

The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service Through Amateur Radio Since 1951

30th Year of Publication

Anne Arundel County's Premier Radio Club

July 2007



The Prez Sez . . .

Were you bitten by the bug?



I guess you would agree, Field Day was missing a few things this year! We did not have that nice gentle cooling rain. I did not hear or see a bit of Thunder or Lightning, nobody went running for cover. Bugs were virtually non-existent. One of the nicer touches was not having to walk all the way back to the club house to use the restroom. Since the water was turned off for the entire site due to a pump failure we had the opportunity to use portable toilets. What a nice touch! Some people pay big money for a camping experience like this. By the way, the Kids Club always uses portable toilets at their site.

This year the adult club went totally 100% QRP - Low Power. I am really new to using only low power. You might say I am like "Tim the Tool man Taylor". **I WANT MORE POWER, MORE POWER, MORE POWER.** If 2 watts will do it, I want 4 watts. The Kids Club was not totally QRP so if you really wanted to run higher power you could have worked the Kids Club Site. I was actually surprised at how many contacts we did make using 5 watts or less. I will be the first one to admit, it can be frustrating when you hear someone you want to work, there is a pile up and you don't have an equally strong signal to pounce on them. What you learn is patience, you have to wait and slip in between the big guns. I logged for several people and that's exactly what they did. It takes the game of getting through to another level. When you think about it we made a ton of contacts with only 5 watts!

Rob Hurd and Barry Lazar, Great Job!

The last thing I want to talk about is change . . . in any club or organization you will never find everyone wanting to do the same thing, the same way, or even at the same time. As people change so do the ideas and the way we think about stuff. The best thing is to be as flexible as you humanly can be; change can be good. It's always easy to ask the question, "why didn't we do it my way?" or "the way we did it before?".

The harder question to answer is: what did you do yourself to help out, to step forward, lead the group or project, what did you do to make it happen?

Volunteer for an upcoming event you will find it very rewarding.

Great People with a common interest having fun.

Bob Montagne K3REM

The ***Ham Arundel News*** is the monthly official publication of
The Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.
(ARRL Club No. 0484).

Editor: Andrea Montrose / KB3YLW

Send newsletter articles, questions and information to Andrea at
kb3ylw@comcast.net

Deadline for submissions - the last Thursday of the month.

Mailing Address:

*Anne Arundel Radio Club
Post Office Box 308
Davidsonville, MD 21035*

Meetings:

General Business 1st Thursday at 7:30 PM
Board Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM
Program/Activity 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM

Dues:

\$20 per year, payable December 1st
Discounts available for family members and students

World Wide Web:

www.w3vpr.org

AARC Supports The Maryland Slow Net:

3.563 MHz CW 7:30 P.M. Daily

Repeater Frequencies:

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560+		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters except Davidsonville 440 which is 156.7

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets. Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off of MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD. For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

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Calendar of Events

Meetings

- July 5** Business Meeting: *Comparing HAM Radio, Airline and Military Communications*
- July 12** Board Meeting
- July 19** No Program Meeting: **SkyWarn Class**
6:30 - 8:30 PM

VE Testing Schedule

Second Saturday of each month - AARC - Robert Rose / AA3RR, 410-437-8193

Third Saturday of each month - Laurel ARC - John Creel, 301-572-5124

Fourth Tuesday of each month - MMARC - Harold Nichols / WB4OGP, 410-757-0493

To all exams bring:

- Picture ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of current FCC amateur radio license
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of all element credits (e.g., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE).

ARRL Membership Reminder

Free Money for AARC!

ARRL Affiliated Clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters:

- **Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more).**
- **Clubs retain \$2 for each renewal. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.**

Send your application and payment (made out to AARC) to the club treasurer.

Coming Up:

Jul 19 - No Club Meeting / Skywarn Class / NOTE: Special Starting Time!

We will be holding a Skywarn Class in place of the regular Club Meeting on July 19th

- YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND!

National Weather Service - "A Weather Warning System", Instructor -- Chris Strong
- Certification of Weather Watch 2 hour class 6:30PM to 8:30.

The clubhouse can legally support 60 people. Once that number is reached no one else will be allowed in. Places are filling fast! If you have to cancel for any reason, please let the coordinators know so someone else can take your spot. If there is a need we can schedule a 2nd class at a later date so let the guys know if you can't make this one but would like to attend if a 2nd class is held.

Email Terry or Bob to register TODAY!

