the Peninsula Commissioner logging her contacts. The club president, Chuck Weimer is shown operating in Morehead Park from a temporary shelter.



Stephanie Fritts KD7CNQ and Clyde Sayce W7YQB

The club meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:00AM at Chuck's Restaurant in Long Beach. Anyone interested in ham radio is encouraged to attend.

For more information contact: Bob Cline N7CVW, Field Day Chairman 360 665-4496. -- N7CVW



Chuck Weimer KC7YWU



Chuck at end of Field Day

N7JI -- Jul 15, 2003 19:30 ET

Wow, what a Field Day!

Between having a job end due to plant closure, looking for a new one, having a sick wife and toddler, recovery from a week-long business trip to the east coast, and a complete lack of planning, I was truly amazed to find any operating time whatsoever.

Even so, I managed two or three hours during everyone else's nap times, plus a couple of hours after everyone fell asleep for the night.

Sure, it wasn't the best Field Day experience I had ever had. It wasn't so bad, either. I managed to scrounge together enough cables and equipment to have a station, and even took advantage of the intensely beautiful, cloud free skies to work five QSOs off direct solar power. Of course, even with a Wilderness Sierra, with a 6 watt solar panel you've only got about 1.5 watts of output with which to work. Into a dipole, this could be challenging.

Those five QSOs took a good, solid hour of calling, but shortly thereafter I was able to switch to battery power and run the "full teaspoon" of 5 watts.

When all was said and done, I ended up just shy of 40 QSOs - not a stellar performance but OK nonetheless considering the severe impingement applied by life into this operating activity.

73,

Scott N7JI -- *N7JI*

W1NRG -- Jul 15, 2003 12:53 ET



Bill, W1KKF, and Bob, KB1CIW, hunting for the perfect antenna placement with bow, arrow, and fishing rod.



The double extended zepp for 75 meters. This is a new antenna for MARC, and was a big challenge to get in the air at the EOC. At 320 feet long, we needed a shoe-horn to fit it into the available space!

This year, I had the opportunity to operate FD with the Meriden Amateur Radio Club for the first time in many years.

We operated 2F from the Wallingford, CT, Civil Preparedness building, which is where the club holds its meetings. Our 2F entry was a departure from previous years, when we have operated 1A or 2A from a large pasture in South Meriden.

Operating from the Civil Preparedness EOC posed a number of challenges. Fitting antennas into an area about 1/6th the size of the pasture we're used to, and with limited available supporting structures, made for an interesting Friday afternoon, but we did manage to deploy a respectable amount of wire. Among the HF antennas we fit over our parking lot were; a double extended zepp cut for 3900Khz, two G5RVs, and a four element colinear array for 10 meters (too bad 10 meters never opened for us). These antennas were in addition to the G5RV and tribander already installed at the EOC.

The HF/CW station was set up in the EOC radio room, and the HF/SSB and GOTA stations were set up in separate tents outside. These arrangements allowed plenty of room for operators and observers, and allowed all stations to operate without cans (headphones).

The VHF and satellite stations were located in the small field adjacent to the EOC. Again, changes were in order, because our long-boom 6 meter beam was too big - it would overhang the street and come too close to power lines. We didn't determine this until Friday, so a



The EOC tribander used by the HF/CW station atop one of the permanent towers, as well as other regular antennas including a G5RV, 6 meter beam, and 2 meter (packet) antennas.



John, K1VDF, operates HF/CW from the EOC radio room.

smaller beam was procured on short notice thanks to Rich, WA1TRY. Another change this year was the retirement of our previous 50 foot steel crank-up in favor of a new 30 foot all-aluminum model. The new tower, complete with Hazer system, was set up for the first time and worked quite nicely, although we had a glitch with the rotator that limited our azimuth on the 6 and 2 meter beams.

No Field Day operation is complete without the proper amenities! Thanks to John, N1GNV, for going all-out with his "Sidewalk Cafe", we were all well fed and had a place to rag chew while not operating. For those who know, John makes the world's best "road kill" - similar to chili, but made with meat of "unknown origins" ;) - a MARC tradition going back many years. Special thanks are also in order for Fred, KB1JDL, for Sunday's breakfast.

Making our FD weekend a success took a lot of time and effort, and I haven't nealy covered the "thank you's" here. Please keep an eye out for the complete story on the MARC website at <http://www.qsl.net/w1nrg>

Even though the bands didn't cooperate, we were able to demonstrate the EOC's capabilities for the Mayor and members of the public who came to visit, and generally had a good time. We've calculated our score at 4414 (including bonuses) - I'd be interested to hear from other Class F stations regarding their results - n1kgy@arrl.net

Warmest 73 to all who worked to make another great Field Day! -- *NIKGY*



Bob, KB1CIW, coaches the Mayor of Wallingford on the FD exchange as he prepares to make a contact from the GOTA station



The GOTA station TenTec transceiver.





John, N1LEZ, Chris WA1VXH, Dan, W1DMM, and myself, N1KGY, setting up the tower and VHF beams



VHF tower and beams ready to go...



The satellite array poised and ready...



N1GNV Cafe serves good food, good conversation, and "World Famous Road-kill"



Alan Russell, no call, and Mitchell London, KD5HCV, prepare to launch their 2 helium filled balloons.



Mitch London, KD5HCV, attempting to make contacts on a long wire antenna hanging from two Helium balloons.

Field Day 2003 brought a triumphant end to a quest that began just prior to Field Day 2002. Mitch London, KD5HCV and Alan Russell, no call, had the idea to make contacts using a longwire antenna hung from a weather balloon that Russell had had for many years. Due to wind and the 15 year age of the weather balloon, a weak spot developed and our plans burst like a bubble. That was last year. This year, we were tempted to try again, more so by a donation of a 5 foot diameter latex balloon. So the wheels in our minds started turning again, making back up plans in case of a similar problem to the previous year. We purchased more helium, a second, new, balloon and new wire. The winds were more favorable than last years and within a couple hours we had set up camp and began filling the balloons. We decided to use both balloons at once to give more lift in case of winds. Unsure as to the breaking point of the balloons we were conservative on our first attempt of filling them. So Saturday afternoon by 4 o'clock our balloons were full and ready for launch. The wind was blowing around 5-10 mph, which may not seem like much but when you have balloons that move at every whim of the wind, 10 mph is alot! We connected up our wire to a tuner and then to the Radio Shack HTX-10, 10 meter radio and proceeded to contact a whole bunch of...static! 10 meters was dead as can be. Darkness fell and we hauled the balloons into the tent and secured them so we could try again Sunday. Sunday came and we showed up about 10am, our balloons had lost some helium during the night so we opened them up and filled them even bigger than we did before. We launched the balloons and our hopes high into the air. Just a slight breeze was present that morning as we prepared ourselves for what may come. About 11 o'clock we got on 10 meters and I began calling CQ while Alan wrangled the balloons; keeping them away from trees and such. The first contact we made came from a person in the same city as we were, who was waiting to hear from us so we would have at least one contact. After we finished talking to him a second person was heard but this time from out of state! The band was by no means in good condition, but he could be heard. Then another. In and out the band went over the next few hours but we were determined that we would do our best with what we had. We heard



2 Helium filled balloons just under 100 feet in the air.

from Alabama, Florida, and a few others but the band was not helping and the contest was drawing to a close. We made our last contact at 12:58pm CST, in all we managed 10, 10 meter contacts. Our endeavor to launch a helium filled balloon (or two) was a success and that we were able to get a handfull of contacts made it that much better.

Stats: Balloons: (2) Helium filled, approx. 5-6 feet in dia. Antenna: Long Wire, 103 feet total less 6-8 feet to go to radio. Radio: 10 meter radio Shack HTX-10, 25 watts SSB. Fun: Extreme!

Photos by Shawn McCoy, KD5OUQ -- *KD5HCV*

KB9DBC -- Jul 14, 2003 11:36 ET

This year for field day I had a very different idea. Rather than staying with one club's field day, I wanted to visit multiple clubs and see how each club operated. Of course, being a licensed radio amateur, my nature of being outgoing and friendly would come into the mix. I had also hoped to meet new people, learn different operating practices, and of course have a good time.

Because the idea came so close to field day (practically the night before!) I could not obtain the proper legal advice on if I could operate at multiple clubs' field days. I definitely would not want to do anything to jeopardize each club's operation, so I kept myself in the socializing mode rather than the operating mode this year. Perhaps if the ARRL replies to my email and can hand down an "official word" on the topic, next year if I elect to do the same thing, I'll actually operate.

With my digital camera in hand, I set out to the first club where I met Tim McGuire, KB9QYL and Ron Steinberg, K9IKZ, amongst many other friendly faces. Both Tim and Ron liked my idea and asked if they could join me. Of course I couldn't refuse having company through this experience, so they both joined me in a caravan/convoy style trip. (They each followed in their respective vehicles, and we kept in touch on a low-power simplex frequency.)

I took many pictures, I met many great people, learned a lot about each individual club, and we all had a very fun and enjoyable time. I recently completed the website where I've compiled all of the pictures and sound bytes into one page. I encourage you to visit the website, and provide me with any comments, questions, or even suggestions. The URL is: <http://kb9dbc.com>

Thanks to all of the clubs whom were so hospitable, including providing food, personalized tours of your operations, and of course great ragchew material!

W8ZPF -- Jul 14, 2003 16:47 ET



Mike, WD8EBS, and Dave, K8RSP install the SSB antenna



AI, WA8LBZ, ready to untangle the antenna support rope with improvised tool



The W8ZPF CRES Amateur Radio Group, based in Columbus, Ohio enjoyed their 2003 Field Day activities at a new location this year. Our gracious hosts, Mike, NV7X, and wife, Viodelda, volunteered their back yard and porch for our efforts. Installing our two multi-band, wire, inverted V antennas in an unfamiliar location required some spur-of-the-moment engineering, a good throwing arm, and Dave, K8RSP's sling shot. Jim, W8KJ, loaned us his reliable generator to power our two classic, 100W rigs. The grilled brats and burgers, accompanied with covered-dish sides and desserts, made Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch culinary treats. Eighteen club members and four vistors participated. Central Ohio weather cooperated, giving two beautiful sunny days and a clear night between. Our SSB station operated from Mike's garage and CW / PSK31 station from Viodelda's front porch. Other than some SSB / CW station interference due to proximity of the 80 meter antenna legs, a condition which will be remedied next year, everything went smoothly. Thanks to all the operators who answered our call. 73 de W8ZPF -- *K8ON*

Mike, NV7X, and Viodelda, our hosts, at the CW station



Dave, K8RSP operates; Mike, WD8EBS logs; and Jim, W8ERW observes, at the CW station



Bob W8FMN, Dave K8ON, and Tricia KC8HIH, operate PSK31



Bruce W8MHW, and Art KD8ZG, enjoy the fellowship of the day

K4HRS -- Jul 14, 2003 11:54 ET



Our Wind Power and Solar Array Set-up from Florida Institute of Technology



Visitors inspecting our SOLAR array

The Harris-Intersil Amateur Radio club just received their Vanity Call Sign of K4HRS and participated in Field Day Activities in Melbourne Florida. K4HRS (Kilowatt Four Ham Radio Station) operated Field Day class 2A at the Wickham Park Boy Scout Camping area with two donated Cherry-Pickers as antenna supports.

Operation composed of station one located in a 26 foot moving Van, station 2 in the site pavilion and our GOTA station in a 10x10 tent. This year our antenna system was key in our success of running pile ups on 20 and 15 meters... A Monoband HyGain 205BA at 80 feet and HyGain 155BA and 105BA's at 60 feet were used along with a two element delta loop for 40 Meters and a Double Extended Zep for 80 meters.

Most of our operation was conducted on 20 meters with excellent conditions all over North America... When we needed to rotate the antenna.... We fired-up the Cherry-Picker and rotated the base..... putting up the antennas was also a breeze....no more towers for next year. 10 and 80 meters was dead... along with our generator at 1AM in the morning. Sunday we had to keep the 20 meter station on the air with Batteries charged using our solar array. Our GOTA station also used the Solar Array and Windmill for power. Visitors to our site were amazed by our capability to provide communication using solar power.

Thanks to all for their support in making this a great Field Day

Ivars, KC4PX Field Day Chairman -- *KC4PX*



New Potential HAMS operating the GOTA station.



Setting up our Solar Array



**K4HRS' 10 and 15 meter Antennas prior to
liftoff to 60 feet.**



**10 & 15 meters with the 2 element Delta
Loop. Thanks to United Rentals**



GOTA Station Operation



20 Meters at 80 feet provides K4HRS with the BIG Signal



Dick and Bill Operating 20 Meters in the Night



Bill, will the antenna load??



Yep, we used Air Conditioning for the 26 Foot Moving Van at K4HRS... nice!!!!



Finally Up in the Air... 5 Element Monobander for 20 meters at K4HRS Melbourne, Florida



**Finally Up in the Air... 5 Element
Monobanders for 15 and 10 meters at
K4HRS Melbourne, Florida with a 2 Element
Wire Delta Loop for 40 meters**

WA6WPG -- Jul 13, 2003 10:56 ET



Mojave Desert Location

My first effort using a solar panel with the battery. Worked great and really extended my operating time and reduced the necessity of such a heavy battery. Conditions were not great but could work most of the stations I could hear. What did me in was the daytime temperatures in my Mojave Desert location. Was a great learning experience. -- WA6WPG

N1RA -- Jul 13, 2003 16:48 ET

Hi ARRL, We held our fieldday event, we being the VARA (Valley Amateur Radio Association), at the OEM building in Shelton, CT. We have built a station there with financial support from the city for emergency communications in the Naugatuck Valley. The club and NVARES decided to hold fieldday there this year to test our setup. The equipment worked fine but our location is not ideal as a result we did not make a whole lot of contacts but we know that in case of an emergency the equipment will work and serve it's purpose. We had fun trying as you can see from the attached pictures which were taken by Steve-WJ1T. The picture named: VARA1 shows the Naugatuck Valley DEC W1HO-Howard smiling as if he enjoys getting very few replies to his calls. The picture named: VARA3 shows me, N1BDF, smiling too, even though the log shown in the background shows our meager results. And last but not least the picture named: VARA5 shows our mainstay and CW phenom Barbara-K1EIR, she is the sister of the CT-SM Betsey-K1EIC. Barbara accounted for half our score! 73 Jon -- N1BDF

K1KC -- Jul 13, 2003 14:14 ET

The Conyers Amateur Radio Group, of Conyers, Georgia enjoyed their best Field Day effort of several years due primarily to the excellent covered dish dinner Saturday evening! Well, there was SOME organizing that went into it. Over fifty folks showed up and enjoyed the food, fellowship and joy of Amateur Radio. We were thinking of changing our 5A entry to 3AC (three air conditioners that were in some of the trailers)! Our medium power entry was in stark contrast to last year's QRP-only, battery power-only effort. We've already critiqued this year's event and have some plans for next year. Thanks to all the operators who fielded entries and braved the elements. 73 de K1KC -- K1KC



WA4BLM keeps an eye on the weather and a hand on the mic.



Chow time!



AF4MN pounds the brass.



Mobile operating positions.



Can you believe KG4NDS is wearing a blanket in the middle of July?

KY5G -- Jul 12, 2003 15:16 ET



Camp - Looking South

This was my (KY5G) and Val's (N5LPL) first field day and we really enjoyed it. Steve (N4SL) probably did most of the work helping us to get organized and ready.

Our camp consisted of 3 tents. 2 were for sleeping and the largest was for operating. The antennas were a 40 meter dipole fed with balanced line that we also used for 15 and 6 meters. A 20 meter loop was used and fed with balanced line. These antennas were suspended from trees, the tallest is around 110 feet and the shorter tree was around 80 feet.

Power was supplied by a marine deep cycle battery and a small gasoline generator about 100' from camp.



Camp - Looking North. Op tent is on the left.

Conditions here in the Pacific Northwest were challenging, but fun. 20 was our main band, but we made quite a few contacts on 40 as well. 15 opened for us some and there were a few local contacts on 6 meters.

