

KCARRC

KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

July 2009

Our First Field Day!



Field Day 2009

As new ham operators, Robert (KF5BAD) and I (W5ELF) got to experience our first, but not last field day. We started Friday evening assembling antennas to put up on Saturday morning. Robert, as the GOTA station operator had to assemble the antenna for his radio, with instruction from Paul Knight, (KE5OVA) Steve Duncan (WX5SD), and Jim Limas (KF5AZZ).

Howard (WB5EKW) brought several new radios with antennas for us to use. I got all the technical info from him to add in, because I knew I would never remember it all at that time.

Following a wonderful breakfast Saturday morning at the Towne Crier, (thank you so much Howard). We started putting up antennas. HOT? Yes it was, but we tried to keep people cool by following everyone around

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with a large beach umbrella, that was a sight to see. Our President, George Toone, supervised to make sure we got it all right. We also made sure everyone stayed hydrated with plenty of water and Gatorade. Charlie (KE5OGP) worked so hard he made ME tired!

The very first HF radio that was setup was the one that Robert used, the GOTA station. That one was the Icom IC-718 transceiver. Howard added the optional antenna tuner box from the LDG Tuner corporation, their IT-100 Tuner. The



Icom IC-718 – GOTA Station

vertical antenna used at the GOTA station was from the COMET antenna company. It was their CHA-250A vertical for HF bands. Covers the ham bands from 3.5 Mhz (80 Meters) up thru 57 Mhz (6 Meters).

For the indoor 20 Meter, SSB station: It was the Icom IC-7200 HF transceiver with another LDG IT-100 tuner box added. SM-20 Icom Mic, Alinco DM-330MVT switching DC power supply for the 12 volts to run the transceiver. The antenna is by Alpha Delta company, their DX-CC parallel wire dipole. Covers 10 thru 80 meters. Heavy duty dipole, handles lots of RF power out, like a kilowatt+ power level. This station was run by several different people during the contest, Steve Duncan, Jim Limas, Lynette O'Neal and a visitor, Jack Beckett, that has recently moved here from Kansas City.

Howard came prepared to stay for the duration

with what he jokingly called, "The Elephant Tent", complete with a portable air conditioner to keep all his equipment and himself cool. Out in the Elephant Tent he had the Icom IC-756 pro 3 transceiver, and a specialty interface box from microHAM company, their microkeyer-2. It's like an external sound card that interfaces to a transceiver to send/receive RTTY, radio teletype, CW, Packet, PSK-31 from your laptop. The antenna for the FD Digital station was from the HUSTLER corporation, their 6-BTV Vertical, covers 10 thru 80 Meters. The ground radial wires measured 32 feet long, 20 each made up by Sandi and Paul for that station.

Out in the bay's where WB5FBJ, George Toone and N5JZH, Randy Robinson were, they used the Kenwood TS-2000 HF transceiver. That radio has lots of extra stuff in it. It has a built in antenna tuner, plus it has a built in 2 Meter and 70 cm (440 Mhz) transceivers. Great radio !!



George WB5FBJ & Randy N5JZH

Howard said he believed that Randy brought along one of his Alinco DX-70TH for HF backup. Cool radio, matching the same 100 watts output as the Icom rigs there, and it has 6 Meter capability, yet is as compact as a mobile two meter radio. Runs on 12 volts DC, just like all the Icom radio's. Randy brought his mobile tower setup and installed his dual element 40 Meter (7.2 Mhz) Beam, plus a three element 6 meter (52 Mhz) Beam, that was actually used by Brent Morris. Brent was using a YAESU FT-857D (HF,50,144,430 Mhz).

Glen was there to make sure all our computers were up and running.



Jim Richard KIUQI working on radial ground

We even had some excitement Saturday afternoon, when Charlie and Bill had to leave to help fight a fire.

Our thanks to Howard for the use of all the equipment, the Hamby Fire Department for the use of their facility and we can't forget the Red Cross that brought us a supply of water, snacks and cots. Also we would like to thank Kendall Thomas for cooking up all the meat for Saturday nights meal.