Terry Nixon, KB3CWQ is coordinating - thnixon@qis.net

Back up is Bob Montagne - K3REM@Verizon.net



CQ YLs !!! CQ YLs !!!

de KB3ATI

Please mark your calendars and join us of an afternoon YL-only gathering at the AARC clubhouse, Sunday July 15th from 1-3pm.

Meet your sister YLs and discuss aspects of amateur radio we can enjoy together.

Light refreshments will be available but feel free to bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.

Please RSVP via e-mail (kb3ati@ki3ds.org) or by phone (410-437-8193) or via Holly's Morning Net.

Hope to see you on the 15th.

33's

Brenda / KB3ATI

TWO PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS



Sunday, August 26 - Annapolis Striders' Ten Mile Run, starting in the wee hours at the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium in Annapolis. And, just two weeks later . . .

Sunday, September 9 - The first-ever Annapolis Triathlon, a swim-bike-run event that may turn out to be the largest public service activity in this area. We'll need LOTS of operators for this one!



Please mark both dates on your calendars. I know it's kinda early to be making a commitment, so let's do it this way: If you know you can participate, great, let me know; but if you THINK you're interested, but you can't yet commit to the date(s), let me know that you are a "maybe" (for either event). Then let's talk again as we get closer to each date to see if you can make it. As usual, you'll need a 2-meter HT (hopefully with tone transmit and 440 capabilities), a decent HT antenna and a spare battery. If you've never done this kind of thing before, step up and give it a try! You'll like it!! Sign up with Ted (K3TED) at tredick@verizon.net or 410 647-2795.

Fox Hunt

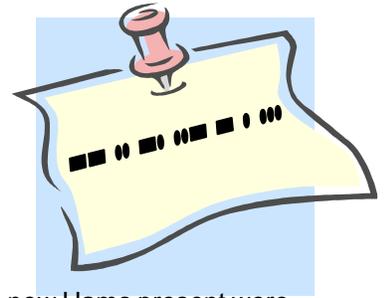
There will be a 2 Meter on Saturday, July 14 at 0800. Starting point is Friendship Park on Dorsey Road (near BWI). No experience is necessary; you can ride along with an experienced hunter to learn how it's done.

For more info contact Mike / KA2JAI at mikemontrose@comcast.net

AARC Business Meeting for June 7 2007

Officers present for the meeting were:

Bob Montagne / K3REM	President	Manaen Schlabach / KB3NQD	Treasurer
Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU	Secretary	Fred Koester / K3LMR	Director
Oscar Ramsey / NV3G	Director		



Bob Montagne called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Introductions were made and all of the new Hams present were recognized. Bob presented Austin Lund, the Science Fair Winner and new Technician with his HT.

Kim Delamarter read the minutes from the May 17, 2007 Program meeting. Manaen Schlabach gave a treasurer report. Both reports were accepted as read.

Tom Hogevooll gave an update on the Kids Club. They are working hard to get ready for Field Day. He invited everyone to come by the Kids Club Field Day Site to sign in.

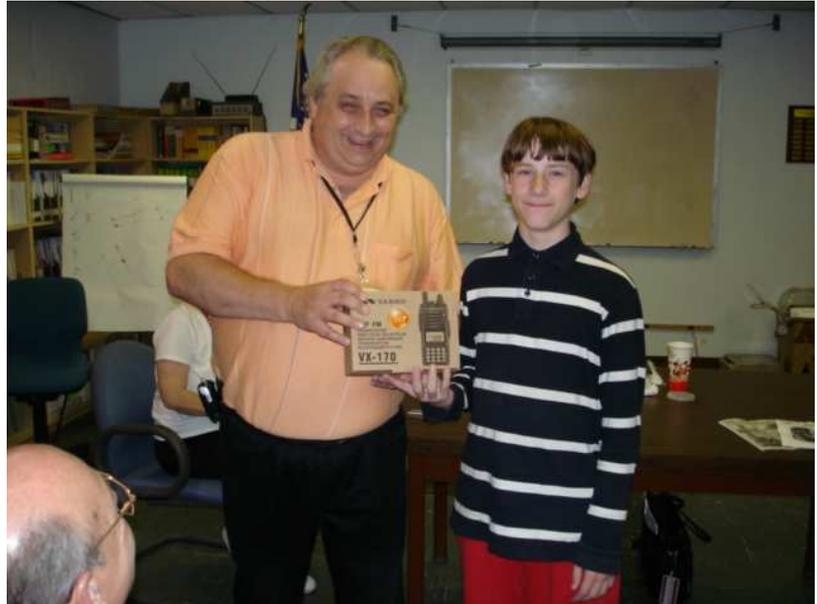
There were several new members presented and accepted. Most were from the recent Tech Class. All of the recent Tech Class passed their exams.