The bugs were monstrous. Even though we used screen tents, they managed to get in and drive us to distraction at times. Late Saturday night I started trading 'bug reports' with other stations. It was small comfort to learn that we were not alone in our bug situation!

-- *KY5G*



Steve (N4SL) operating CW



Val (N5LPL) working 15 meters



Ken (KY5G) on 20 late Saturday



N5LPL working 40 phone late into the night

KG4TUL -- Jul 14, 2003 05:50 ET



IC-706Mk2G, tuner, and IBM laptop set up on the dinette table.

I'm a fairly new ham (about a year) and this was my first Field Day. I operated Class 1B in my RV from a Corps of Engineers campground at Lake Lanier, about 50 miles north of Atlanta. The photos show the two antennas I used. I ended up doing OK overall, but mostly I learned a lot for next year's operation!

Nevertheless, there were a few highlights of the contest. First, I added about 4 states to my WAS tally. I now need only 6 or so more (unfortunately, two of those are Alaska and Hawaii, but I'll get them eventually). Second, I made a contact with the CO0US Cuban/American station on 10 meters, operating out of Havana. Third, and most interesting, was that I didn't want to pull an all-nighter, so I tapped out around midnight. At about three a.m., I woke up and, just for the heck of it, decided to check to see if anyone was on the radio ... it was packed! I got a whole bunch of

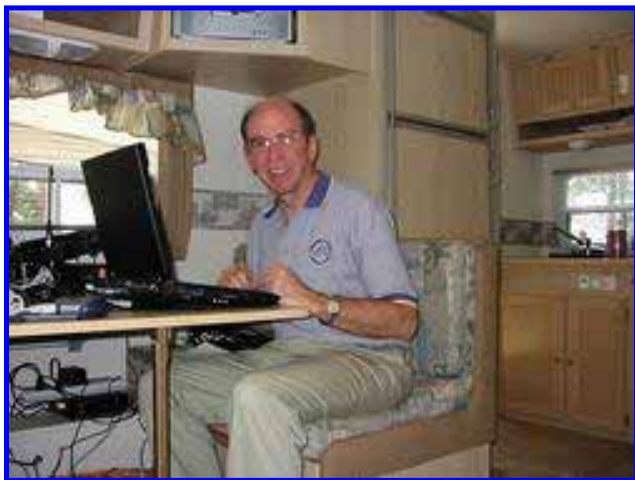
contacts, including half a dozen with west coast operators. What fun! -- *KG4TUL*



Hamstick dipole on an extendable swimming pool pole, u-bolted to the trailer jack.



G5RV antenna shot up about 50' into the trees with my trusty antenna.



Yours truly ... set up and ready to go!

NK6A -- Jul 13, 2003 23:38 ET



Don, NK6A, operating the K2, battery class 1B.

Don, NK6A and Nelson, WB6DWD, traveled up to San Vicente Mountain Park, former Nike Military Base high above the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. Located off of Mulholland Drive just a few miles west of the San Diego Freeway. We operated class 1B using a K2, Superantennas Yagi up 20 ft and a 40/15M dipole shot into the air using a sling shot.

We could only operate during the daylight hours the park was open. We began at 11AM and closed down at 8PM. Working Cuba with our 5W on 20 was our highlight. A very hot sun, flies, black flies and more flies made the day memorable. Many visitors keep on interrupting us as this was a rest area for Mountain Bikers and hikers. NExt year we will get a permit and spend the night. A Toshiba notebook with a screen that was have let and the bright sun made logging a special challenge. -- NK6A



Superantenna's 2 ele Yagi shown set up for 20Mon 20 ft pushup mast.



The end of our day in the Santa Monica Mountains

N6WB -- Jul 13, 2003 20:04 ET

The hard work of our Field Day Chairman John, WB6UHF and our Band Captains Dirk, N6SUN, Gene, W6EEB and Dennis WA6IQY made this one of the Escondido Amateur Radio Societies most successful field days ever. Operating 2A at Dixon Lake Campground on a hill with a beautiful view of Escondido CA. We had 3 monoband yagis mounted on towers on 10, 15 and 20 meters which performed flawlessly although with little 10 M propagation the 10 Meter was hardly used. John KG6DVE once again cooked up some of the finest Field Day cuisine to be served anywhere. Danny AE6MB and Thomas KG6INL did a great job attempting some Satellite QSO,s. Willie N8WP and his wife Cheryl KG6KTT spent hours on the GOTA station helping new hams get those 1st Field Day contacts. Due to a misunderstanding with one of the park rangers our Emergency Drill became a real emergency drill when the ranger demanded we shut off all emergency generators at 1 AM in the



Thomas KG6INL and John W9EN work at the VHF/UHF station.

morning. We were quickly back on the air after a quick scramble to acquire some battery power and to back up all our logging programs. It was great to see so many people work together and have such a great time. Just wait till next year!!! -- *KK6TV*



Our Band Captain Dirk N6SUN logs as Chris WD6BTM makes some 20 Meter Contacts.



Steve KE6PY with his famous CQP shirt works the CW Key as Dennis WA6IQY logs.



The EARS Field Day site with our hardly used 6 element 10 Meter beam.

K4EU -- Jul 13, 2003 14:46 ET



Steve, K4EU, Tom, WA0RWL, Jerry, KE4NHP, John, WA4QMQ, and Mary at "Mutton Top," our Field Day site in the Shenandoah Valley atop the Blue Ridge.



Field Day 2003 - Atop the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Shenandoah National Park near Stanardsville, Virginia.

Ops - Jerry KE4NHP; Jack KF4OTG; John WA4QMQ; Tom WA0RWL; Steve K4EU; and Mary.

Operating class - K4EU 2A/Battery QRP with GOTA Station, WA0RWL.

What happens when friends located in different states decide to get together and operate Field Day on a mountain top? Answer - They adopt the Nike philosophy and "Just Do It."

John, WA4QMQ, and Jack, KF4OTG, drove over to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia from Bowling Green, Kentucky (11 hours one-way) to team up with Jerry, KE4NHP, Tom, WA0RWL, and Steve, K4EU, for our Field Day adventure. You see, Jerry and Jack are brothers and John served as Steve's longtime QSL Manager during the many years that he was on the DX end of the pile-up. After deciding to operate QRP/battery power, we set up two stations (K1 and K2) and a GOTA Station (IC-706) in a cabin called "Mutton Top." We erected three all-band wire dipoles, a 6m yagi, and Jerry's Lightning Bolt Quad, new from the box. The view from the cabin was spectacular with a

Looking down on Charlottesville, Virginia and beyond from "Mutton Top."



How many people does it take to get a 2ele Quad built and up in the air????



John, WA4QMQ, building the 6m Yagi that he and Jack transported from Kentucky.



panaramic view of the Charlottesville, Virginia area to the south and more of the Blue Ridge to the west. Even with relatively poor conditions, we were able to make over 400 QSOs, in 45 states, VE1, VE2, VE3, KP4, TI3 and CO0. John, Jack and Tom ably handled SSB duties while Jerry and Steve pounded brass. Special thanks goes to Mike, KH6ND, for picking our battery powered QRP CW signal out of the mud.

Highlight of our Field Day adventure was getting Tom, WA0RWL, back in the saddle after many years of being QRT. After an initial tutelage from John, WA4QMQ, Tom handled the GOTA Station in fine style, once commenting, "Sierra -- now is that a 'C' or an 'S'??? Of course, one of our CW ops countered that he didn't have that problem on CW. Tom's better half, Mary, kept us fed and in good humor. Anyone for 'freedom toast' and eggs and coffee? We're hoping that next year, we can get Mary to take the mic or to possibly tap the key. Also, special thanks to Jerry, KE4NHP, for his leadership in arranging our Field Day site and for the use of his garage to stage the logistics of our operation.

Here's to Field Day 2003 from atop the Blue Ridge.
73....//Steve K4EU -- *K4EU*

**Tom, WA0RWL, operating the GOTA Station
with John, WA4QMQ, cheering Tom on.**



Jerry, KE4NHP, pounding brass.



Jack, KF4OTG, working 'em....



Steve, K4EU, relaxing at the key....



Our inspiration! Mary, WA0RWL's better half, kept us fed and in good humor. We couldn't have done it without you, Mary!!! 88 from the gang and thanks!

W7V -- Jul 10, 2003 16:28 ET



The "Great Punkin"

The gang at the Elko Amateur Radio Club set up Field Day this year on property belonging to the airport. This site is also adjacent to the Elko County Interagency Dispatch Center (Sheriff, police, fire, ambulance and Highway Patrol).

10 and 15 meters were a no show so all of the time was spent on 75-20 with the SSB rig and 40-20 on the CW rig.

Bill, KD7CWA, debuted his mobile, "Green Bean", operations center and all of the folks at FD really appreciated the air conditioning.

Most surprising was being able to operate the 100 watt FT-847 CW position using solar/battery power for all but the first 2 hours.

This was also the premiere event where we got our first chance to use the newly acquired A4S and the "Great Punkin" which is a portable light plant adapted to a 25kw generator and 35' self powered mast.

Thanks to all the club members who came to FD and helped out. -- W7GK



Bill's, KD7CWA, "Green Bean" mobile ops center.



The venerable old G5RV.



Our Elko airport site.



The solar panel next to the Information booth. Had quite a few visitors thanks to newspaper publicity.

WA9LKZ -- Jul 11, 2003 00:21 ET



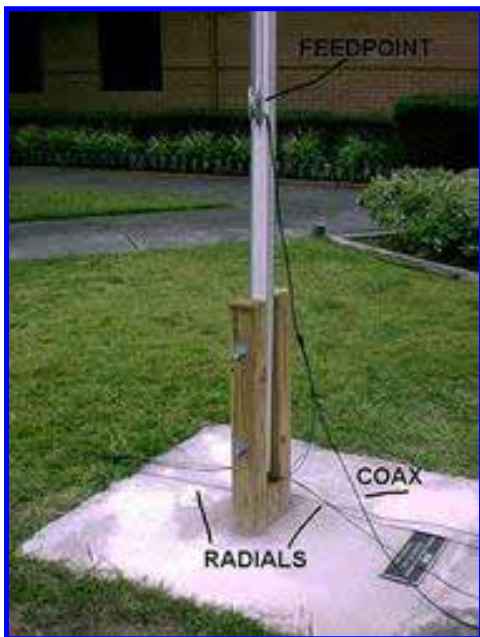
Operated with an idling 1994 Chevy Cavalier idling and a 12 Volt to 120 volt 300 watt inverter for an hour or so. Inverter was lite on power! The Cavalier survived, so far anyway. -- WA9LKZ

The Inverter In Action

W4GS -- Jul 10, 2003 19:31 ET

The Spirit Of Field Day --- Tom Palmieri - K2PJ

The Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club (GSARC) , W4GS, held it's Field Day 2003 exercise on the



Flagpole Feedpoint and Radials



W4GS 40M Flagpole (Emergency) Antenna

grounds of the American Red Cross, Horry County Chapter Offices, Myrtle Beach, SC. As we all know, Field Day is an annual event for the Amateur Radio community. “Field Day” tests our ability to provide communications under simulated emergency conditions. The GSARC used emergency generator power and alternative (solar) power to run its radio equipment. K2PJ (Tom) and K4TSU (Gene) decided to try something different this year – a Flagpole vertical on 40 meters. What better way to demonstrate the adaptability, ingenuity and resourcefulness of Amateur Radio? Sure ham radio operators use flagpoles, but this was ‘spur of the moment’, it just happened to ‘be there’ and besides, it was Field Day. The sidewalk leading up to the front entrance of the Red Cross offices is graced by a spun aluminum flagpole approximately 30 feet tall and 4 inches in diameter. The flagpole is supported by two 4” x 4” treated wood studs embedded in concrete. Two long bolts hold the flagpole in place and allow it to be lowered when necessary. The center conductor of a length of RG58 was attached to the cleat on the flagpole. The RG58 shield was attached to four random (>35 ft) length radials. A quick check with an MFJ antenna analyzer proved the antenna would operate across the 40M band without a tuner. How did it perform? The 40M station ran 100W CW and managed to contact just about every Field Day station it called. If we spent more time on the antenna (radials, attention to the feedpoint, feedline, etc.), it would have surely played even better. We were amazed and impressed at the results just the same. Once we decided to ‘give it a try’, it took K2PJ, K4TSU, N4XML and KG4JUT a total of 20 minutes to scrounge the coax and radial wire, and get the antenna “on the air”. The antenna and the Amateur Radio ingenuity behind it made the local TV news at 6:00 and 11:00 pm June 28th. N2ZZ (Dr. Jim) and AE4UX (Charlie) were equally impressed during their visit. We

understand that K4TSU has his eyes on a metal chimney for Field Day 2004 !

Field Day – that’s what it’s all about.....73 ! -- K2PJ

W9CA -- Jul 10, 2003 12:43 ET

The following is a link to pictures taken at the 1st W9CA Field Day 2003, 2A IL.

<http://semiflexible.com/W9CA/index.html> -- KK9DX

K6TBR -- Jul 10, 2003 11:28 ET

I had forgotten to mention in the following Soapbox that my operation was located at beautiful Lake Berryessa in Napa County, California. Chances are fair that we could operate from this location again!
-- K6TBR

K6TBR -- Jul 10, 2003 02:48 ET



Having fun S & P on 75/40/20M, but running my poor deep-cycle PS dry - chalk it up to experience for next time!

My 1st FD! Operating 1B at a family campout, I had originally planned to visit a local club's site to expose myself to a 'seasoned operation'. As time passed, I lost sight of the event and accidentally planned our family's campout the same weekend. I seized the opportunity though, and brought my FT-101E, a homebrew dipole cut for 80M, a new deep cycle 75ah battery, and a tuner, along with a generous compliment of tools and hardware 'just-in-case'.

Though I started out well, making easy contacts on 40M SSB and then graduating to CW on 40 and then on 20M, I soon found out that the ol' tube rig devoured the power supply when run at anything but practically QRP. I had to charge the battery with the truck a couple just to get back on the air for a few minutes when I just

retired the portable station after only an hour or two operation. I charged the battery one last time toward the end of the event to make a few CW QSO's for the finale.

One objective I wanted to achieve this 1st FD was to experience contest-style CW exchanges. I found that there were many who added their personal touches with well-wishes and polite thank you's. By the end of this FD, I had come from stumbling through my exchange to zipping-through like an expert! This sense of accomplishment alone was well worth the entire effort. I only wish I could have had the foresight to operate at much lower output early-on to conserve for longer operation. Hindsight is truly 20-20!

Though I originally planned to get some of my nieces and nephews involved, my involvement with preparation and learning things myself, prevented me from feeling confident enough to share the experience with them this go 'round. I hope to be much better prepared next time to accommodate obviously curious youngsters.