Kendall might be able to fight fires, but from a couple of pictures, setting up a cot seems to be a bit complicated for him.

Those of you that weren't there to help with set-up, take down or just to check us all out, missed a great time and an opportunity for a lot of camaraderie. We got acquainted with members that we had only been introduced to and deepened friendships with those that we were already familiar with.

Pictures can be seen on this site:
<http://keycityradioclub.shutterfly.com/>

de Lynette W5ELF

May Social



May 2009 Social

The May social was held at the Field Day sight and was covered in the main article. The July Social will be held at Mr. Gatti's on July 25th at 4 PM. Be sure to come as there is definitely a good time to be had by all.

The Editor's Goodbye

This is always one section you hate to see (at least I always hate to see it). Before I go, I guess I'd like to muddle on down memory lane. I first became a ham back in 1981. It was there in the back of W.K. Wiggins' (WB5ZOO) electronic meter repair shop that I and a few others prepared for our ham radio license. Dick Griffin N5XU and John Blank K5AB were the instructors that taught us what we needed to know and were able to test us for our novice license. To upgrade to Technician or better we had to go to the Dallas FCC office (my how things have changed). I remember going to my first field day that year at Cal Young Park. We used AE5I for our call sign (it was the call sign on Gene Smith who was an extra class). I got involved with SkyWarn right off the bat at that time. On through the years we had our various adventures with SkyWarn and the various ham fests and field days. We later went to having field day at the Abilene State School Park, Nelson Park, Taylor Elementary (inside the gym), Nelson Park, the Red Cross

Center (I really liked it there as we had AC!), and then moved out to the Hamby Volunteer Fire Department in order to avoid possible interference and liked it so well that that we asked if we could have it there again. It is just a really nice place. You know, I've had my license close to 30 years now and all of that time has pretty much been here in Abilene. I've met a lot of great people during that time, and lost some as they went SK. I've spent all of this time ramblin' on just trying to get around to saying so long. It's not really that bad I guess since I won't really be far away – I'm moving to Fort Worth and will be visiting. I'll be staying with my son for a while and hope to eventually move back to Abilene. I've enjoyed writing the newsletter and so for now, let me end the newsletter for this month and hand it over to your new editor Lynette W5ELF.

De Steve Roberts KG5QH

Coming Events:

August 7-8 Austin Texas State ARRL Convention (Austin Summerfest)

<http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

August 10, 2009 7:00 PM Club Meeting Chavez Recreation Center – 1002 Cherry Lane

October 23-25, 2009 Microwave Update Dallas

November 14th, 2009 North Central Texas Emergency Communicators' Ham-Festival

404 W. Main Street, Azle TX

<http://www.wc5c.org/WC5Cclub/NCTECH/tabid/152/Default.aspx>

Weekly Nets:

Sunday at 8:30 AM CST Big Bend Emergency Net/ West Texas Section Net 3922 KHz

Sunday 9 AM Texas Traders' Net 7245 KHz

Sunday 6 PM Continental Traders' Net 3922 KHz

Sunday at 9:00 PM Big Country Amateur Radio Net (BCARN) 443.100 MHz + FM (88.5 Tone)

Tuesday at 9:00 PM Central Texas Amateur Radio Net 443.100 MHz + FM (88.5 Tone)

Thursday at 8:00 PM Key City Thursday Night Information Net 146.760 MHz - FM (146.2 Tone)

Just to let you know, we (the KCARC), A.R.E.S., and the R.A.C.E.S. all need you, so step aboard and help with the fun stuff as well as the serious stuff.

2009 KCARC Officers

George Toone, President: [WB5FBJ](#)

Randy Robinson, Vice President & Trustee: [N5JZH](#)

John Doerschuk, Secretary: [KE5OVB](#)

Peg Richard, Treasurer: [KA4UPA](#)