On July 19 we will be having Skywarn training. It will be from 6:30-8:30pm. There is limited space so everyone needs to register now. Once you have finished the class you will be an official Skywarn Spotter.

Old Business:

Kim Delamarter gave an update on the Picnic. She asked everyone to make sure they signed up. She also asked for volunteers to help with the picnic.

Rob Hurd gave an update on Field Day. He asked for money to purchase some equipment. This equipment will be stored at the Hamshack and can be used each Field Day. It is a good base and more equipment can be added each year to make Field Day a success. The money was approved. We also voted to get a Port-o-Potty for the Kids Club to use for their Field Day.



New Business:

There was a discussion on getting broadband service for the Clubhouse. We are checking with different companies for price and availability. Barry Lazar suggested we try to get one of the companies to sponsor our broadband service as a public service.

Bob Montagne showed the new Field Day tee shirt. These shirts and other field day souvenirs are available on the ARRL website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with reminders about the picnic and Field day.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU / Secretary

AARC Board Meeting for June 14, 2007

Officers present for the meeting were:

Bob Montagne / K3REM	President	Manaen Schlabach / KB3NQD	Treasurer
Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU	Secretary	Fred Koester / K3LMR	Director
Oscar Ramsey / NV3G	Director	John Williams / K8JW	Director

The Skywarn Class is growing. We discussed how many people we could get in our building. After some calculating it was decided we could accommodate about 60 people. We talked about having the class at another location but decided against it. Anyone who wishes to attend the class must pre-register.

The budget for the club picnic was \$200.00. Kim Delamarter and Laura Schlabach, the picnic coordinators this year requested an increase in the amount. John Williams made a motion that it be increased to \$300.00. The motion was approved.

We decided against getting the soda machine. It was reported that the machine held bottle sodas instead of cans. The board decided against the machine for this reason.

Fred Koester reported that he had talked to Verizon about Internet service for the Club. They suggested that we talk to the county. John Williams was going to rewrite his letter to the EOC about upgrading our building to an alternate EOC site and this would include Internet service.

Fred also gave an update on the Columbia Radio Assoc. using our PA system. They returned all the equipment and thanked us for its use. They said it worked out very well.

John Williams suggested that we contact some former club presidents and board members. He gave Bob Montagne a list of name and Bob was going to make sure they got contacted.

Manaen Schlabach reported that work is continuing on the new website. It should be up and working by the end of July.

On July 14 we will start a new Technician Class. We are hoping to get participation from people that attended Field Day. We are giving the class right after Field Day so that people will not lose interest. There will be information available to hand out to visitors about the club and the class.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU / Secretary

AARC Program Meeting for June 21, 2007

Officers present for the meeting were:

Bob Montagne / K3REM	President	Manaen Schlabach / KB3NQD	Treasurer
Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU	Secretary	Oscar Ramsey / NV3G	Director
Fred Koester / K3LMR	Director	John Williams / K8JW	Director

Bob Montagne welcomed everyone to the meeting. We opened with the Pledge and everyone introduced themselves. Bob also introduced our guest speaker, A.J. Farmer, AJ3U.

Bob reported that the Skywarn class is to be held July 19. Our clubhouse can hold about 60 people. About 30 people have already registered. Skywarn requires that everyone pre-register for the class so anyone interested should register ASAP.

The new Technician Class will start on July 14. Bob Rose is working on getting class materials together. We hope to get participation from people who attended Field Day. The teachers have already volunteered and are getting prepared.