Final count was only 56 total QSO's, but the wealth of experience and fun gained was well worth all the trouble. I'm already looking forward to next year's event where ever I operate from! Thanks to all! 73 'til FD 2004 (unless I run into you on the bands before then). -- K6TBR

WA8REI -- Jul 10, 2003 01:00 ET

di-dah-dah/di-dah/dah-dah-dah-di-dit/di-dah-dit/dit/di-dit My third FD in a row on QRP CW--this yr wid my new FT-817 es Bencher ST2 paddle. Ants: Hustler 4BTV Vert(gnd mtd wid 4 radials due to trip hazard) fer all 20/40m. contacts, es 80 m. inv vee 32'center/15' ends; MFJ941E tuner; AC/Delco Voyager Marine/RV battery which pwr'd my entire opn on one charge. I didn't make as mni contacts this yr due to a family reunion which drew people from all over US es Canada! QTH was a private campgrnd in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Altho band condx were vy poor, I eeked out 157 QSO's, with 59 on 80m., 78 on 40m., and 20 on 20m. 10 and 15 were totally dead and 20 wasn't much btr fer QRP op! Total op. time: jest ovr 10 hrs. A severe T-storm disrupted my entire opn at 1847Z on Jun 28. The wind knocked over the vertical (no damage), but I had to wait until the storm ended to re-set up! Abt 15 miles n. of my QTH, tt same storm overturned a car! Mosquitoes were relentless, and if I cud hv put all the lightning bugs in a jar, they wud hv powered the rig. Hmmm...btr not give away a secret! Special TNX to mni stns who were "A-1 ops" to get my exchange, which sometimes had to be rptd mni times b4 I hrd a "QSL." A lot of ops took the time to sa TU (thank you), 73 or GL (good luck). Now tt's true FD spirit! The only station I wk'd tt posted on the soapbox so far was N2MO. I wk'd u on 40m...and nw wonder if it was a solar QSO, in tt it wuz at 1332Z!! Tnx agn to all. Gld to hr so mni CW stns out there! CU next yr....hpefully frm a btr QTH es wid more op time available! AR 73, Ken de WA8REI SK dit dit. -- WA8REI

WA2GUG -- Jul 9, 2003 20:24 ET



One of the Batteries with the Load Sheder

This year there were a lot of improvements for the RECWA crew; but Murphy's law prevailed. We improved our antennas with two mono band dipoles on 20 and 40 and a dual band "J" pole for VHF and UHF. Solar cells were added to keep the back up batteries fully charged. I broke down and bought an IC706MKIIG. KB2QLE, and WA2EQH never expected my truck to blow a coil 30 miles from our final destination and we forgot my packet gear in it after I had it towed. Oh and two other hams had last minute commitments; so we did the iron man for 20 hours. I had to put to geather a packet station from Joe's [QLE] APRS tracker to send our traffic and then put it back on APRS Who knows next year the Barbie may break down!!!! -- WA2GUG



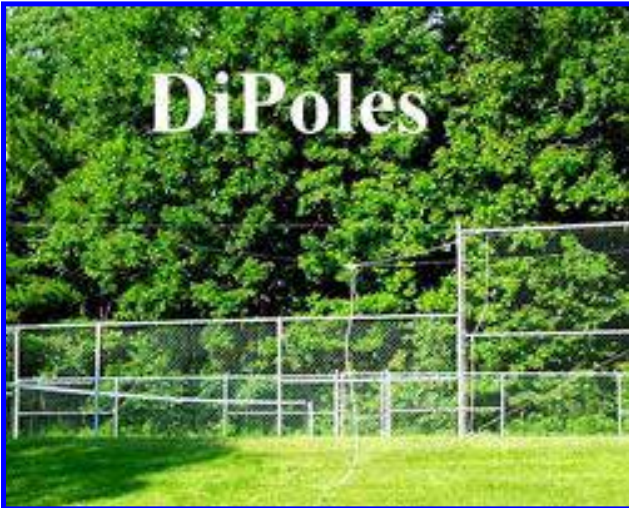
KB2QLE holding the fort while I took pictures.



Keeping them HOT



R7 doings it's thing



2 mono banders in the trees



The Icom706MK2G and the one PC that made it.

WT4F -- Jul 9, 2003 16:00 ET



The 2003 WT4F Foothills Amateur Radio Club Field Day event was a living memorial to Tommy Ellison / K4TWE who passed away all too soon.

Tommy was the club's president at the time of his death last year and one of the fondest memories we have of him was FD 2002, which was the club's first Field Day event using the WT4F club callsign.

We had such a wonderful time and we could think of no better way to pay respect to our friend than to do it

Welcome to the Foothills Amateur Radio Club, WT4F, Pickens County, South Carolina. Visit our website at www.WT4F.org.



Raising of the tower...



Assembling the A3S tribander.



all over again in 2003!

The operation took place again from the backyard of Gretchen / KE4HGX & Wes / KS4XQ Ellison...

We had more people involved this year, over 28, including Pickens County Red Cross representatives, Pickens County ARES members and even an Easley City Councilman and his family.

While we learned a lot, ate a lot, and made more contacts than last year, we also took time out to spend with good friends as we held our club meeting DURING the event...

Now, if only FD 2004 would hurry up and get here!
-- W5UGD

Look at that sky! W5UGD does his first tower work.



Red Cross reps Betty Addington with W5UGD



Battle Stations!



Christopher / KG4UOY after an all niter and 100 contacts at the GOTA station. Wes / KS4XQ in the background.



Demonstraton of APRS in action.



Easley South Carolina City Councilman Ben Massengil and Family with W5UGD.



Time to take it down and go home... Lowell / KK5JZ in foreground, W5UGD on tower. See you next year!

W6PIY -- Jul 8, 2003 19:48 ET



20 M SSB Station by K1LPI

Yardsale Field Day Tent.....\$5 Livermoore flea market push up pole\$30 Foothill flea market Mosley 3 el. beam....\$20 Yardsale Umbrella with stand.....\$15

209 contacts on 20 m SSB..... Priceless!

73 de Dave, K1LPI 20M SSB Captain for the WVARA W6PIY effort. -- *K1LPI*

N2WDS -- Jul 8, 2003 17:55 ET

Field Day 2003 is a done deal for this year! My XYL, N2XPG, out does me when it comes to contesting! We operated as 1B from our campsite in our woods. Mainly worked 80, 40, and 20 meters; and made 133 SSB QSOs. Thanks to Scott, N2PEE, for use of his generator, and to Basil, K3QBU, and



Karen, N2XPG, racking up those points!

Mary Lou for dropping by and giving us their moral support, and antenna tips. There was one disappointment, Murphy was a no show!! Hi..Hi..
-- N2WDS

W3SW -- Jul 8, 2003 15:40 ET



KB2ZWZ at the microphone

KB2ZWZ and I (W3SW) had a good time working 40m and 20 m from the backyard using solar power. Field Day is always fun no matter where you are operating from. A good way for a father and son to spend some quality time together! Thanks to Chuck K2VQ for letting us (ab)use his Kenwood 140S!
-- W3SW



Lots of sun and solar panels kept the batteries charged



We were using the hammer to hold the coax and not tune the radio.



W3SW at the microphone.

KQ8J -- Jul 8, 2003 14:08 ET

KQ8J was the unofficial Field Day station of the Contesters of Michigan. Operators were KB8LTF and WX3M. We ran 2A - 2 operator, 150w, emergency power. We operated from a hunting cabin located in a small clearing in the middle of 80 heavily-wooded acres near Indian River, Michigan.

Our rigs were two IC-765s. Antennas included a 153CA and a 203BA on a 56' N8KLX-designed tower/trailer and wires for 40m and 80m. We used NA 10.58 for computer logging and ICE/homebrew bandpass filters.

We made 852 CW QSOs and 650 SSB QSOs. 7h:12m



56' aluminum tower on N8KLX-designed trailer

of off-time in the middle of the night made quite an impact! Overall our score was down 22% from last year, but we did the best we could with only two guys. Also, band conditions were terrible!

Please visit

http://www.oakland.edu/~dchisholm/field_day_2003.htm
for more details of our operation.

73! -- WX3M



KB8LTF - SSB czar



N5HT -- Jul 8, 2003 11:15 ET



KM5XB (Steve) and KD5DXZ (Irwin) pursuing ways of staying cool for Field Day 2003 !!! -- *N5HT*

The June summer heat in Texas as you know can be "extreme". KM5XB (Steve) with his new "cool" Field Day haircut offers KD5DXZ (Irwin) a trim. -- N5HT

WV8KY -- Jul 8, 2003 11:02 ET



The Hatfield and McCoy Amateur Radio Association would like to thank the ARRL for sponsoring Field Day 2003. This is the first Field Day for the Hatfield and McCoy ARA. We operated under our club callsign "WV8KY" in the 1A category at Buffalo Mountain (Hatfield and McCoy Trail Head), in West Virginia.

The operators put in a great effort at making as many contacts as possible during the event. Although we did not make a lot of contacts we did have fun at it.

More photos and info can be found on our web site at:
<http://hmara.netfirms.com>

We would like to thank all the club members, non-club members and interested parties that supported our efforts during Field Day 2003. We would like to thank Bill Davis for allowing us to use the wonderful facilities at the Hatfield and McCoy Trail Head.

Thank You On behalf of the HMARA - AI4UK

-- AI4UK



Gina (KF4ZMC) and Mark Miller (KB8KDR)



Hey BJ , do you think anybody else will show up?



BJ Thompson (N8NTY) and Eddie Tussey (AI4UK)



BJ Thompson (N8NTY), Tim Fields (KG4HRK) and Scotty Erwin (KB8EYH)



Rodney (KG4ZTK) and Joe (AB8MN)



Our fearless leader, William P. Thompson (N8NTY).



The Hatfield and McCoy Trail Head.

W5NOR -- Jul 6, 2003 23:09 ET



The South Canadian Amateur Radio Society of Norman, OK held our FD at Lions Park near downtown Norman, and operated 2A with demos in APRS and SSTV. We also utilized solar panels to make 5 QSO's on 20M. Our efforts were recognized by the city in that the Mayor proclaimed it to be Amateur Radio Week. The Mayor and 2 city councilmen came to our site. Our Oklahoma ARRL Section Manager also visited. 24 members labored in the set-up, operation and tear-down. Others as well as family members attended the Saturday cook out. We try to make our Field Day event a family oriented affair and a learning experience for our members. -- *N5UMH*





WR4F -- Jul 6, 2003 21:00 ET



The old trusty TA-33. Kind of heavy for Field Day!

Dan WR4F and I (W4UDX) operated Field Day as 2B KY as always, but this one I will remember for a long time. It was unusual for our area to have downright beautiful weather on Field Day weekend. But that it was. Not too hot and low humidity.

We were better equipped than usual also. A Mosley TA-33 tribander at 28 feet... not too shabby. We used a delta-loop on 40 meters which must have been working well; we received lots of comments on our signal strength. The poor band conditions on 10 and 15 meters were a bummer, but with such great weather, I wasn't complaining too much! My old FT-107 Yaesu did just fine, but seemed like a boatanchor compared to Dan's IC-746. I used the FT-107 with the matching speaker / phone patch which I modified to use as a sound card to radio interface, and we made some PSK-31 contacts with it. Dan bought the N3FJP network Field Day logging program and I made up a cross-over cable for



A hearty ole' FT-107. It's got a lot of miles, but is still performing.

direct connection of the computers. It worked flawlessly with no RF problems.

Murphy was no where to be found this year. He must have been out visiting club stations. Add the typical FD cookout, some family to join us in the eating, and the beer (can't forget that part) and you have a recipe for fun. The only negative - we had to mow the field we set up in (we have real field days) using a weed eater and 2 push mowers. That was some tough work. We were dog tired before we even started operating! Do we get bonus points for mowing and raking 20 inch grass?

-- W4UDX



This was the high-tech setup....Dan's IC-746.

KP4ARN -- Jul 6, 2003 00:41 ET



KP4ARN TEAM AND SERAFIN/KP4FIE THE PHOTOGRAPHER

THIS YEAR MY FRIENDS AND I PARTICIPATED IN THE PARQUE COLON IN AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO SO MANY FRIENDS FROM DIFFERENT PLACE IN THE ISLAND TRAVEL TO RUN THE STATION KP4ARN DURING A FD2003. THE PHOTOS SHOWS WHAT HAPPEN DURING A REGULAR FIELD DAY. THANKS FOR ALL FRIENDS THAN HELP ME THIS YEAR. -- KP4ARN



MILTON/WP4DYV, JUSINO/WP3OE AND JUNIOR/KP4ARN IN THE VAN



SERAFIN/KP4FIE IN THE BACK, CESAR LUIS/WP4CL AND CESAR/KP4RZ WHEN INSTALLED THE BBQ AREA



YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE A ACCIDENT, SO WE ARE AMATEUR RADIO NOT CHEF,SO CARLOS/WP3MD IT SUPERVISES THE BBQ RESCUE.



To be honest, I don't think I can hurl this rock over the tree branch! Dave, K4WCH, Rob, W3RG, Jason, KE4NYV and Mike K4IJ.



Old Glory and the two man, two meter armstrong method. Morgan, KG4BQI and Jason, KE4NYV

NEW RIVER WIRELESS ASSOCIATION. This year's Field Day was interesting. We ran 3A VA from the top of Big Walker Mountain just north of Wytheville Virginia. Saturday started out like any other day then the clouds and wind rolled in. We did manage to get everything set up and get on the air by 2 PM. About 3:30 the generator made a loud boom and started to sound like it was going to blow up. A quick change to the standby generator and we were running again(always have plan B in place). This year we ran the N3FJP Field Day Network logging software. We had a total of 7 computers networked and running when the generator went. No problem, everything was ok when we fired up the generator. By the way if you haven't used that software check it out, it's good! Dave, W4DGR rang the supper bell about 4:30, boy that was mighty fine eatin'! Around 5 PM it started to rain and the wind started kicking up. It continued but that didn't stop us from making contacts. Several times I wondered if the canopies we were using to cover things up would blow away. Overnight a heavy fog developed and it rained a little more. The bands were in BAD shape this year. Last year 15 meters was open most of the night. This year it was all we could do to make a few contacts. 80 meters was about the same. All in all though it was another great Field Day experience. Thanks to everybody who helped us squeeze out those Qs! -- K4IJ



Rob W3RG enjoys a brief moment of sunshine at the 40 meter station.



Sittin' around waiting for supper. Mike, K4IJ, Rob, KF4ZXO and Chef Dave, W4DGR.



Gerald, K4YW, Mike, K4LZX and Missy, K4AEJ searching for Qs on 80 meters.



What do you mean there's nobody on 80 meters?



We GOTA get some contacts! Rob, KF4ZXO and new ham Mac, KI4AMD.



Seth AWAKES! Seth, N3MRA



Alright, who called the LAW? Mike, K4LZX, Sheriff Kermit L. Osborne of Wythe County and Mike, K4IJ.



Working 40 meters! At the controls, Kenny KG4ZPT, Jason KE4NYV in the background running K4NRW on APRS while Mike K4IJ and Dan AG4YU discuss how to accomplish world peace.



W4BPH KU4BT AT KEY KF4KUL AT PC



W4BPH HIGH WINDS



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Charles Dickens. We had the best food ever! We had the worst weather ever! Herb, Peter, Udo, (w4hc, w4gto, kf4kul) and all their helpers out did themselves this year. The Field Day Feast started with wings from kg4jsz. These helped us with setting up. Then, for the main meal, we had ribs cooked on the grill by Peter and deep Fried turkeys, a favorite, by Udo. I got to show off my skills with a meat cleaver, while working off a little anger about band conditions. We had many different kinds of pasta salads, and some things that looked suspiciously like fruits and vegetables, which I steered clear of. For dessert, we had gourmet cheesecake. Late night snacks, which we sorely needed after Mother Nature's violent display, were cold cuts, bread and left over turkey. Jeff, kf4gqw, showed up before the crack of dawn with donuts and brewed us some fresh coffee, which kept me going until the relief operators showed up. Around 9:00 AM, we had a huge breakfast of scrambled eggs, bread, sausage and grits. With the event finally winding down, we had a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, and backed beans. By this time, I could barely force myself to eat anymore, and had to settle for just one cheeseburger.

The technical set up was: Sparc was running with their usual Field Day set up; Donn's 40 foot tower and the 3 element beam set up for 20 meter SSB, and the famous Sparco generator and a Kenwood rig (ts870) supplied by Neil, k4nhl. They also had a VHF rig set up for 6 meters, using a quad donated by wv4ed, and run by Paul, kd4ydy. Down at the metro end, under the pavilion, Dave kr4u had his excellent rig and antenna set up. For the second year in a row, those operators lucky enough to work this set up experienced ham radio heaven in that they were able to work every station they heard, and only have to call them once. This set up consists of a homebrew vertical antenna for 20 meter CW, which is pretty much just a 17 foot 1 inch aluminum pipe with a half dozen radials that double as guy wires. The rig is a beautiful ten-tec Jupiter using deep cycle marine batteries. This was dedicated to 20 meter CW. Dave was using a set of vibroplex paddles, the biggest set of paddles that vibroplex makes. Our

W4BPH GREAT FOOD W4GTO



W4BPH KR4U 20M CW



W4BPH KU4BT, KF4RTH 15 M CW



W4BPH IC-706 CODE WARRIOR JR

second CW rig was brought by Roger, k4shi, and was the same one we used on the K4E expedition. We originally had it hooked up to a hamstick dipole, but, in the rain, the swr became jumpy. We temporarily hooked it up to a Tar Heel screwdriver antenna on the back of Ken's (w4ken) truck while we looked around for a better solution. Well, Neil had brought along an extra G5RV. Ken pulled it up into one of our favorite antenna trees using a fishing pole and I brought out the tuner that I had included in my Field Day supplies for just such an eventuality. This was the setup we used for the rest of the contest, first on 15 meters, and then on 40 meters all night long, and then back to 15 meters during the last part of the event. I operated this rig and used my Code Warrior Jr. magnetic paddles, which is the smallest key that vibroplex makes. Ken took turns operating one rig, or the other, or logging. A new feature at this year's field day was all computer logging. It was reasonably successful, except for a few weather generated problems. We also had one other rig set up in the pavilion area. A ts450 from Herb (we4hc) This rig was hooked up to a 40 meter Windom hung in our other favorite antenna tree. It was to be used for daylight 40 meter SSB, but fate had more in store for it. Peter (w4gto) also operated SSB from his RV using an ic-706.

