

May 2016

This month leads up to our annual club outing for ARRL Field Day which this year is on the weekend of June 25-26. As the ARRL says:

Field Day

June 25 – 26, 2016

Start: 1800 UTC Saturday

End 2100 UTC Sunday

Always the fourth full weekend in June

We have approximately 6 weekends to prepare all the equipment, tables, batteries, laptops, and antennas, as well as prepare for our final choice of site for Field Day.

Will we be content with securing a local park like last year's effort, or chose a higher and more remote site? These decisions must be made before the month of June in order to allow enough time. Anyone interested in working Field day is encouraged to contact any club member! We are very open to new operators!

This past month has seen some interesting antenna work done by Joe, W6MYN in his attempt to complete his first Hex-Beam multi-band antenna. Work continues due to Joe's great optimism for the completion of the antenna. Will we see it complete for Field day? Time will tell. Other antennas that have served us were wire dipoles strung up in the park's tall trees, and an R-7 multi-band vertical stuck in the desert sand. All antennas radiate, but some do it better than others!

Discussion continues on club purchase of a generator for field day use. Selection is split between a standard frame generator or a more expensive, but quieter and more efficient portable mini-generator.

Other projects including the satellite tracking system and 900 MHz amplifier continue unabated. Each month brings in new project ideas and there is no lack of experimentation going forward with the club members.

As for DX work, Joe W6MYN continues on his efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of all DXer's and Brett WA6SXU is searching out ways to improve his DX count to get to the magic number of 100 for his DXCC. With 19 entities to go he is getting close. The bands have been very spotty of late, but with some openings here and there. Brett has also started experimenting with Meteor bounce communication on 6 meters. The advantage of Ham Radio is the never ending experimentation available to enrich your own personal experience and learning while doing.

Travis KK6EON reminds us that Summer BBQ'ing season is upon us, anyone desiring to have a club BBQ?