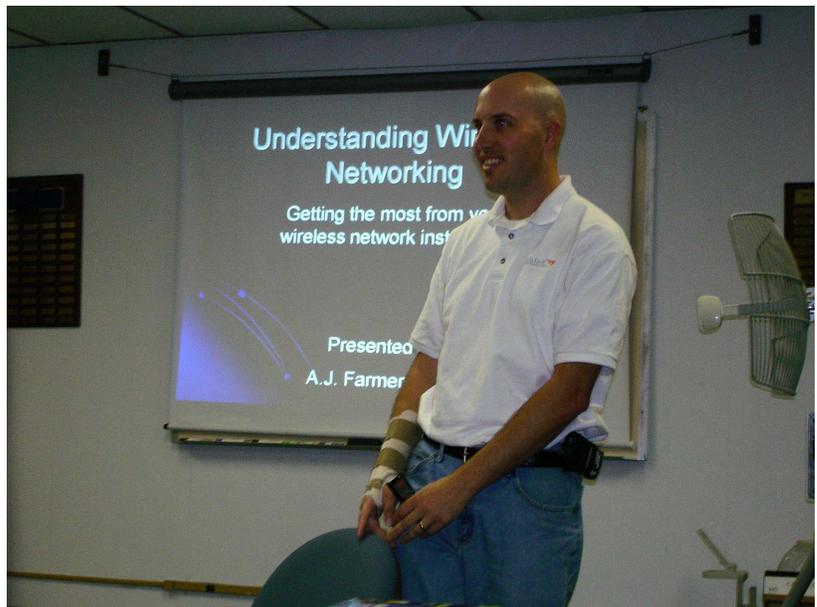
Ted Redick gave information on upcoming public service events. The Annapolis 10K run will be held the last weekend in August. On September 9th is the new event we are participating in. This event is a Triathlon and will require about 40 volunteers. Help is needed for both of these events so please volunteer.

Tom Hogevoll announced that the Kids Roundup went international this year. He also requested that everyone drop by the Kids Club field day site and sign their log.

Bob then turned the meeting over to A.J. Farmer. He gave a great presentation on understanding wireless networking. His presentation included a power point program and equipment demonstrations. There were lots of questions asked and answered.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Delamarter / KB3NGU / Secretary



Wow! That was fun! Can't we do this more often?

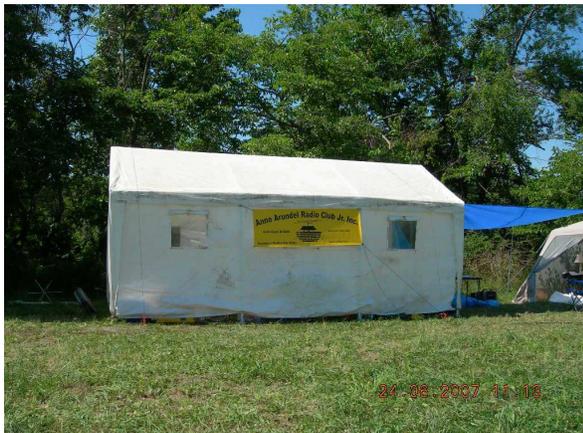
de KI3DS

Now that's what Field Day is supposed to be like: Great weather, good friends, and lots of contacts! Hope you had fun during Field Day! Here's how our Field Day came together. Note: All times are local.

Friday: AARC Jr would meet at our Field Day site around 1500 and raise a couple antenna masts, put up a three shelters, and hang a couple antennas. The rest of the stuff would be done on Saturday. It looked like it was going to be a very laid-back Field Day set-up. We expected our porta-potty to be delivered between 1500 and 1600. Naturally, with no one around, our porta-potty was delivered to our FD site around noon. Many thanks to John (WB3KDB), who coordinated the delivery and positioning of our potty. Hopefully, the billing problem got straightened out.

Steve (K3BAY) and Brenda (KB3ATI) arrived first followed by Tom (K3TH). Rob (N3HU) helped deliver two antenna masts, three tables and 10 chairs from the clubhouse to our FD site – Thanks Rob!

In the meantime, Bob (AA3RR) was stuck in traffic in Virginia and didn't arrive on site until almost 1730. Mark (K3MHL) brought a portable 10' x 20' garage that we used to house three stations. Joe (KB3MNZ) dropped by to lend a hand and we appreciated his assistance as always. Thanks Joe! By the way, it only took 15 minutes to assemble and cover the garage.



The "garage" with three HF stations



Three operating shelters
(3 x HF, 1 x HF and 1 x VHF)

After we put up the three operating shelters (*shown above*) we assembled and raised one of our two antenna masts. We had to stop working on the second mast for a minor logistics problem that we resolved on Saturday. In the meantime, we raised a G5RV across the valley in back of the tree line behind the shelters. Next, we tested our generator, the UPS and fans. We also set up the tables and chairs in the shelters and then called it quits for the day. Steve, Tom, and Tom's boys (Jimmy (KB3PGY), Billy and Joey) remained on site overnight.