Now, we were prepared for bad weather, we had tarps, and a whole roll of visquene, divided into two halves. We were prepared, but we weren't quite ready for what Mother Nature threw our way. It had been a beautiful day; we had a little rain and wind, but not very much at all. After the sun went down, 40 meter SSB dried up, and I moved my rig (ic-706) from 15 meters down to the 40 meter band. Kenny and I were alternating running the rig, or logging. Dave was quietly accumulating 20 meter qsos. About 10:30, Kenny had to leave. That left me, Dave, and my grandson, Bill, who was napping in the pavilion. A very mild light rain was visible falling on the water. Suddenly, without any warning at all, we were hit with gale force winds and sheets of rain being driven so hard before the wind, that we might as well have been out in the open under the

sky, instead of under a roof. We immediately jumped up and started to cover the equipment, starting with Dave's station, as it was directly facing the storm front. Covering the equipment was easy, but

keeping it covered was another thing entirely. The wind was so intense that the tarps and the plastic blew up and tried to take off like hot air balloons. They seemed to take on a life of their own, I distinctly remember seeing the white plastic wrapped around Dave like a malevolent python. It wrapped around his head and I thought he might drown because of the intensive downpour. With Dave and Bill both holding the covers down for all they were worth, I picked up the ice chests, and set them on the plastic, followed by the fans, and the storage tubes. Finally, Dave and Bill moved a table and set it down on the plastic too, and that finally did the trick. I took the other roll, and wrapped an end around the other operating stations table legs and covered the ic-706, tuner and the computer that way. I laid the heaviest things remaining on it. We then moved to the 450, which was toward the back of the pavilion, but was still being hammered. I emptied some plastic bags out and bagged the rig and the power supply. During this short period of time, we were freezing to death and half blind because we were soaked to the skin immediately and Dave and I, who wear glasses, could not see at all. As soon as the rigs were as secure as we could make them, we ran for the vehicles. Dave ran for his van, and Bill and I made it to our car. We climbed in, I had a big beach towel on the back seat, so we took off our shirts and dried off. Since I had on shorts, they weren't too bad, not too much to get wet. We made it to the car at 11:00 pm, and it was 45 minutes before the lightning, rain and wind let up enough that we could run into the building. We found the survivors of the Sparc tent already there. I found out that the antenna had been knocked down and the tower was now resting in a tree at about a 22-degree angle to the ground. Dee and I kept looking out the window checking on the weather. I was determined to get back on the air! Finally, at 1:30 AM the rain was still coming down, but the wind was back to normal. Bill and I made it back to the pavilion and uncovered the ic-706 and the ts-450 and powered them both up, being careful because of all the water. The icom was ready to go. I had to retune the G5RV, and I was again logging contacts, but without the computer, which would not run again until after daybreak. One of the hams from the Sparc site (Paul, kd4ydy) came over and I asked him if he wanted to work a little 20 meter SSB using the 450 and the 40 meter Windom. He said sure, so we tuned it up, switched filters and he started logging qsos on paper also. The 20 meter vertical, the 40 meter Windom and the G5RV had all survived the bad weather with no damage, so had all of the HF rigs. I logged about 80 40 meter CW qsos after that and he logged about 50 20 meter SSB qsos. Around sunrise Dave and Kenny showed up, relieved me for a little bit, and put the Jupiter back on the air. By then, the 20 meter SSB activity had died out. After the sun came fully up, the Sparc boys pulled the antenna out of the tree themselves, using muscle power, set it up straight, and went back on the air. The antenna had suffered a little damage, but still got out good. We didn't need the fire department, or rescue personnel. After the sun was fully up, 20 meters awoke and Dave and Ken had one giant run. I switched back to 15 meters and logged a few more qsos on that band. We continued until 2 PM. Tear down was uneventful. And that's the story of the worst weather ever.

We may not have all the appointed officials, we may not all have the weather training, and we may not have all of the high dollar rigs and 70 foot towers, but we have what counts; the technical know how, the operating skill, and the courage to survive mother nature's KO punch and keep on communicating.
-- *KU4BT*

K5DR -- Jul 7, 2003 00:38 ET

Field day seems to be about a lot of things, preparedness, friendship, operating, public awareness, perfecting skills, and Field Day 2003 followed the same themes. We had a great time, operating, visiting, and eating. It was good to be able to operate with some of the best CW operators and



Buddy Azar, N5AN and Pat Sonnier, W5WMU racking one after another on CW.

contestors around in Pat W5WMU and Buddy N5AN. To watch these guys go at it on CW is truley amazing. Its a wonder that Pat does as well as he does in contests, and similarly its amazing at Buddy's skill in DX, seeing as there's nothing left for him to work and confirm. These guys show their guests great times each time we get together, and their stations are second to none. Hope to be able to participate in a great group again next year. -- *KI5XP*



The K5DR "Public Information Table"!

W6PIY -- Jul 6, 2003 17:08 ET

Another great Field Day at 3000' in the Santa Cruz mountains (near San Jose California).

For the fifth year in a row the West Valley Amatuer Radio Association (WVARA) had a 20m Digital Station on the air (this year PSK-31 and RTTY). Lots of fun with lots of PSK-31 stations on the air. Band conditions were not the greatest, we could copy a lot of signals but folks had trouble hearing us from the west coast.

For media publicity the San Jose TV station KNTV11 (NBC for the San Francisco bay area) did a live news broadcast from our site at 5 PM on Saturday. It was a live intro, then a two-minute edited video they had filmed earlier in the day followed by a live close. KNTV11 did a great job on representing amateur radio and its value for emergency prepardness.

For more information go to <http://www.wvara.org/fd/>

My Field Day motto: Have fun and learn something new.

- Marc -- W6ZZZ

WB8RFB -- Jul 5, 2003 17:14 ET

This was another year that I only had time to get on at the last minute as I am working full time and also finishing a master's degree. Between work and studying, there isn't much time left for ham radio but I just had to do something to get on for FD. Once FD gets in your blood, there is no denying it! This is my 5th consecutive year of operating FD.

My wife Sandy (KA9QXI) helped me set up the generator and run the extension cord into the house to the shack. We have the house set up with a generator transfer panel, but as this was a last minute thing, we just did the bare bones basic stuff and got on the air with about a half-hour to spare. I didn't even have time to copy the W1AW bulletin this year.

My rig is my ever faithful Ten-Tec Corsair feeding a Heathkit antenna tuner and the antenna was a 200' end fed random wire oriented to the NW. Like many others have reported, 10 and 15 meters were "no go" for the entire duration so the majority of contacts I made were on 20 and 40 meter CW. 80M was noisy and I could only hear a few stations.

I probably missed some good operating time from about 3 PM to 7:30 PM as we were off to a "mandatory" high school graduation party for the son of one of my relatives. I could just feel those "CQ FD" calls flying over my head the whole time I was at the party!

I'm looking forward to future years of FD. I like to try different ways of operating and 1E is nice but I miss the challenge of going to a bare spot of ground and starting from scratch. With school soon to be out of the way, I'm already hatching plans for next year.

Running solar and batteries sounds interesting and will be a good way to gain some additional technical skills. I have a Ten-Tec Scout that I've used in previous FD's and it has always performed well despite its 50 watt max output. I usually marry it up with a tuner to a G5RV on top of a 40' mast and have no problems making as many contacts as I care to.

Simplicity is my motto but it would be nice to have a few more hams helping out so we could cover the entire 24 hour period. This is the second year I've used a PC for logging and it has made FD all the more enjoyable. I use N3FJP's software and it performed very well. I ran it on my laptop which runs the Window's XP Professional operating system and I had no glitches at all. I was a bit concerned with all the RF floating around the shack with an end-fed antenna but the laptop didn't miss a beat and wasn't heard in the station receiver either.

Bravo to the ARRL for initiating the new class F category! It's a good move and will highlight more than ever the capabilities of amateur radio during these turbulent times. FD is one of the things that

keeps me coming back to ham radio.

Thanks again to my wife and best ham radio buddy for helping out with the logging and with keeping me well fed. To me, there is nothing better than to be "cruzin' on 20 meter CW" in the dark of night with a steaming cup of java right by the key. That's music to these old ears!

Here's hoping others had as much enjoyment from this event as we did.

73 from WB8RFB & KA9QXI -- *WB8RFB*

W6PIY -- Jul 4, 2003 18:51 ET

WEST VALLEY ARA HELD FIELD DAY IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS. I AM A BRAND NEW HAM WHO EXPERIENCED THE JOY OF FIELD DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE VARIETY OF OPERATING MODES WAS A REAL EYE OPENER. I ESPECIALLY LIKED THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. -- *KG6OPB*

K0CO -- Jul 4, 2003 14:20 ET

At 10,000 ft ASL, wb5yoe and k0co joined to form a 2B station in the Colorado mountains near Como, CO. Highlight was an 81/hr S&P rate on Sunday morning's 40meter CW push, and XYL Ann's campfire steak dinner and blueberry pancake breakfast. -- *K0CO*

K8CPA -- Jul 3, 2003 22:44 ET

Field day this year wasn't great for at all. Band Conditions were horrible. I basically lost a frequency to some lid, who insisted on operating like 1/2 Khz under me on CW. so, Saturday around like 6:00p.m. I threw in the towel.

Field Day is supposed to be a Emergency Preparedness exercise. what it's really turned into is a Lidtest (contest)

PSK31 was a mad house on 20 meters. People transmitting on top of one another, total disregard for the rules.

I, more than likely, won't be "doing" field day anymore.

73 to all.

-Chuck K8CPA -- *K8CPA*

K4HJ -- Jul 3, 2003 21:09 ET

K4HJ - 2003 Fieldday in Shelbyville, KY



Here is Tandy, KO4OT stringing up the support rope for the 40m vertical. On top of the tower, just out of sight here, was our 2-element beam for 160. Naaaah, just kidding.



Nope, he ain't fishin. Buddy (KB4EBP) is casting a lead weight over the top of an antenna support. And he is really good at it. Never needed more than one attempt.

Great weather makes for a great field day.

This is certainly true for the Shelbyville Radio Club which set up camp outside the old firehouse, command post of the local Red Cross.

Harlan, K4HJ provided his call-sign as well as a very nice ICOM 756, much appreciated by the 40 meter CW operator. Thanks again, Harlan.

John, K3OB brought a mysterious wire groundplane which he had put together according to an article in QST a while ago, but never tested. Well, whatever this thing was, it worked like a moon rocket on 40 meters. We logged about 500 contacts there, SSB and CW. Other antennas were a G5RV used mainly for 20 and an end-fired sloper for 80.

Conditions above 20m were down, as expected, so we focused on 20 and 40 instead. 80 yielded a number of hard earned contacts as well, Saturday night and Sunday morning.

It was a great weekend and we had lots of fun. Thanks again to all our supporters and we hope to see you again next year! If you live in our area, by all means, come visit!

For more info on our club, go to www.ka.net/ko4ot
-- KE2F



Here is Buddy again, this time in the command bus, keeping score while the operators take a break.



John, K3OB trying out his miracle antenna. He still can't believe that thing. Neither can I.



Harlan, K4HJ (left) and Adam, KG4KFB (right) in the other bus working 80 meters, even during day time. It's a tough job, to be certain.



This is Richard, WB4PQJ about 3 AM Sunday morning at the 20m station, and yes he is asleep. I tried warning him about using that labor intensive straight key in the contest. But noooo, what do I know.



The Fieldday Team (left to right): Michael (KE2F), John (K3OB), Tandy (KO4OT), Buddy (KB4EBP) and his wife Dorothy (KE2PVY), Harlan (K4HJ), Kathy (KG4SIJ), David (KG4RUF), Richard (WB4PQJ) and Adam (KG4KFB).

KA9TXE -- Jul 3, 2003 15:41 ET

I read a post to Qrp-L from NA5N , Paul Harden about expected band condx and decided to just use 20 CW. Starting at 6 pm local Fri night, I made a 20 meter dipole with balun and got a supply of quarter inch nylon rope. Sat A.M., up it went into the tallest trees readily accessible. I got it up a good 40 feet

and level. Band conditions weren't too miserable. I worked the California stations and the East coast according to my log. Pretty much what can be expected for a dipole running North/South. I was able to complete 47 qrp qso's. I had a really great time and for the first time ever I did the paperwork and sent my log and dupe sheet and summary report to Newington. -- KA9TXE

N2MO -- Jul 3, 2003 13:01 ET



Ron Olendar, WA2HZT, OMARC President



Setup Banner



Food and Safety Committee Banner



On-The-Air Operations during the day



On-The-Air Operations during the night

The Ocean-Monmouth ARC (OMARC) would very much like to thank the ARRL for sponsoring Field Day 2003, which in the post 9/11 world is even more important than ever as a training exercise for the Amateur Radio Service.

OMARC once again operated Field Day from Marucci Park, Spring Lakes, NJ as N2MO in the 2A category under the NNJ section. We operated a dedicated CW and Phone station as well as our W1GD GOTA station, a solar powered 40m CW QRP station and a 6 meter VHF station. We installed two towers for two HF tri-band antennae, 6 meter 5 element beam and 6 meter loop antenna. In addition we have 75/80m and 40m dipoles and a 40m Inverted-V.

Setup went smooth due to good planning, plenty of help on hand and great weather. KC2CNB, KC2IZU and KC2KQF with proper safety belts did a great job rigging the towers and installed the big antennae. The food committee, KA2TGC, KC2KQG and Sharon, XYL of KC2JJD did a great job in feeding all the hungry people. Then the operators put in a great effort at making as many contacts as possible during the event with wonderful results.

As usual we had a blast trying to beat our own personal score of last year and staying on top of the message handling, official visitors and the displays for the extra bonus points, always challenging and fun for all involved. Although we did not match last years score due to poor propagation and lack of operators the full term of the event, we did come very close.

One thing that took place that was not staged was our Safety Committees effort at the separation of some orange street cones used to mark dangerous areas that was a true classic FD photo opportunity. More of the



WA2HZZ making 40m CW QRP solar contacts on FT-817



40m CW QRP solar contacts log



OMARC Safety Committee separating cones

cone separation photos can be seen under the ARRL Affiliated Club section at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/omarc/index.htm> and the rest of the over 100 digital photos taken can be seen in a few days at <http://www.qsl.net/n2mo>.

OMARC wishes to acknowledge and thank all the club members, non-club members and interested parties that supported our efforts during ARRL Field Day 2003. We especially wish to thank the community of Spring Lakes and the Mayor which graciously allow us to make use of the wonderful facilities at Marucci Memorial Park.

THOSE AT SETUP/TAKEDOWN:

Bernie, WB2EJT | Bill, KC2CNB | Casey, KC2IZU | Russ, AE2X Larry, KB2RIS | Don, W2DBA | Harry, AB2DA | Myra, AB2CZ Bob, WD2U | Patty, KA2TGC | Emory, KD2DN | Bill, KC2KQF Art, KC2CRI | James, AB2QJ | Rob, N2QDQ | Mike, N2GEG, Ron, WA2HZZ | Gerry, W1GD | Kathy, KC2KQG | Steve, N2CKH

THE OPERATORS:

CW: Gerry, W1GD | Ron, WA2HZZ | John, W2YR

PHONE: Steve, N2CKH | Bernie, WB2EJT | Mike, N2GEG | Matt, KC2GGA Rob, N2QDQ | Bill, KC2CNB | John, KC2JJD | Sharon, KC2JJD XYL, logging.

