

July 2016

Field Day 2016 has come and gone. This year marks a real success for our club efforts and participation. Most members attended both days and we are claiming a score of 836 points this year, a new club record.

Joe, W6MYN constructed several amazing items for Field Day, including a grab and go suitcase style "Go Bag" with Icom 7000, Icom auto-tuner, video display and powered speaker bar in a soft sided case. Literally plug and play, just connect antenna and power and it is a self-contained station on the go. Joe also constructed a tripod based vertical with attachable radials that can pack down into a small bag. It worked well considering the poor propagation on Field Day weekend.

Brett, WA6SXU worked on integrating laptops with logging software and control interfaces to the Icom gear, thus automating contesting. We are ready for a DX-pedition style outing next!

Travis, KK6EON, lit up the airways with his SSB contesting skills adding many new contacts and taking to contesting like a fish to water! Our new high score is due to Travis burning up the airwaves.

Tom, WB6HJB rounded out the participation by showing his skills in throwing up dipole antennas with a slingshot launcher and heavy duty Kevlar string to support the high antennas over tree branches.

On Friday June 24th, Brett and Joe visited the W6RO Field Day site in Long Beach and were graciously shown the amazing contributions and detail their many member provide to have an outstanding Field Day outing. They really know how to do things right! We were impressed not only by the site, which is beautiful with many trees, but also by the innovations including a “Taktenna” which looked amazing.

Murphy was there with LARC at times, including when a rogue wind gust caught the operating pavilion sunshade and blew it over. The site on the top of Hilltop Park was good for RF takeoff but very windy and gusty in the early afternoon!

Additionally, the inverters used from our battery powered stations gave off so much RFI as to make them unusable. Logging reverted back to pen and paper, which shows that even the best planning can be offset by Murphy. Then again, that is the reason for Field Day, to shake down everything in case of a real emergency situation.

Finally, a Chili dinner with all the goodies was provided by Joe’s XYL for all on Sunday evening, and a very much looked forward to event. The chili and appetizers were amazing as always, and an excellent chance to wind down after a weekend of hard fought contacts on the bands.

This month will see the Club repeater receiver rebuilt with new filtering modifications to improve reception. Additionally, our club meeting last month, having been on the same day as Field Day, was more or less accomplished during the Field Day event itself. A hearty thanks to all participants in this years’ Field Day, and a note that it is never too soon to start planning for next years’!