Saturday: The best laid plans... After several false starts and turnarounds, Bob and Brenda made it down to the Field Day site. Darrin (KA3CUQ) and his son DJ had arrived at the site and helped with the rest of the set-up. The second mast was raised, two V-Beams and another G5RV were hoisted and a vertical with radials was installed. Bob made a quick trip to the AARC clubhouse to retrieve some hamburgers and hot dogs. In the meantime, Steve had set up our LAN for logging all our contacts from our five stations and had all the bugs worked out. After a break for lunch, we set up our stations (3 x HF SSB, 1 x HF CW, and 1 x VHF SSB). Brenda, Steve and Tom were the Control Ops for the HF SSB stations (20m, 40m and 10/15/80m), Bob was the CW Control Op and Jimmy (KB3PGY - Our brand new ham) was the Control Op for the VHF station (2m and 6m).

At 1405, Jimmy made our first Field Day contact with a distant station (W3VPR 5A MDC). Six hundred and seventy-five contacts later, Jimmy made our last Field Day contact on Sunday at 1359. In between those two contacts, we had a lot of fun.

Darrin and DJ operated HF-3 (10/15/80) until they had to depart around 6pm because DJ had to get ready to go to Scout camp in the morning. Before he left, DJ managed to log 21 contacts on 80m. Steve (HF-1) and Brenda (HF-2) were busy on 40m and 20m, respectively. Throughout FD, they would swap bands to take advantage of their antennas. Steve's V-Beam antenna was aimed north and Brenda's was aimed west. Tom was helping Jimmy log his VHF contacts and Jimmy would prove to be a QSO machine with 122 QSOs. Bob assumed the unofficial role of tour guide and welcomed our visitors and gave them the "nickel tour". Eventually he got to sit down on the CW station and started making contacts using a home-brewed straight key made from junk parts by Norm Chipps (N3RZU) and a Nye Viking straight key. Despite the interruptions, Bob had a pretty good Field Day and made 215 contacts including 199 CW contacts using a couple straight keys ("Paddles? I don't need no stinkin' paddles").



The photo above shows Steve (red hat) and Brenda operating inside the garage. Note the Kayak in the background. Steve was ready in case it rained like last year. At night, we used holiday rope lights that surprisingly produced a lot of light inside the shelter. On the right hand side of the picture on the right, you can see the laptop of the CW station glowing in the dark.

Joe returned to the site and this time he brought a grill and cooked burgers and dogs for everyone. Anytime you're hungry it doesn't matter if what you had for dinner is what you had for lunch. They were delicious both times! Thanks Joe!



Around 2030, we brought our version of the GOTA station on-line when our two "goata" operators finally showed up albeit almost 7 hours late! The goats escaped from their pen by the church and followed some of the kids back to our site. They wandered through the shelters checking things out and looking for new friends. On the left you can see Steve, Brenda and Jimmy trying to set up the "AARC Jr Petting Zoo". Later on, a rabbit wandered through the site and caused even more pandemonium.

After the goats were returned to their owner (Mark), everything settled down and we got serious about making contacts, more or less. The VHF station was shut down and Tom and Jimmy were going full speed on 80m which was really productive as was 40m. These two bands provided about 67% of our total contacts. Surprisingly, 20m wasn't as productive. In fact, about 86% of our contacts were made with stations east of the Mississippi River. Only 93 of our 676 contacts were made with stations west of the Mississippi River and the preponderance of our contacts was made with 2A and 3A stations.



Note how bright the garage is from just 3 rope lights. That's Tom in the middle shelter in the left hand picture (He had a brass table lamp and the end shelter had a Coleman lantern). In the picture on the right you can see the 2m/6m antennas and the other two shelters to the right of the garage.

Mark returned to the site around 2300 with his son, Doug. Steve, Jimmy and Brenda had all gone to bed at that point so Doug, working with Tom, picked up from where Jimmy left off. Doug made 32 contacts before he called it quits around 0200. Shortly after that, Tom also called it quits for a while and took a nap (He, Jimmy and Steve had been up since 0530). That left Bob and Mark to keep making contacts. They took turns making contacts and dozing off (The dents on Mark's forehead are from the microphone he kept hitting). Between 0500 and 0600 the CW log shows only one contact which strongly suggests that Bob was checking on the generator or more likely, checking his eyelids for holes at the CW station.

Sunday: Steve and Brenda returned to their stations around 0600 so Bob took a short nap from 0600-0900. At the same time, Mark went home to take care of his chickens and goats and to get cleaned up for church. Around 0900 Jimmy returned to action and making contacts on 80m. Looking at the log book, we really went into high gear during the last 4 hours. During the last four hours, we made 226 contacts, which represent 33% of our 676 Field Day contacts.