THE CLUB MEMBER/FAMILY VISITORS:

Doug, W2UG | Melissa, N2QDQ's XYL | WA2HZZ's Son and the cute as a button Grand Daughter of WA2HZZ | Glen, N2MHJ

On Behalf of OMARC -- *N2CKH*



Band pass filtering and selection



Gerry, W1GD at CW operating position



John, W2YR at CW operating position



Ron, WA2HZT at CW operating position



Mike, N2GEG at GOTA operating position



Bernie, WB2EJT at Phone operating position



Steve, N2CKH at Phone operating position

KP4ES -- Jul 4, 2003 22:58 ET



First Cat. "F" Field day in Puerto Rico

We are proud to be the first EOC activated as a Category "F" Field Day station from Puerto Rico. Early Saturday we moved to the AEME (State Agency for Emergency Management) facilities in Gurabo, PR to operate from the "Academia de las Americas" (training facilities for the Civil Defense personnel in Central America and the Caribbean). We operated during the whole FD from these facilities. All bands and modes were used. During the early part of the day before the FD we had the opportunity to learn about different wire antennas. NP4A installed a Delta Loop for /4080 mts. at the top of an existing CD tower in the facilities. Participants included WP4AOH, KP4RAT, NP4TY, NP3OD, WP3GW, WP3ME, WP4LXE, NP4A, KP4PQ (our SM), KP4NNC, KP4ED, WP3JA, KP4IA and KP4U. Visit: < <http://www.prarl.org/actividades.html> > Thanks to AEME Executive Director, Mr. Rafael L. Guzman for allowing us to use the "Academia de las Americas" facilities for the ARRL -2003 Field Day.
-- KP4PQ



NP4A 200 ft. up installing his 40/80 Delta Loop



Planning FD... excellent breakfast!



WP3GW operating digital modes.



KP4RAT enjoying HF (CW). In the background NP4A.



WP4AOH - Adding points in QRP mode.



HOT Sun, good times!



KP4NNC operating HF (SSB)



NP3OD enjoying a pile-up!

KD5VWX -- Jul 4, 2003 14:25 ET



(From L to R) Kingsville Mayor Phil Esquivel, Ken Woods (N5GAA) City Commissioner Art Pecos and Joe Guerra (KD5CZM). City officials give us the thumbs up to our Field Day event. This photo was published in the local newspaper. (Photo by Pat, KD5TXD)

We chose to operate our first Field Day event as a class F station with the enthusiastic support of the local Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Tomás R. Sanchez. Tom has been a staunch supporter of amateur radio establishing a modest radio room at his EOC. Our FD station consisted of one HF rig connected to a DXCC sloper, while the Kenwood TM261A used a homebrew ground-plane. For the event, we used our club call sign, KD5VWX. At 1800UTC 28 June neared I powered up the 2m rig to make simplex contacts. Ken, N5GAA, put on the headphones to the Yaesu FT-840. At precisely 1800UTC we put out our CQs on the air. The lights in the EOC started to dim and the HF rig turned off. Then, the entire basement went dark. The emergency lamps came on. Rats! We had operated both rigs simultaneously before without a hitch and the '840 only puts out 100 watts maximum so I was confident we weren't responsible for tripping a circuit breaker. The electricity came back on a minute later. Field Day resumed at 1804UTC. We later learned American Electric Power (AEP) had power line trouble in the vicinity of the EOC and would take a while for service to be restored. In the meantime, the EOC and the courthouse were powered on by the 1500Kw backup generator. Hooray! An additional 100 bonus points for our final score. More good news came when the maintenance crew informed us the generators would not come off line and were stuck there until Monday. That meant our class F station would be on emergency



Joe, KD5CZM, kept track of the bonus points earned by KD5VWX. Joe is the EC for Kleberg County, Texas. (photo by Pat, KD5TXD)



Ken, N5GAA, president of the Wild Horse Desert Hams, took the first turn at the HF rig during Field Day 2003. (photo by Pat, KD5TXD)



power for the duration. With Field Day off and running, Mr. Sanchez bade us adieu leaving us to ourselves. N5GAA took the first shift until 2300UTC. Charles and Pat (WB5IZD and KD5TXD, respectively) took over until 0300UTC. I came on board for the night shift until 1200UTC. Time flies even when going solo. Ken, helped log the contacts for a couple of hours then I was on my own. In the wee hours of the night, I actually thought I had ruined the antenna tuner--the bands went dead. I kept panic at bay until 40m exploded at 0800UTC. The contacts came steadily as I filled up one log sheet and started another. When Charles and Pat returned at approximately 1330UTC, I took my sleeping gear and crashed in a dark, cool cranny of the basement (the EOC is in the basement of the courthouse). My dreams of quirky transmitters and power outages were shattered by a telephone ringer and WB5IZD informing me of an impending conference call hosted by the National Weather Service. The emergency management officials of the Coastal Bend were about to be briefed on newly-formed tropical storm Bill. I paged Mr. Sanchez. He was out of pocket on his way to worship services. "Could I take the call," he wondered. I rose to the challenge. With Charles and Pat busy at the radios, John Metz, the warning coordinator at the NWS Forecast Office in Corpus Christi, Texas (also holder of Tech KD5VIW), started the call at 1510UTC. Tropical storm Bill could pose a threat to the Coastal Bend. Now, our FD exercise could escalate to an actual emcomm status. As it turned out, Bill veered towards Louisiana. Soon it was 1800UTC 29 June. Field Day 2003 was history. Pat prepared our report packet for submission ARRL HQ including a clipping on Field Day from our local rag. The article included a full color photo of yours truly, Mayor Phil Esquivel, Commissioner Art Pecos of the City of Kingsville and Ken, N5GAA. As EC for Kleberg County, Texas I am extremely proud of our Field Day exercise and look forward to next year's event.

-- KD5CZM

Ken, N5GAA, looks on as Tom Sanchez(r), Emergency Management Coordinator for Kingsville-Kleberg County, Texas signs the visitors log. (photo by Pat, KD5TXD)



Pat, KD5TXD (left) and Joe, KD5CZM pose for the camera at the information table set up outside the Kleberg County Courthouse. (photo by Charles, WB5IZD)

NA4K -- Jul 4, 2003 13:37 ET



Front-Jeff, K4BP...Rear-Steve, NA4K

Field Day in McMinn County Tennessee was a good time this year! We operated as NA4K and WA4PNI(GOTA). We had a little shower late Saturday night, but the rest of the time the weather was great. The DX gods were angry this year, all but closing down 10M to anything but a few CW contacts, but 40 CW and SSB saved the day (or night) late Saturday and early Sunday. Our GOTA station operated just about round the clock with several different operators and a lot of interest from visitors and Techs. Hopefully, some will get their ticket or upgrade!

PSK was fair, but SSTV and RTTY were not to be found. Biggest problem was interference from other close proximity transceivers. (DUH!) We had some glitches with the computers getting started up, but the gremlins stayed away for the most part. Evan, WA4PNI, lost the TX in his IC-756 Pro, but it has already been sent in for repair. Thanks to all the guys who loaned equipment, and to the Athens City Fire Department for the use of the MCP. (Boy, the A/C gets COLD on that thing!)



The breakfast of a true operator...donuts & Coke!

We even managed to be featured after the fact by the Chattanooga Times in a special article. Thanks to Mike, W4WJH, for setting up the interview and explaining Field Day so well. We saw lots of hams that weekend, some old, some new, and some who hadn't been on the bands as of late. Chris, KE7GZ, had a great time operating, and we sure are glad to have him on the air in McMinn County! Thanks once again to Steve, NA4K, for his expertise in setting up the NA log program, and all the interfaces! (And of course his SHORT call sign.)



And what is Field Day without FOOD!!!

Enjoy the pictures! Club web site is at "<http://www.qsl.net/kf4cfo>". Field Day 2003 Slide Show is available by following the "Field Day 2003" link on the home page. Visit us! Here are some participants comments:

"The success of our Field Day is due to the Great support group, the people that provide the food, handle the questions about our operation to the public and the support from the County officials and the people keeping the generator running." Steve-NA4K

-- NA4IT



Chris Bindrim, KE7GZ, at the GOTA station



Hey buddy! You been
eatin' watermelon long?

Chandler & Will,
KD4HZZL Harmonies



Front Station inside the MCP



Rear Station inside MCP



Dick Jones W4RJC, Buck Sneed, Evan Ray WA4PNI

W0IVJ -- Jul 3, 2003 21:57 ET



Ready to erect one 44 foot mast.

Hayes, WA0ZBL, and Tom, W0IVJ, did field day this year at Tom's sister's horse ranch near Guthrie, OK. We erected two 44 foot masts and put up two switchable dipoles for 10 through 80 meters. The dipoles were oriented toward the populated northeast and California / Florida areas. Band conditions dictated most of our contacts being made on 40, 20, and 15 giving us a total of 422 QSOs in the 150 watt, 2B class. The weather was good, and we may have sparked some radio interest in Zac, Tom's great nephew. We are already making plans for next year. -- W0IVJ



A small boat winch is used on the homemade gin pole.



Up she goes!



One up, one to go.



Both masts up.



Zac, Tom, and Hayes in the midst of the contest.



Hayes operating 40 meter SSB.



Tom instructing Zac.

W4CUE -- Jul 3, 2003 15:58 ET

The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club participated in the ARRL Field Day 2003. It was fun. We were



located at Oak Mountain State Park in Pelham, Alabama. We were not discouraged and managed to complete our set up tasks while it rained most of the day. We had newspaper and TV coverage. We had many visitors. We had a lot of participation from new hams and people wanting to get their license. We had plenty of food and fun. We had a blast and are looking forward to next year. 73 and catch you on the bands.
-- W4DAI





















K4LSC -- Jul 3, 2003 14:37 ET



Rick, N4FYV racking up the SSB contacts.

Our Laurens Amateur Radio Society, LARS, met at the beautiful Lake Rabon Park for the 11th year operating 1A in Field Day. We had poor propagation Saturday, which only allowed for 130 contacts during the first 8 hours. Conditions improved some Saturday as well as Sunday and we netted 512 contacts altogether with our 1A setup. We didn't make any Q's on 10 meters and just a few of 15 meters. Guest visiting our K4LSC Information Booth enjoyed watching CW and SSB contacts being made from our Air Conditioned RV via ATV, which was a big hit this year. Thank God and Jim White/KF4YKT for Air Conditioning here in South Carolina..

When the smoke cleared and the logs were edited, we ended up with a claimed score of 3020 points. This included 1200 bonus points and 1820 contact points.

1200 Bonus points + 228 SSB bonus points + 1592 CW bonus points.



Our K4LSC Info Booth.

For a total of: 3020 points claimed.

Not bad for a small 1A Station on the back roads of South Carolina, Especially with the less than optimal conditions this year. Way to Go LARS !!!

73, Glenn Scott: (FD Chairman)

Laurens Amateur Radio Society (LARS)

Laurens, SC

-- WA4AOS



Laurens County Sheriff Rick Chastain visiting our FD Site. Jim Young K4OAD long time club member.



Billy Moore KG4WUE (left) and Paul Arnold NH7P Did a bang-up-job getting our HF antennas up.



Eric Hughes W4CHQ in Photo Bob Skutt W8PC and Glenn Scott WA4AOS were the Finger Talkers racking up 430 CW Contacts.



Jim White KF4YKT manning the grill. Wayne Deitz, Club President Praying for FOOD !! LET's EAT !!



Mike Johnson KD4HLH, Holding down the ATV Demonstration.



Yes, No Field Day is complete without a visit from Santa, Alias, Spence Miner K4KEP. Santa provided much of the ATV gear this year.



The Beautiful 760 Acre Lake Rabon Park. Our Field Day home for the last 11 years.



**Bobby Johnson,BJ and James Smith,
KG4MUL with visitors, watching an ATV
demo**



**HOME AWAY FROM HOME. Jim white was
able to once again secure this Air
Conditioned RV. Very nice !!!**



**Carlis Myers-KG4RIT testing a new High
Tech Antenna. Not really, His plate is empty
and he's looking for some Grub!!**



George Merchant W4GWM.. The man with the plan was keeping the K4LSC crew in line and on task!



Glenn Scott WA4AOS doing some Heavy Weight Finger Talking !!



Bob Skutt - W8PC Finger Talker



John Williams, W4WWV and Sheriff Ricky Chastain Sharing a few laughs..

K5DI -- Jul 2, 2003 17:34 ET



Here is Karl Hess WF5A making QRP SSB contacts.



Here is Karl Larsen K5di making CW contacts on 40 meters

Karl and Karl have planned this Field Day for over 3 months. We are both old Back Packers so it was planned we will camp out like it was a backpack. We both brought chairs (WalMart easy sitting) and 2 card tables. Three weeks prior to the event we made two antenna's exactly the same. They are 88 feet long dipoles fed with 450 ohm ribbon. We both have a Yaesu FT-817 and 5 amp-hour sealed batteries and antenna tuner and balun. Karl and Karl are K5DI and WF5A

This year it's Keep It Simple Stupid! We had two stations with one on SSB (the hardest job) and one on CW. I printed out the dupe sheets and the log papers from the ARRL package.

We drove 90 miles to a flat spot near Sun Spot NM at a gps elevation of 9,500 feet. Got set up and at noon started out on 15 meters which was open to California. We were QRP but had no problem working all we could hear.

I dropped down to 20 meters and really went to town working clear across the country, up into Canada and beyond. Remember, running 5 watts to a dipole.

Then Murphy arrived as rain. After dinner it rained 3-5 inches over a 5 hour period. We huddled into our tents and stayed warm and dry.

Sunday morning was clear and 40 meters was open. We did well on 40. But by 10:30 it was cloudy and at 11 it rained hard again. We put all our stuff away wet and headed home. It was 42 degrees at camp and when we reached Alamogordo, NM it was 92 degrees. -- K5DI



Here is where we weathered out the storm...

W0DYD -- Jul 2, 2003 16:00 ET



W0DYD at the Key

Field Day 2003. This was a most enjoyable event that helped me hone my CW skills. Weather conditions were favorable except for one short lightning storm that required me to pull the plug for a couple of hours. I have posted pictures of my portable location near Mora, MN, on my website. Feel free to visit at:
<http://www.qsl.net/w0dyd/>

Thanks to ARRL for hosting this event. Gary C. Meyer
-- W0DYD

KR7SUB -- Jul 3, 2003 03:21 ET

Here's a few shots of a rather unique Field Day Site...a Russian Foxtrot Class Submarine! The sub is docked in Seattle, Washington and is a popular tourist attraction. We had hundreds of visitors to the site over the course of the event.

The sub is the home of KR7SUB, The Foxtrot Amateur Radio Club. In the centre of the sail, you can see the Field Day Antenna, a trap vertical, lashed to.....the RDF antenna! The sub's original communications antenna, also a vertical, can be seen to the left, and to the front are two periscopes. No, it's not a log-periodic



The FD antenna lashed to the RDF antenna.



A beautiful Seattle day...

experiment, it's just how things worked out.

Here is another shot of the sail, from the front of the boat. This picture is a little more typical of Seattle's famous weather.

Here is a shot of the operating position, with Jon Meigs, WB1AJJ at the mic. Most operations were CW, however, as band conditions were not very favorable.

We ran the entire weekend on a deep cycle marine battery, borrowed from a fellow sailor who has lived onboard a sailboat in the Northwest for over 19 years. It performed flawlessly, and had sufficient capacity to run the station for the entire event without charging. Too bad the sub's original batteries weren't on board, we could run emergency power until the hull rusts through!

-- *WB1AJJ*



The operating position!

KE4RX -- Jul 2, 2003 21:47 ET



Jack Stooksbury, 14 months enjoys his first Field Day CW operation along with his dad, John Stooksbury KW4JS.