At 1400 all of the radios went silent and after a brief break to catch our breath and pour water on the smoking CW key, we reluctantly began one of the last phases of Field Day – take down and clean-up. Although the temperature was in the upper 80's, everything went smoothly. Finally, the last items were pack up and loaded in the vehicles and at 1630 the only thing that remained to suggest something had happened in the field was the lonely green and white porta potty standing at the end of the tree line.

We left our Field Day site in our respective vehicles and headed to our homes with a lot of good memories and enthusiasm (unlike last year) and CW still ringing in one person's ears. Later that night, we started making plans for next year's Field Day and it's gonna be way better than this year's! And as always, we'll be operating all stations at 100 Watts (except the PSK-31 station).

Two days following Field Day, we started receiving QSL cards from some of the stations we had worked.

Our next big event is the Maryland QSO Party. Stop by the clubhouse after testing on August 11th or after Noon on August 12th.

Field Day 2007

Barry LaZar, K3NDM



What a weekend! The weatherman sure did us a favor this year! I can't remember when over the last few years conditions have been as good as or better than we had this year. I didn't need to pull the fan out of my car or run for a raincoat. In fact, mid morning on Sunday, it felt so good in the 20 meter phone tent that it didn't make a lot of difference to me whether I was making contacts or not. The temperature and the breeze made up for a lot, just ask Terry; he was in the tent with me.

However, band conditions were, politely put, interesting. I have lived through a number of solar minima, but I can't remember when fading had the characteristics displayed this Field Day weekend. I can't speak for the rest of the crowd, but I sure saw things I've not seen before. My best guess is that sporadic E both helped and hurt us.



You may be asking how it helped. Well just ask the folk who were working on six meters. They had a bit of fun working out of the local area, even when the beam was not aimed dead on.

The set up on the Friday before the grand event was a long day. One of the more interesting events was trying to get the 80/20 CW station antenna up close to properly. Has anyone ever tried to hang some weight on a wet noodle? Well that was what it seemed we were trying to do. A number of us tried for a while to get it all sorted out; we failed. The next team came in, lowered the mast, installed a fourth guy at three places, and put the antenna up at 30 feet instead of the 40 feet we had hoped for. This was a lesson learned; Don't try to put serious weight at the top of a 40 footer without proper guying. The rest of the masts that were to hold up wire antennas

were the usual 30 foot steel push up types, and they went up with surprising ease.

There were a number of changes in the plan for antennas. Several months back there was no plan for a good beam, but that changed and made some positive difference. Glad we did that one. Thanks to John Williams, K8JW for providing it.

Somewhere along the line, the idea to use perpendicular delta loops for 40 meter stations got added to the plan. I know it wasn't me, and I can't believe it came from a digitally based engineer. So I can't say how this happened. (Note: this same digital engineer also worked with the team who *successfully* erected the 80/20 mast!!). We discovered that we did not have enough antennas to do this. Soooo, we ended up having to make a few antennas. Well let me say this about that. A number of folk gathered at or about the location for the 40 meter phone tent and some discussion ensued as to how long the wire needed to be, how to feed the things, etc. Well several numbers were thrown out between 140 and 143 feet; I'm not sure which number actually won. One of the party used the open arms/figure tip technique to measure out the wire, and the first antenna was "manufactured". Using the same rigor, a second was made. One of the antennas used a coax choke and the other a real balun. What came as a real surprise was that the antennas were actually



resonant in the 40 meter band!



The one annoyance this weekend was the site local area network. The 80/20 phone and CW stations both had intermittent problems. Next year this is going to need some attention as this problem was both frustrating and caused a loss of logged contacts. Raven (KB3MUV) has some thoughts on this. Setup of the network was completed and the computers were at the stations after 1330. Phew! That was close.

We did operate 5A QRP on batteries and solar power. But in spite of these apparent limitations, we worked Hawaii, Puerto Rico, up and down the west coast, across Canada, across the Gulf Coast, and most things in between. Rob and I haven't finished poring over everything. We didn't quite make WAS, missing the Virgin Islands, EWA, WY, AK NV along with NT, NL and MB in the great white north. We do appear to have a better score

than we have had in the last two years. A better accounting will follow.

The Road Kill Café menu and execution this year looked, smelled and tasted 5 star. Had Field Day been a complete bust, dinner at the café would have made all of the effort worthwhile. If you didn't participate this year, you sure missed something GREAT! And the service wasn't bad either. Mucho thanks to Fred (K3LMR), Terry (KB3CWQ) and Barb (KB3LDM) for running an outstanding chow hall.