The Roane County Amateur Radio Club had a grand time operating from Fort Southwest Point in Kingston, Tennessee. What a view from the Kingston Steam Plant towers to the convergence of the Tennessee and Clinch Rivers to the fort itself!

We had 12 operators sharing 7 transmitters and although the bands were challenging, we enjoyed Field Day 2003 as usual. We also had many visitors including hams and non-hams. Our youngest was Jack Stooksbury - 14 months who got to enjoy his first Field Day along with his brother Michael - 6 years who has never missed a Field Day operation! Many thanks to all the operators, family, friends and visitors who made our Field Day 2003 such a great success! -- KW4JS



Chip Erisman, KC4YYD, operates one of the single sideband stations as call KE4RX. Chip took time to operate between casual conversation with old friends and new acquaintances.



Harrison Barger, KD4LBJ, President of the Roane County Amateur Radio Club, operates a single sideband station as KE4RX.

W9UR -- Jul 2, 2003 18:28 ET



Shelby, Summerville, K4WW, shows that he can work CW when he really tries.

The Kentucky Indiana Contest Club ran a 2A station in Southern Indiana at a Monastery/Retreat Center picnic shelter on the grounds. Participants were W9UR, K9GX, and K4WW dropped by to make a few CW Q's. Antennas were a 40-meter loop, a 20-meter dipole, a 6-meter vertical delta loop, a Cushcraft R-5 Vertical, and a G5RV mounted on a push-up pole supported by a vehicle tire.

Both 10 and 15 meters were pretty dead and most of our contacts were on 20, 40, and 75/80.

It was a beautiful weekend with clear skies and reasonable temperatures, We all had an enjoyable weekend. -- K4AT



John Dunker, W9UR, working the CW station.



The truck in the foreground supports a push-up pole with a G5RV while the wooden pole on the back of the shelter supports an American Flag and a 40-meter loop.

W2AGN -- Jul 2, 2003 15:54 ET

Operated Class 1B-Battery this year, so as not to confuse Mr. Henderson. Used the trusty K2 with the added K2DSP. Terrific combination. Very Casual operation from back porch, with the good old DK9SQ mast and 100' zepp. Made 215 CW QSOs and 2 SSB QSOs. (just to show I did remember where I put the microphone).
-- W2AGN



Simple but effective!

N8CPA -- Jul 2, 2003 15:52 ET

A last minute physical problem meant a Class D operation, rather than the planned E. Though I prefer Class A, and can tolerate E, Field Day is always fun regardless of class. And--look ma--no mike!

Like last year, I setup the IC-735 for CW, using an AEA MorseMachine--someone needs to manufacture those again! I used a TS-50 for Packet. The TS-50 fed my old reliable R-7 What was different than last year was that I connected the CW rig to an inverted VEE with a shorted leg--Murphy struck in winter disguised as a wind storm. I had tested the "stunted VEE" in various state QSO parties before Field Day.

I used the same computer arrangement as last year. My desktop served as my data terminal; my laptop faced the CW position and was used for logging (N3FJP Field Day 2.1). I would answer any packet connections by rotating left. I synchronized both computers to WWV before event start. And that's how I spent my 2003 Field Day.

Though I enjoy making contacts under any condition, I'm not really fond of Class D FD operation. I must have had to delete 50 Qs of similar class. I never got one response to my packet beacon. On Sunday morning during a lull in CW activity, I answered a RTTY CQ FD but, since he was also Class D, had to delete my single digital contact from the log.

Don't take this as a plea to change the rules of Class D operation. The rules are fine just as they are. And the bonuses should go to those who set up and operate in Spartan conditions, or as Class F--the best FD rule change to date.

The final tally was 247 Qs, all CW. Among the contacts were TI3TLS and CO0US. Now how long is it I have to wait for NovSS? -- N8CPA

VO1BRK -- Jul 2, 2003 07:26 ET



Part of the VO1BRK crew operating 4A from Carbonear. Members of both BARK and MRCN. Photo: Joe VO1NA, RAC NL SM.

The Baccalieu Amateur Radio Klub (VO1BRK) and the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (VO1MRC) held a joint operation in Carbonear the home town of Maurice, VO1FG, who recently became a silent key. The clubs decided to collaborate to hold a memorial Field Day in memory of Maurice, whose station was 'on top of the saddle'.

Food (Moose steaks, stew, fish'n'brewis, beans and pork chops) were served up by the skilled radio amateur chefs at the site and many 807's were enjoyed, along with some excellent conversation about radio and Maurice and of course some fine operating at the 4A station in an old house with no electricity or running water!

In the picture are members from both groups at the FD site. Photo: Joe Craig VO1NA, Radio Amateurs of Canada Section Manager, Newfoundland and Labrador Section. -- VO1NA

K4TDP -- Jul 1, 2003 21:13 ET



KD4BJW, K4RVH and KU4J manning the radios at K4TDP's 2A AL effort.

The 550 DX Club setup for Field Day a second time but with a new call, K4TDP. Once again we setup in the field of AB4DN. Participants included KU4J, K4GU, K4RVH, KD4BJW, AB4DN and his sons, Joel and Jesse.

A definite shift from last year's distributions across the various bands was easily noticed this year. 10M was quiet, 15M squeaked only a few Q's. 20M SSB provided some contacts but with much more difficulty than last year. Maybe everyone was bunched up here given 10 and 15's lack of propagation. Many times two stations could be heard calling CQ FD on the very same frequency leaving us frustrated as to who we might work. Fortunately the CW op's were able to work 40 and 80M quite well which kept our score comparable to last year's.

Six meters last year gave us about 140 Q's off the VHF station but was much less generous this year with only



The K4TDP operating shelter and antennas including two Battle Creek Special clones, a helical vertical, a multi-band inverted V, and 6M quad.

22 contacts. However we did work CO0US (EM64 - EM83) during one brief opening thanks to the diligent monitoring of Joel and Jesse at the VHF station.

The weather was warm but dry all weekend for us thankfully. We've already started talking about what we'll try differently next year. -- *K4RVH*

K8FBI -- Jul 1, 2003 16:26 ET



Saturday Evening at the K8FBI site

The Flying Beers International Broadcast Society operated K8FBI (1A, Emergency Power) from the QTH of N8LUB and WY8W in Emmett, MI (Near Port Huron).

The station was operated by N8LUB, WS8D, WY8W and N8NM.

We made 752 CW and 454 Phone Qs running a TS-940S/AT to an 80m Loop up about 30 feet. We also had a tribander at about 40 feet which didn't see a whole lot of use.



The band conditions left something to be desired. We were able to keep the rates up on 80 and 40, but couldn't get much going on 20. 15 and 10 were not worth the 15 minute QSY "penalty".

Were we the only ones who didn't find the ARRL Special Bulletin at it's scheduled time and place? Finally got the last one on PSK31 Sunday Afternoon, but even that one seemed to have a "false start". Did Murphy visit W1AW?

All in all, I think we're all pretty pleased with our effort and looking forward to next year. -- *N8NM*

K0DAN -- Jul 1, 2003 23:47 ET



Larry (K1LK) and Dan (K0DAN) operated class 2B from Missouri using windom and half-square antennas. Band conditions were tough: only 40 and 20 meters had any significant activity, and conditions were crowded and noisy! The weather held out for us, the insect situation was manageable, and the generator operated without a flaw. We used a pair of laptops linked via 802.11B wireless LAN for logging and to copy the W1AW RTYY Bulletin. We used the free N1MM contest logging software, and were extremely impressed by it. -- *K0DAN*

The generator power source at K0DAN. Two tanks of gas took us through the contest.



Dan (K0DAN) and Larry (K1LK) operate 40 and 20 meters.



It seemed like the entire ham population was on 40 and 20 meters...QRM City! The QRM plus lots of atmospheric noise made for very difficult copy, and very tedious operation. Only 7 and 14 MHz were reliably open through the contest period, and even they faded out by 3AM...that helped us get a few hours of much-needed sleep.

W5MRC/K5EEN -- Jul 1, 2003 23:18 ET



An hour to go, and the last tower is up.



Jim, K5RX, mentoring a future contester on the GOTA station, 9 year old Sarah.

This was the second year that the McKinney club operated from the Melissa Municipal Building, and the weather was great for Field Day in Texas. This has turned out to be a great site, with more public visibility than our previous Field Day site at Erwin Park.

Although the bands were lousy, we managed to come within 900 points from last year's score. We put up four towers this year, with monoband 3 element beams on 6 through 20, a dipole for 40 and an inverted-V for 80. We probably could have left the 6 meter and 10 meter beams on the ground and still come within 100 points of our final score. Still everyone had fun, and that was our main goal.

We received a visit from some of the members of the North Texas Contest Club during Field Day on Saturday. These guys didn't just come to operate, but really came to give a helping hand. Jim, K5RX, manned the GOTA station most of his time there at the site. Thanks Jim.

The GOTA station was very popular this year. The club decided to offer GOTA pins to anyone who made 5 QSOs on the GOTA station, and the kids lined up. Our

youngest operator was 7 year old Ruth. The kids even started their own competition to see who could work the most QSOs on the GOTA station, the boys or the girls. Thanks to everybody for their patience while working K5EEN during the contest. -- W5KAU

NA4K / WA4PNI -- Jul 1, 2003 22:52 ET

McMinn County Amateur Radio Club, Athens, TN, met for Field Day at Knox Park once again this year. A couple of years ago, after placing in the top ten in our class for a few years, we decided to "just have some fun". One of the fun things this year was spoofing Evan Ray, WA4PNI. A few years ago,



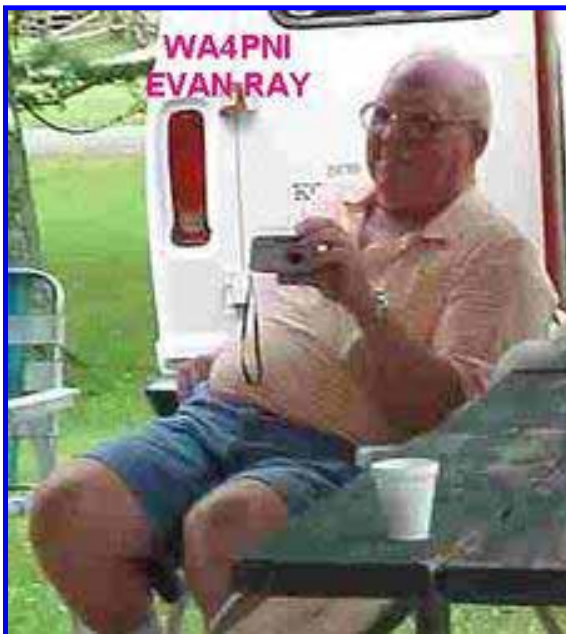
Singing "The Ballad of Evan Ray"
(song on next slide)

"The Ballad of Evan Ray"
(Sung to the tune of "The Beverly Hillbillies")

Come and listen to a story 'bout a ham named Evan,
Who one Field Day fished in Porta Potty heaven,
And as he was digging in the stinky 'ole crude,
Up from the bottom came a microphone too,
Not,
Went'n that,
Never was.

Now other hams yelled Evan 'git outta there,
There ain't no mic and poops e'er where,
And watch where 'ya step as you ease through the goo,
'Cuz you'll have it all over your tennis shoe
SHEW WEE!
Where's the water hose!

Now that's a moral to this story, Evan's learned it by now,
When one tells you something, better check it out and how,
Even though it may seem real, it could just be a joke,
Folks won't e'er forget, cause your such a good bloke!



WA4PNI Himself!

Evan went "fishing" in the "Porta Potty" for a microphone! Only thing was...well you guessed it! It wasn't there to start with! Check out the picture of us singing for the group assembled! Be sure to read "The Ballad of Evan Ray". -- *NA4IT*

N0FP -- Jul 1, 2003 21:45 ET

Field Day @ N0FP was a blast! In prior years, FD was often a collection of tents and sundry radio equipment pasted together to make a weekend of radio, with interludes of eating, visiting, and other



Home Made 12V generator. 5HP & Delco one wire generator kicks out 75 Amps at 13.8V.



Left to right: Lee-WBØTRA (SSB Station), Kelley-WØRK (Spot station), Ralph-KØIR (CW Station), Mitch-KCØJFY (GOTA Station). Not pictured: Dewey-NØVO and Ford-NØFP



Three 46' towers made of 1/4" wall fiberglass tubing were used as supports for a pair of dipoles. The wire could be swapped to change bands in just a couple of minutes.

activities. This year was different.

Beginning last year, the group was resolved to post a better score. Actually attempt to book Qs at a contest rate. With all the participants out there, posting a huge score would be a bunch of fun. Well, we never got to the "huge" stage but we sure had fun.

The group designed a new generator and built it from the remains of a snow blower. This generator would run the radios by charging deep cycle batteries. A 5 HP motor attached to a Delco "one wire" alternator did the trick. Located 25 feet from the operating position, that much current required "0" AWG wire.

Then there were the computers. Kelley-WØRK designed 5 PCs to function as Op position 1 and 2, GOTA, Server, and Spotter. Running WriteLog made the task possible. Still, there were problems with scoring the GOTA station but out of our control (a known WriteLog bug) so we just worked around the problems--this is Field Day.

Since we were keying using the computers, the computers attached to radios were run from the 5KW Generator belonging to Ralph-KØIR. And that's not just any old Honda generator either. That baby has seen the toughest DX spots in the world, including Heard Island. It's nice being able to use equipment with a good pedigree.

Set-up started on Friday after lunch. Mostly computer set-up since we were expecting rough weather on Friday night. Saturday was a long morning of very hard work. 5 towers had to be erected. About 1000' of coax needed to be untangled and tested. Two verticals and an off-center fed Windom were in the plans. The 80M vertical never saw RF below 7 MHz until later in the day, but everything else was ready at 1PM.

The goal was to do some logging training and to eat prior to 1800Z. As it turns out, a logging glitch in WriteLog regarding the GOTA postponed our start to 18:12Z. Training had to be done on the fly. Ralph-KØIR posted the first Q.



Mitch-KCØJFY, unable to continue after 15 hours of S&P at the GOTA station, gets a well deserved rest. I think this was about 4AM or 5AM on Sunday morning.



That's Ralph-KØIR at the helm of the CW station. I'm not sure what is more fun, watching his Qs roll into the log or all the stories he tells during his off times. That's 'Honey' the yellow lab hoping she'll get a shot at the key. But alas, no thumbs...

the job done.

Our hardest working guy was Mitch-KCØJFY. Mitch was our GOTA station manager. Other ops came and visited, even tuned around a bit on the GOTA but never worked any Qs. Mitch manned his post until fatigue overwhelmed him at 3AM or so. After an hour and a half of well deserved rest, the GOTA was perking along again. Mitch bagged 184 Qs on HF using antennas for marginal bands. Quite a task from our remote Minnesota outpost.

The antennas were designed to provide both polarization diversity and space diversity. This would enable us to work both ends of the bands using any of the three stations. Modeling suggested a 53dB attenuation between the dipoles and the verticals. A portable but calibrated signal generator and spectrum analyzer was used to measure the actual path loss attenuation between the antennas, which came in at 65dB. The difference (65dB vs 53dB) is, I believe, attributable to some metal buildings positioned between the antenna sites. Approximately 450' separated the horizontal and vertical antennas.

We had a number of visitors. Most notably the head guy for the Emergency Management for our county. He was invited and arrived well before kick-off so we had some time to explain things. He was impressed and said over-and-over that the Sheriff needs to incorporate the help from hams into the emergency management plans for the county. He was introduced to ARES and provided literature to share with fellow workers.

Besides his computer prowess, Kelley-WØRK can cook. Kelley whipped up some freshly picked farm fresh eggs, pankakes, and sausages for Sunday morning breakfast. My vote is to make Kelley the official cook at Field Day.

Lee-WBØTRA was our top-scoring SSB op (but then, he got to start too, which was our best hour). He also passed some traffic to bag a few bonus points. Lee is an old Navy radio Op so traffic is second nature.