Another big thank you to Holly (N3MB) for doing all of the publicity and invitations as well as manning the visitor table with Dick (K3HQ). Also, kudos to the Delamarters (Bob KB3MPR, Kim KB3NGU and Rob KB3PEB) for running the GOTA station for the full 24 hours.

Lastly a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the arduous task of setting up and tearing down, especially all the sleep deprived operators who stuck through the tear down. We were done with tear down in an amazingly short time.



We all took some lessons learned from the weekend and will be applying them to next year.

All in all the weekend went well. The food really was spectacular and so was the weather. Could we have used a little more participation? Sure, but we had enough to have fun. A few of our operators had little to no experience in this kind of activity, but they were soon doing well. It was a good place to spin up fast and have some real fun. For those who didn't make it this year, hope to see you next year. Just remember we are starting up the solar cycle, so next year will be much better than this. See you then.

Mark Your Calendar
Field Day 2008 is June 28/29

Shack of the Month!

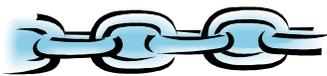
Eric / N3EF on Field Day!



Here's my "shack" for this years field day operation. I set up in our sunroom and operated as 1E. Used my FT897 at 50 watts on battery power and operated for about 14 hours making 435 cw contacts. Worked 15m, 20m, 40m and 80m using a 40m dipole and an 80m dipole fed with ladder line and auto-tuner.

Eric N3EF

If you would like to show off your shack, email a photo (or several photos) and a description to KB3YLW@comcast.net



Link of the Month

This month's link is to www.amateurlogic.com/blog . Here, three licensed hams create high quality video podcasts that include significant amateur related content. They've done 13 episodes since October, 2005. The content also features segments on technical subjects such as digital photography, wifi, computers, soldering and broadcast equipment. The video is high quality and it's obvious they've put a lot of work into producing these videos. They run from around 30 minutes to nearly 60 minutes in length. There are several different formats in which you can view the videos.

Eric N3EF

NEWSLETTER - MARYLAND SLOW NET

MEETS DAILY AT 3563 @ 7:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME

June 2007

May Honor Roll (15+ check-ins)
VE1CB, W8CPG, WE2G, VE2KRM

May Statistics
Sessions: 31 Minutes: 820
QTC: 114 QNI: 160

TO: MSN
FROM: W8CPG

Student News

- Welcome to John/KD3ZD of Stroudsburg, PA and Ron/N3AEA of Baltimore, MD. John was licensed in 1991 and earned his Extra class in 3 months. Ron holds degrees in physics and electrical engineering and teaches math, science and astronomy after a career at Goddard Space Flight School. It's great to have you men join the MSN and expand your horizons even further.

Net Protocol

- Students, when QNI and wish training, ask for the next Training Message you need. QRV means you are ready to copy and is used to tell your Instructor or TX Stn you're prepared to copy.
- Bill/WB9LBI suggested we practice creative QNB. Band conditions are poor and not all stations QNJ each other. Rather than lose traffic, NCSs should inquire as to who can copy whom and set up appropriate QNB to enable traffic to be transmitted successfully. For example, VE2KRM had QTC W8CPG - 1. W8CPG QNP VE2KRM but QNJ N3ZOC who sent traffic to VE2KRM. Thus, N3ZOC could take VE2KRM's traffic and QNB to W8CPG. Hope that makes sense. Let's give it a try.
- Please try to bring some traffic to the net. It's good practice and livens things up when there's work to be done. Try sending messages to Students (on Roster) who appear to be inactive and ask if you can help them in some way to continue with the training course, and don't forget holidays and birthdays.

Around The Net

- Bruce/W8CPG was honored to receive his certificate of membership in the ARRL A-1 Operator Club this month. The Club was formed in 1934 to recognize excellence in Amateur Radio operating skills, including CW operations, use of proper procedures and abbreviations, judgment and courtesy.
- Dean/KB3HOO recently returned from his Sister-In-Law's wedding in Myrtle Beach, SC where he had some time on the golf course to reflect on both serious and pleasurable things. No mention of golf scores, but he said the wedding was a big success.
- Welcome back to Frank/N3ZOC from a family reunion in GA. Frank reported the trip was successful and he and Sue returned unscathed. No mention of hunting for girls, but then Frank's not from WV (we'uns know that family reunions is the best place to hunt for gals).