Dewey-NØVO was on-hand the whole period to help work the SSB station. Dewey was also instrumental in figuring out our emergency power system. Dewey got

We tried to get Ralph-KØIR to bring his 190' tower and 4 element 40 M beam from home, but alas the task was a bit much for a 24 hour venture. Maybe next year? Right Ralph? Ralph had some awesome runs on 20M CW. It was great to have a seasoned op in the CW booth.

We can't forget Honey the Yellow Lab. She was instrumental in policing the area of stray potato chips, bits of chocolate chip cookies, etc. She wanted to help with the CW but simply couldn't (she has no thumb).

The CW station was an IC756PROII, the SSB station was an IC746. The GOTA was also an IC746. Using only 100W and some make-shift hardware, we managed to bag 1794 Qs. With our bonus points, the total score is 6,730. All-in-all, a very good day.

Thanks to everyone for the Qs. See you in the contests.

73

Ford -- *N0FP*

K3FT -- Jul 1, 2003 14:21 ET

K3FT, 1A-Com'l, 668Q's, CW only. K3FT/AA3SC/WB4FDT, MDC section. LP.

Field Day was.. as it always has been (and I daresay will continue to be so) A fine time!

Murphy paid his visits - some were LONG, some were short but he came and visited all, I'm sure.

One thing Mr. Murphy did for us ALL this year - from border to border and coast to coast - was give us a GREAT BIG HEAPING HELPING of very active geomagnetic activity!

I have queried others who operated all over the Country from Hawaii to New England, to Southern United States to the Central States and they ALL tell the same story.

10M was quieter *for most* than a receiver with the RF gain turned down and the antenna disconnected.

15M acted like a kid at his first mixed dance who was trying to work up the courage to ask someone to dance. It made some feeble attempts to be active but stayed in the background and only became active for a very very short time.

20M and 40M were like the supermarket during a sale. Busy, full of signals, and always hopping.

80M was like your first car. It worked OK for a while but tended to not run all that well and would simply quit for hours.

In short.. 10M was AWOL.

15M was spotty at best.. and when it was active it was short lived.

20M/40M tended to be the 'meat bands' and were usually active (but 40M was the big band on campus)

80M.. in the later evening/overnight/early AM (till the D/E layers fattened up after sunrise) was fair and generated a decent amount of activity.

Anyway.. it was a great FD!

Next year should be fun with the sunspots numbers continuing to drop and the 80/40/20M bands become the favorite places to be.

73 Chuck K3FT -- *K3FT*

K2VOA -- Jul 1, 2003 12:29 ET



Just before the contest began on Saturday. We were setting up the PARC Mast and Antenna at Piscataway Township High School. When a horizontal rainbow appeared across the flag on top of our mast. A most unusual occurrence we thought. -- *N2MIB*

NT5NT -- Jul 1, 2003 12:23 ET



This past weekend was Field Day, our annual emergency preparedness field exercise. The club did quite. We operated for 24 hours. Setup was 3 hours with a 1 hour lunch before 1pm. Teardown was 1.5 hours.

The following NT5NT members participated in this year's Field Day. K5PSK, AA5AM, KD5WJS, WW2R, KC5PDC, AG5CQ, N5PYK

There were several visitors who stopped by including members of the RWK and NTMS. Even our section

KD5WJS (James) and Chris (K5PSK) on 20m



AA5AM (Scott) with the final touches on the VHF stack (6, 2, 70cm)

generator on level one, and antennas on the top level 5. Antennas used included a 40/80/160 dipole (AA5AM), the club's G5RV, plus a 6, 2, and 70cm beam (AA5AM) with rotator. Radios at the contest were the club's TS-2000X, K5PSK's TS-2000, and N5PYK's FT-847. Additional microwave contacts were made by transverters from N5PYK and WW2R. One 802.11 contact on 2.4 GHz was completed between K5PSK and N5PYK.

Computers for logging were provided by K5PSK and N5PYK -- *N5PYK*

K3MJW -- Jul 1, 2003 11:45 ET



manager stopped by to say hi.

This years contest, as typical, was dominated by the HF activity. However, solar conditions were not especially favorable for the upper HF bands. 10 meters yielded no contacts this year and most of the work was performed on 20m and 40m. Toward the end of the contest, non duplicate contacts were getting harder to make.

A special treat this year was some decent conditions on VHF and UHF. The six meter band opened up to the west to Az, Ca, Nv, Ut, and Co Saturday evening followed by strong tropo up to Ks, Ar, and Mo on 2m and 70cm. A few token microwave contacts were made during the contest to locals.

All in attendance really liked the parking garage approach.

We set up in the Galatyn A parking garage in Richardson. The operating position was on level three,

Excellent WX made for a great FD weekend in Southwestern PA. We had everything set up and ready to go with a half hour to spare on Saturday afternoon! The biggest disappointment was the band conditions, especially 10 and 6 meters. Not very many Q's on either band. However, we made up for it on 20 and 40 meters with lots of signals heard on both bands. Thanks to everyone for the contacts and hope to work you all again next year. 73, Skyview Radio Society K3MJW 5A WPA -- *N3GJ*

**Raising the Mosley TA33 Saturday morning.
The antenna crew included (L to R):
KB3IVD, N3NOS, K3KWH, KB3IVC, W3RSR,
and WB3FXC.**



**WB3FXC working 20m PSK31 while K3KWH
and KB3IVC run 40m and 15m.**



**Saturday night visitors. The bugs sure
seemed to like WC3O's FT100D!**

K4CMD -- Jul 1, 2003 08:46 ET

I arrived at Twin Lakes State Park, about 50 miles west of Richmond, Virginia, Friday afternoon and began setting things up. That evening, Field Day's Mr. Murphy showed up in fine form by turning our "20 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms" into a deluge that lasted from 9 p.m. until well after sunrise Saturday. Fortunately, however, that was it for the rain and Field Day stayed dry if a little muddy.

Our 2B station consisted of two Kenwoods (a 570S and an 850S), a G5RV and a 20 meter dipole. Tom, KN4XI, was the other half of our crew. Whether it was our location, the solar activity or a combination of both, contacts were a little harder to make this year. We've done the same setup in the Blue Ridge



Sunrise shows a weary KN4XI still plugging away on 40 meters

Mountains, a wildlife management area and a 34-foot yacht on the Chesapeake Bay in Field Days past.

Our effort was featured in the local paper, the Farmville Herald, and the park management advertised us to their campers and visitors as an "interpretive exhibit" on posters the park staff created to advertise Field Day! The park's manager reserved an entire half of the group campground for us so we could string up our antennas. I cannot thank the people of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation enough for their patronage in making Field Day 2003 possible.



K4CMD, 2B VA

Meade K4CMD -- *K4CMD*

K5EEE -- Jul 1, 2003 08:04 ET

Had a great time. It is getting harder to do 24 hrs alone as I get older!!! Propagation was very unusual from FL this year. 10m and 15m were about useless. Skip on Saturday seemed extra long as I worked tons of VE and New England stations--more than normal. Later, with the beam pointed towards OR, I noted a lack of contacts that I usually get from CA and CO. On Sunday, the skip was much shorter with NC, SC, TN, VA, WV, AL and GA dominating the log.

It is always interesting to participate. I ran entirely on batteries as class 1E (100W) and about drained one of my batteries. I had 120 AH in reserve. Next year, I will call more and drain all the electrons out of those batteries. Calling more this year than last netted me about an increase of about 33% in my score as I topped 575 contacts. Next year, the goal is 700!!!

Thanks to everyone out there for participating, especially those who answered my meager call. It is always fun!

Terry -- *K5EEE*

K5WPH -- Jun 30, 2003 20:53 ET



Parking lot of K5WPH. Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Kitchen "co-laboring" along side members of K5WPH. Both are "co-operating" in case both are needed during a disaster in the surrounding communities.



Members of SBCDR and radio operator embedded in the kitchen, taking tips on properly cleaning a pot before preparing meal. Skywarn Logo in back ground - WX5ELP El Paso Skywarn.

K5WPH teamed up with the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief (SBCDR) to "co-operate" during Field Day at the Sun City Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) parking lot. Several members of K5WPH belong to SBCDR providing radio communications during a disaster.

While members of K5WPH and radio operators of SBCDR were inside providing radio communications, the SBCDR kitchen members were busy cooking a meal consisting of stew, peaches, and bread. This is a typical meal that would have been provided at an emergency field kitchen. By 1900 UTC (high noon El Paso, TX time), the stew was scrumptious.

It was an excellent opportunity for both units to "co-labor" and actually experience how a feeding camp is set up and what types of security is involve. For many hams that have never been on a disaster, this is a real working field kitchen.

We had a city representative stop by and visit with both organizations. The experience opened his eyes. He never knew that such organizations existed and that both would "co-labored" together. K5WPH also serves as a meeting place for WX5ELP El Paso Skywarn.

What a change to see men gathering around pots and pans and not radios!

73s de Albert -- *KB5GZZ*

N3EG -- Jun 30, 2003 20:02 ET

Bugs, bugs, bugs! If they weren't buzzing, the equipment at a nearby commercial site made the bands buzz. Still, I had fun operating 1B-Battery in the van with the windows open - the bugs stayed outside for the most part.

More pictures at:



Me, the van, and the bugs...

<http://home.thegrid.net/~cn86/fd2k3.htm>

-- *N3EG*

WX4KY -- Jun 30, 2003 19:50 ET



Ron Nutter, KA4KYI and the digital station. Don't forget to pick a public place, put up a sign, and public info table (especially a few months after a MAJOR disaster), and you will raise the awareness of amateur radio.

In the truest definition, Amateur Radio Field Day is all about testing your emergency operation capabilities, operating in an environment disconnected from commercial power, exposing the general public to amateur radio in a significant way, trying new things, connecting with your served agencies, let's not forget the contest portion of the event, and more importantly, building amateur radio fellowship. Operation in Jacobson Park, in Lexington, those were the goals of Fayette County (Kentucky) Amateur Radio Emergency Service. We don't know how we did on the contest portion yet, but we did pretty well increasing the awareness of amateur radio. CQ Field Day from WX4KY! Please copy six-alpha Kentucky!

All photos courtesy Harry Sparks, KN4S



More Photos at <http://www.qsl.net/fcares/fd2003.html>
-- *KD4PWL*

Ron Ritchie, N4MOM and Raines Fritts, WA4NWX work on a new radio. Fritts had been inactive for many years and heard about our field day and decided to join us. Ritchie is the Local ARES Coordinator.



Jim McDonnell, W2LTB and Bob Cooper, AF4OI brought their QRP Rigs. They were running full renegade mode, and cranking out the full five watts. You just don't know what these two can do until you meet them. A real class act representing the KY QRP Group! I wish I had a pic of Bob's CW Key clipboard!



Connecting with those we serve with... Bill Hertweck, KG4LFP with Logan Weiler, KY Emergency Management Area 13 Manager. Our long-time relationship with Logan and KY EM extends beyond disasters to help with any communications need they may have.



Connecting with those we serve with...
Lexington, KY Mayor Teresa Issac paid a visit to our site. Mayor Issac has been a supporter of amateur radio since her visit to our SET site last year. Mayor Issac is very keen on the role of volunteers whether it be emergency service, or for a charity. She came to visit us at the SET last year during her campaign for mayor. She wasn't elected yet, and showed her concern. That gave her a good reputation with us. During our Ice Storm this year (May Issue of QST) She was in the EOC almost the whole time, and got down in the trenches! You have to respect that!



Getting the word out to the public... The media began to show up. We thought it was going to be a quick interview, but it turned out to be much more. To the left you see Nutter talking to them. They did several interviews, and did live shots from our site at 6, 10, and 11PM.

To the right, you see the correspondent, Kellie Wilson actually operating one of the radios. Ms. Wilson had taken amateur radio classes in high school, but had not pursued her license. She made 8 contacts. There is video of this listed on the site listed above.



Oh, and there is one other purpose to Field Day! Amateur Radio fellowship...A place to gather, and enjoy seeing one another. Tom Mansfield, KG4TND, Fernie, KE4MAI, and Margie, KE4MAJ Williams talking with the group around one of the voice stations.

We sincerely wish that everyone had a good of a time as we did, and they look back on Field Day 2003 as a fun time in the future.

NO6E -- Jun 30, 2003 13:02 ET

Since I had to work Saturday, I couldn't make a "serious" effort. As a lark, I tried an all-digital mode entry using emergency power from home.

This was the first contest I've entered where I literally never listened at all. The only communication between me and the radio was through the computer. What a blast!

Thanks to all the folks who made an effort to get on PSK-31 this year. In 2004, I'll try for a "real" all-digital field day entry. -- *NO6E*

K9USA -- Jun 30, 2003 12:47 ET



Austin KC9DEL and his dad Sam KA9VHQ work 40M together during Field Day 2003. Photo by WD9EED

Our Piatt County Ham Radio group (in Illinois) had an excellent turnout for FD2003, with two father-son sets of participants, including KA9VHQ and his recently-licensed 12-year-old son KC9DEL, and KA6A and his son K9AQQ. We set up 3 stations (20M, 40M, 80M) on the county court house lawn for visibility and public accessibility which drew 25 ham participants over the weekend. We're one of the least-populated counties in Illinois with about 80 licensed hams which made for better than 25% overall participation of hams county-wide in Field Day 2003. We also gave out custom-printed helium balloons (that promoted ham radio and our web site, www.hamradio.piatt.com) to kids during a local rodeo parade that took place on Saturday around

the court house square. We enjoyed visits from our State Representative, our mayor, city council members, state's attorney, law enforcement, fire fighters, ambulance service, emergency response agencies and organizations, the county newspaper, and the general public. Our Saturday Night Supper was a great success with hams and their family members enjoying camaraderie and excellent food prepared by our local Mason lodge (7 of whom are hams). -- *KD9E*

K6WC -- Jul 1, 2003 01:20 ET



View East

Had a great time 1B SF single op. Heard nothing on 10 meters but one couldn't find a clear frequency on 15 through 40. Could not operate on 80 or 160 as very strong winds made a mess of my inverted V. This was by far the better antenna between it and the R7. My contact rate dropped dramatically after losing the V. See picture for my view East! -- *K6WC*



Big rig!

N4TP -- Jun 30, 2003 21:37 ET



N4TP satellite station

Here's some more photos from N4TP... 73 Warren
W1GUD -- *W1GUD*

K4TP -- Jun 30, 2003 21:24 ET



The TARC Tampa Amateur Radio Club (Florida) fielded a 2A operation with VHF, Satellite and GOTA stations. Band conditions were poor, but we still managed to best our 2003 score with well over 4-K QSOs. We had seven elements at 100 feet on six, yet the magic band was stubborn. We still managed well over a hundred VHF Qs. Jim AA4MD fielded two ao-40 stations, using dishes and patch feeds. He worked scores of Japanese, Europeans and ran over 150 Satellite contacts. Raw SSB shows 2000+ contacts, CW over 1300. Our close relationship with local emergency managers not only yielded us the aforementioned 100 foot crank over tower, but also a 30 foot tower trailer

The N4TP Satellite station, using a pair of dishes and homebrew patch feeds for 1.2, 2.4 and 430 MHz. AA4MD's handiwork. AMSAT ought to be proud of Jim.

Chief, Larry KR4X was our graveyard shift CW operator! Thanks to all of you for working N4TP and our GOTA station N4SEX. 73 and see you next year Warren W1GUD TARC Field Day Chairman
-- W1GUD

WB4QNG -- Jun 30, 2003 21:30 ET

Worked at home. Still think this is where I will be if the real things hit if my house is still standing. I was kind of dissatisfied in the number of contacts. Less than 40. Then I looked at them 21 different states, Canada, and Cuba. Not bad considering 5 watts to a 4 ft iron horse ant. in my attic tuned by an old Dentron Super tuner to work all bands. I guess it was a success. Do wish 10 and 15 were open. Did learn that the battery out of truck would last the whole time without charging. Now for next year. Take batteries out of car and truck and run 100 watts to all my ant. Drive to a big hill and operate out of my truck. Join a club. Oh well got a year to think about it. 73 Terry -- WB4QNG

N3EF -- Jun 30, 2003 20:20 ET



Searching the bands

Last year was our (my wife Lisa and I) first Field Day as new hams. We went to our club (AARC) location to help with the setup of antennas and shelters. From there we visited three other club sites to help with antenna setup and to see what other sites were doing. We later returned to our club site to act as operators for a while. As the night came to a close we stopped by our club's "kids club" (AARC Jr) site to help out as control operators. This year we decided to do our own thing on our property. We put up a screen tent for operating and another tent for sleeping. We built and put up two wire dipoles for 20 meters and 40 meters and used one transceiver, a Yaesu FT-897, operating on battery power. I was able to get the 20 meter antenna up at 65' between two trees with pulleys and a counterweight and put the 40 meter antenna up at 20' to work in NVIS mode for good propagation up to around 300 miles for local contacts and it also worked quite well for longer distance work. We used a laptop for logging and had a fan to keep us cool and I even set up a tv as I thought we would take a couple breaks and watch a couple shows. We didn't watch a thing! We had so much fun making radio contacts, our only break was a 3 hour nap on the floor of the screen room at about 5am. As we were getting into our sleeping bags my wife let out a



scream as she swiped a spider that was crawling up her leg. When we woke up we found it on the ground and saw that it was a big black widow! We've seen a lot of them around here and I was bitten by one that had crawled in the sleeve of my coat last year on halloween of all days! An extremely painful and unpleasant experience that took two months to fully recover from. Anyhow, we managed to make 300 contacts including CO0US (special joint effort of US ops and Cuban ops in Havanna Cuba), and WC8VOA in Ohio. With about 25 minutes left we were finally satisfied and started breaking everything down. The weather was great. We

did well, working 46 states including hawaii, and 72 sections including 7 in Canada and a Puerto Rico station, and most of all, we had fun! -- *N3EF*

WB6MIA -- Jun 30, 2003 19:44 ET



ECC-15, first EOC activated for Field Day in San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara Section. Great Cheering section!

We are proud to be the first EOC activated as a Category 2F Field Day station from San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara Section. We operated for 6 hours from ECC-15, a new center located in the Oceano, CA office of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's department under Lt. Ben Hall. Participants were from the San Luis Obispo Emergency Communications Council, our local ARES/RACES organization. Some of our participants had never experienced HF operation and are now bitten by the HF bug! We familiarized ourselves with newly installed HF and VHF/UHF radios in the process and learned the effective coverage area of our HF longwire on several bands.

On the air participants included Fred WB6MIA, Les K6LES, Jon KG6NXX, Randy KF6BMJ, and Paul

K6IMZ. -- *K6IMZ*

W4DUG -- Jun 30, 2003 18:53 ET

FIELD DAY PRAYER

As I ponder the events that shall soon take place,

I am reminded this is not a contest nor a race.

We practice here in the rain and in the sun,



Tampa Amateur Radio Club President, Biff Craine, K4LAW

Against a day we hope will never come.

With the towers and the poles that now stand so tall

I am sure that not one of them will collapse or fall.

Our setup job is finally done at last,

but we cannot put Field day in the Past.

We are committed to show the world our best,

And will make contact with all the rest.

The CW station soon will groan from use,

And the SSB mic will not be turned loose.

At TARC we do know how to do it right,

From A.T.V. to satellite.

We have a station beyond compare,

One that's called Get On The Air.

So please watch over our courageous club today,

As we beat the crap out everyone else in Category 2A.

--Okay, so. I'm not a poet . . . -- *K4LAW*

WØCET -- Jun 30, 2003 18:48 ET

The Kaw Valley Amateur Radio Club set up again at Lake Shawnee. Everything went pretty smoothly until we discovered that the roator at the top of the tower didn't work! It was brought down and "fixed". But when the tower went vertical again, it quit. As a result we got a late start on the transmitting. It came down again and worked perfectly as long as the tower was horizontal! After being put back up again it worked sporadically - sometimes taking five minutes of finagling to make it turn. Certainly limited operating! Things went along fine until we received a call for the Amateur Communications Van that we were using for our SSB station. It was an emergency call out! We never did get the van back that night. We moved everything outdoors (luckily the weather was nice) and continued operating. Around 2:00 AM a thunderstorm started moving in and we ceased operation. I took advantage to get some sleep. The rain continued for about 3 hours. About 5:30 or so, I was awakened

by the sound of the tower and antennas being taken down. There was some serious weather west of us and it was decided better safe than sorry. We got everything down and put away. Of course it never rained after that. So we ended up with only about 12 hours of operating time. -- *KØJJM*

N9LTT -- Jun 30, 2003 14:06 ET



JLG lift fully extended with antennas mounted

The Columbus (Indiana) Amateur Radio Club conducted Field Day operations at Mill Race Park in Columbus. There were several firsts for us this year. This was the first year we were in Mill Race Park. We really liked the facility and it was a great place to set up our operation. The other first was the donation of a 60 foot JLG lift. We used it to put a G5RV high up in the trees. Then we mounted our HF tribander and UHF/VHF beam to the basket and extended it to full height.

We had several new hams involved with some getting on HF for the first time. Our non-traditional mode demos generated a lot of interest and we had a blast trying to work several satellites even though we didn't make a contact.



Cory KC9BWP had a rough night!

Several visitors stopped by to ask questions and many people driving by gawking at the spectacle of a 60 foot boom lift fully extended with antennas mounted to it. Not an everyday site for a city park in southern Indiana! -- *N9LTT*



Satellite Station



Scotty KB9WCQ sweeps up. Don't tell his wife he can use a broom.



APRS Demo



Another shot of the antennas

W8VY -- Jun 30, 2003 14:13 ET



My first Field Day was in 1953 with the Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club. I returned to Kalamazoo this year to celebrate 50 years of Field Day. I had a nice time operating 40 meters CW and visiting with the 3 or 4 hams that are still in the club from back then. -- *K8SB*

K8SB inspects the feed point of the 40 meter loop antenna.

WC4AR -- Jun 30, 2003 12:24 ET

The Wilson Amateur Radio Club -WC4AR operated Field Day once again from the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Tennessee. Keith Harris -K4MHK served as our Field Day Chairman this year and he, along with XYL Julie -KG4SCU, daughter Jenny -KI4BEI and son Stephen did a fantastic job organizing the event. Despite less than desirable band conditions in the early hours of FD, members



Julie Harris -KG4SCU and Stephen Stoles hang the club banner first thing Saturday morning.



One of our hams remembers dropping a penny in this area last year during Field Day.



Alton -WA4MFI, Landon -KC5ACP and Jonathan -KG4FYH taking advantage of "the gray line" Saturday, 28 June 2003.

of the WARC and visitors had great fun. Nice weather, good friends and Amateur Radio make for a great weekend.

When the dust settled, the WC4AR Field Day event had over 50 operators and visitors. Moreover, our Field Day operation was pleased to welcome two special visitors, Tennessee's 17th District Senator Mae Beavers and her husband Jerry. Senator Beavers toured the entire Field Day grounds and met with many of our operators. It should be noted that Sen. Beavers was among those TN Legislators who early on supported our antenna legislation, which became law in April of this year.

Another special visitor to our Field Day site was newly licensed Amateur Radio operator Paul Chapman - KI4AYK and his mother Sherri. At age 12, Paul is already a very good radio operator who made numerous contacts on our GOTA station -WB4CSG. When he wasn't logging QSOs, it was fun to hear and watch Paul translate everything he read (license plates, dog tags, candy bar wrappers, you name it) into Morse code. He is going to be a CW op in no time and a good one too. As an added bonus, Paul's mother Sherri entertained many of our guests and off-duty ops late Saturday night playing her fiddle. Wow! What a treat after hours of listening to the sizzle and static of a dead band. I wish every Field Day operator in Region 2 and around the world could have been here... it was a beautiful night in Tennessee.

In a weekend filled with fun and excitement, one of the highlights for many of us was watching some of the younger non-hams making contacts on the GOTA station. Among others, Ken and Jay Brown, harmonics of Allen -WB4ECR and Nancy -N5ZUP, and James Kimbro, harmonic of Kevin -KI4ANR, each made contacts on the HF bands Saturday night under the supervision of control operator Sam Shields -WB4CSG. Sam sets up and maintains the GOTA station, and the Novice/Tech station in years past, every year during Field Day. He has a gift for making electronics and ham radio fun for kids of all ages, and he is good at making young ham want-to-bes feel at ease at the microphone. Sam is a wonderful elmer to many hams in middle



"Hellooooo Radio" ... George -KE4QCI operating on 20M.

Tennessee, and the Wilson Amateur Radio Club is lucky to have him.

All in all, Field Day 2003 at WC4AR was a great success. We did not set any records logging QSOs this weekend, but we put stations on the air under simulated emergency conditions for 24 consecutive hours without serious injury. Also, we learned many things and improved our communication skills, we promoted amateur radio, we made some new friends and got reacquainted with some old ones, and we had a world of fun. I can't wait for next year!

73, Greg Tomerlin -WN4M

Wilson Amateur Radio Club -WC4AR
info@wilsonarc.org www.wilsonarc.org -- WN4M



The K4MHK self-contained, fully-equipped, climate-controlled, mobile emergency communications vehicle complete with 40' pneumatic mast, rotor and 4-element yagi.

KD2HE -- Jun 30, 2003 11:38 ET



Looking West over the Hudson River.

This year I found an exceptional location atop an 18 story building in New York City's East Village in lower Manhattan. A friend's terrace was gratefully loaned as a site. The weather was beautiful although there were a couple of rain showers in the early morning hours. A two person tent kept everything dry.

I ran about 5 watts on 20 meters into a dipole. I'm not sure what the propagation conditions were like. The band sounded wide open from way up there. See you next year! -- KD2HE



The dipole tuned perfectly. In the distance is the Empire State building. I wonder if I might use their observation deck as a site next year.



Another view of the dipole.

W0WOB -- Jun 30, 2003 10:13 ET

Trojan ARC 2A KS (northwest) GOTA NSØO

This was a 'retro' year for the Trojans; 3 years ago we gave up a nice park at the edge of Colby for the airport, with a clearer and cleaner RF environment. But we've missed the cozy environs and playground equipment so we returned to Phillips Park.

It worked as intended because the kids had a great time and off-duty operator kibbitzing was, if possible, better than ever. We did take a hit with line noise and apologize to the many stations who surely attempted fruitlessly to answer our CQs. That, along with an unusual 5 hour downpour from 11



Although noisy and obstructed from an RF point of view, Phillips Park is a delightful family venue for FD.



Park picnic tables provide convenient and passably comfortable operating space. KCØIWH KCØGLA and KØFJ operate while KBØLGX relaxes.



PM – 4 AM and declining solar condx gave us a major drop in scoring, but the enjoyment went unscathed.

Fun highlights: delightful cool wx (even the rain was beneficial for farmers), NS00's left-handed keying and wisecracks, finishing all setup 75 minutes prior to the start (unheard of!), working the new F class stations, nice rig complement of FT-840, FT-757, IC-706, 2 FT-847s and bandpass filters. Bummers: no 6M Es openings, declining sunsopts, missed the fun graveyard shift due to rain.

Crew complement:

NØXNO Tom setup

NØXNJ Kathy cooking

NØXJ Gregg repairs, logistics

WBØUSQ Gerald moral support

KØQP Jim ssb S&P, setup

NSØO Chet cw, GOTA

KBØLGX Gerry ssb run, cooking

ACØJ Jeff logistics, ssb S&P

KCØIWH Mike cw, ssb

KCØHBR Jim ssb S&P, teardown

KCØGLA Nathan satellite, VHF

KØFJ Mike networking, ssb run

WAØCAL John food, moral support

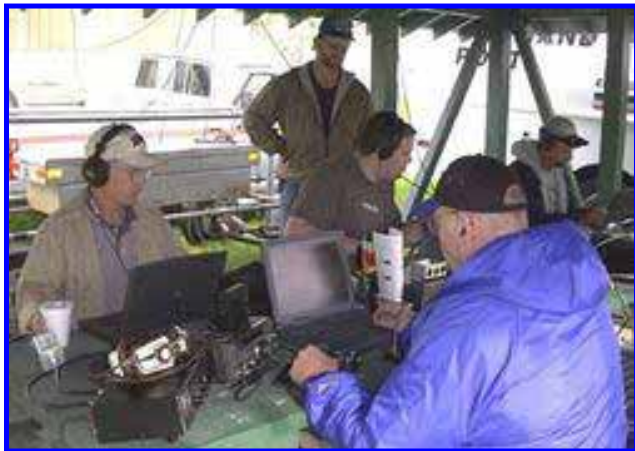
KØBJ Bruce cw

RESULTS:

Sacrilege? With no internal keyer, the FT-840 called for a Whiterook all-in-1 keyer, which happened to get weighted with a nearby Bencher paddle.....

CW 273 + 92 GOTA = 365

SSB 260 + 12 GOTA = 272



Power mult X2 = 2004 QSO points

1100 bonus points CLAIMED SCORE 3104

CU next year for more fun. More photos at <http://www.carrollsworld.com/bfrahm/FD2003.htm>
-- *K0BJ*

NØXJ stands ready to defeat any Murphy visits. KØQP on 15 cw, KCØGLA on sat, NSØO 40M GOTA, KBØLGX 20 ssb.



Field Day always comes at wheat harvest, but we'll be ready to work you next year. 73

K4BKD -- Jun 30, 2003 08:28 ET

Look who showed up to operate FD 2003! He said there would be positively no QRM!! I ran 1E from the deck with the K1 and 100' wire. Had a ball. -- *K4BKD*



There is no QRM!!

K4BKD -- Jun 30, 2003 08:26 ET

Look who showed up as a guest op!! He said there would be no QRM and we would work everyone we called! I ran the K1 and 100'wire from the deck and had a ball! -- *K4BKD*

WX9WX -- Jun 30, 2003 07:16 ET

CQ Field Day, Whiskey X-ray Nine Whiskey X-ray... try saying that three times or 10,000 times during a contest. The new "F" category facilitated a first time FD operation by N1SF Radio Club from a station built to support emergency communications between State Farm Insurance and government disaster preparedness and recovery agencies.

The WX9WX station consists of a TEN-TEC OMNI VI+, SGC Power Cube, and a B&W 160-10 end fed "roof sloper" at ninety feet. During FD, the OMNI VI+ controlled the band and mode logging of the latest DOS version of CT.

The primary goal of our operation was to determine the WX9WX station's operations capabilities (and flaws) during an extended period. With poorer propagation conditions, and thunder storms rolling through the local area Saturday night, we managed to complete 200 good contacts, mostly on SSB. We did observe a temporary high VSWR on 20 meters during and shortly after a one and one half inch downpour, probably due to "ponding" of rain water near the low end of the sloper.

We did not attempt to establish a GOTA station, but encouraged our unlicensed and Technician class members to "sit at the mike" and make contacts with a control operator.

Even with the poor conditions, FD 2003 provided a great experience for N1SF Radio Club members operating WX9WX.

73,

Gary -- *AB9M*

WA6SIM -- Jun 30, 2003 03:00 ET



Left Penny, KG6QYM; middle Mauro, WA6SIM; left Paul WA6EWV.

The most newly licensed Technician and member of the Tahoe Radio Amateur Association, South Lake Tahoe, CA (left) Penny, KG6QYM receives a Field Day procedures briefing from (middle) Mauro, WA6SIM, Treasurer and Association President, (right) Paul, WA6EWV.

A great time was had by all who participated in this Field Day at 6200 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Jack -- *KT6JS*

K2FA -- Jun 29, 2003 22:09 ET



The dreaded 3AM photo of a weary Mike KA2KQP.

The Sporadic Ham Radio Club K2FA worked the contest from the home of one of its members. Although band conditions were rough at times, we did our best to make QSO points. We used N3FLP's Field Day Network Logger program. It again worked very nicely. It was nice to hear the CW bands jumping again. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did. See you next year. -- *KF2U*



Here is Dan W2HQ, our phone op, tuning for a new one.



And finally Pete KF2U enjoying his new K8RA paddles working 40 CW.

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