Cryptoquips and Philosophy du Jour

What was the most extensive surgical procedure ever done? I suppose it was Lansing Michigan. If someone were to blab all of the magician's secrets, I guess he would be dis-illusioned. Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't. Pete Seeger A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way. Mark Twain

MSN NET ASSIGNMENTS

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
MSN NCS	K4OSO	N3WK	VE1CB	WB9LBI	K3IN	N3ZOC	AA3SB
ALT. NCS		VE2KRM					KB3HOO
MDD REP	W3CB	N3WK		N3ZOC	K3IN	KC3Y	AA3SB

73, Bruce/W8CPG AR

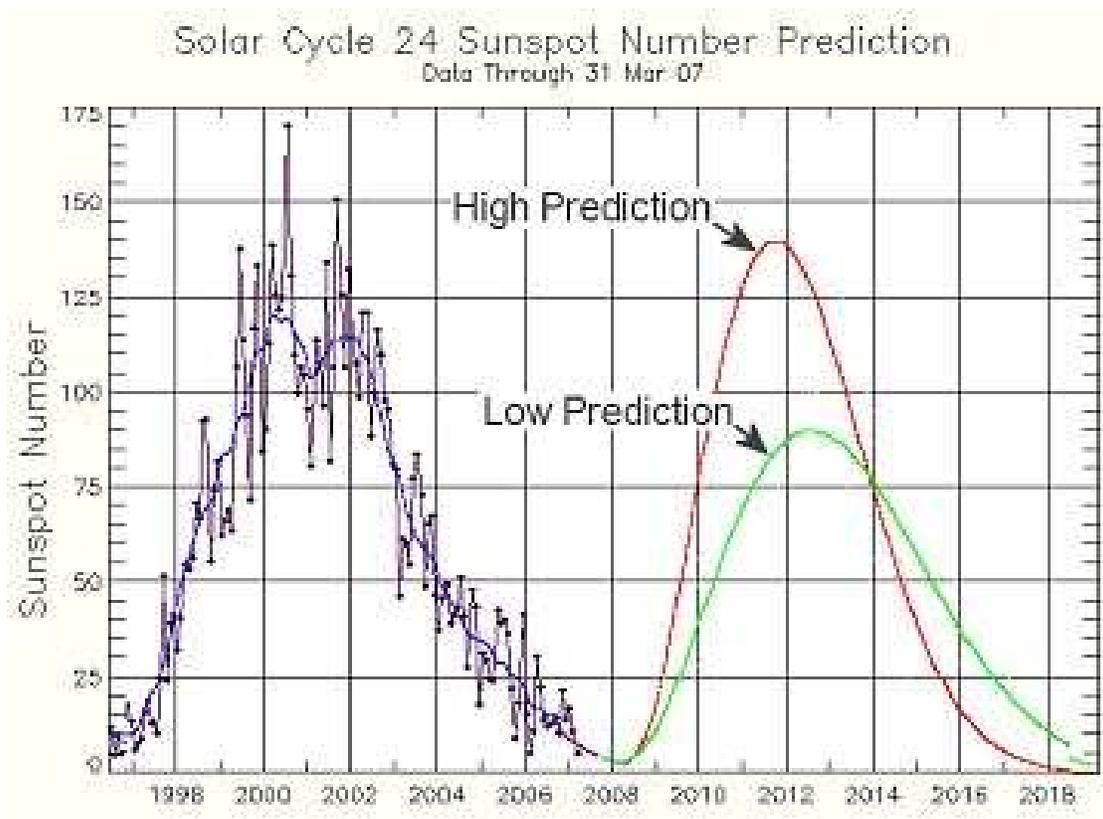
From Mildred Fitch:

Occasionally, Mildred /KC4QYJ sends along an article from the Lake Wales Repeater Association Newsletter. Here is one that she thought would be of interest to us. Visit them at <http://www.lwra.org>

SOLAR CYCLE NEWS: This week in Boulder, Colorado, a group of leading solar physicists met to compare and discuss their predictions for the next solar maximum. On April 25th they held a press conference and announced ... a split decision. One camp holds that Solar Cycle 24 will be intense and peak in 2011; a second group predicts a much weaker maximum in 2012.

As a community, solar physicists are still undecided on the best way to predict solar activity. The plot, above, is a summary of 40 different forecasts, none of which agree in detail. The confusion won't last forever. As Cycle 24 unfolds, the sun itself will tell us which is correct.

Researchers were able to agree on one thing: Solar activity is entering a period of deep minimum. Based on declining sunspot numbers and other factors, the cycle should hit rock bottom in March 2008 plus or minus six months.



Source – www.spaceweather.com April 27, 2007

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