

CQ Field Day
de
Jim Riley W9JPR



Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, Keith Rich W9VCI, and Joey Segreti K9JFS with our new banner, before it blew down.

This was another not-so-stellar Field Day but it was still better than last year. Cycle 25 is not living up to the hype, leaving us with lousy band conditions. Saturday brought heat and wind that we weren't prepared for. Early Sunday morning brought another storm that we rode out just fine, unlike last year. No tents were damaged this year for a change. The rain also led to a leak in the church's roof that could have knocked the POTA station out of commission had the radio been placed a mere two feet to the left. We managed 434 contacts between W9AA and our GOTA station KC9CDL, not great but we still beat last year's storm-shortened total by 57. If you count a Field Day's success or failure only by QSO totals, you are missing the point. Field Day is about much more than a score.

I said at the July meeting that I wasn't going to point fingers or name names but I changed my mind. There were participants who made this year's Field Day a success by doing more than adding to the score. They should be named, pointed out, and applauded.

Let's start with the food. Helen Pawlikowski xyl of Kurt WB9FMC served up a Saturday lunch of do-it-yourself meatball sandwiches to feed the brave souls who put up antennas in the wind and tried multiple times to keep our new banner up until the wind sheared one of the poles. Thanks also to Nora Pointer KC9MLV who pre-cut the bread for everyone.

Saturday supper of hamburgers and brats along with all the trimmings was supplied by Brian Guerin KD9ZGT, Jim Johanson KD9UJK, and their wives Kelly and Beth respectively. On top of that, they cleaned all the tables and the kitchen. They did the same after Sunday morning's breakfast of muffins stuffed with eggs, cheese, sausage or ham. When they were done, it looked like we'd never been there. I have already placed them under contract for next year.

Al Bukowski N9ZD not only set up and ran the GOTA station, but he also helped at least one new ham learn how to operate HF. In addition, he helped a prospective ham get his FRN in advance of his upcoming technician exam. There were several others who made contacts under his watchful eye.

Dennis Calderone KC9DSP showed Joey Segreti K9JFS how to operate HF and make Field Day contacts. Joey joined our club that weekend and so did a few others. Another operator made his first FD contact at the trailer too.

Gerry Klotz KB9PKI brought out a solar panel so our digital station could get us bonus points for natural power contacts.

Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC pounded brass, in his sleep at times, in the CW suite but took some time out for Mike McGuire K9ACM to hone his CW contesting skills.

Linas Matonis KC9PCP did his thing on VHF/UHF all by himself tucked way back in his corner of the property.

Once again, Kurt was our top CW op. Yours truly came in first on phone. John Swanson KB9FQB was our number one digital op.

Years ago, Hamfesters wanted only “world class” operators at Field Day. They set up in their own secret space to the exclusion of other members and weren’t too pleased when visitors showed up. They finished second in their class but, in doing so, they alienated the other ninety percent of the club. Is that winning? I don’t think so.

What your Field Day team did this year was have fun, eat very well, get some new club members, and help a few others get their licenses. Oh yeah, we made a few contacts too. We worked all but two states and five US sections. I would call that a success any way you measure it.

Cast of characters

Generally in Charge: Jim Riley W9JPR

Hamfesters President: Nora Pointer KC9MLV

Field Day pins: Patty Gulick KC9LYE

Setup/tear down: Bob Fleischmann N9KWG, Gene Phillips W9PNG, Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, Keith Rich W9VCI, Jim Lendi KD9YLO, Ray Paschke NW9S, Joey Segreti K9JFS

GOTA and Field Day Message: Al Bukowski N9ZD

Saturday lunch: Helen Pawlikowski

Saturday supper, Sunday breakfast: Brian Guerin KD9ZGT, Jim Johanson KD9UJK

VHF/UHF: Linas Matonis KC9PCP

20-meter CW, Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC

20-meter digital: John Swanson KB9FQB

Trailer operator: Dennis Calderone KC9DSP

Photographers: Don Pointer KC9EQQ and Jim Riley W9JPR

Here are the stats as generated by N3FJP software:

Contest Summary Report for W9AA + KC9CDL

Total Contacts = 434

Operating Period: 2024/06/22 19:12 - 2024/06/23 15:42

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
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40	12	121	0	133	31
20	225	52	0	277	64
15	0	1	0	1	0
10	0	3	0	3	1
6	0	1	8	9	2
2	0	11	0	11	3
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Total	237	189	8	434	100

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%	
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WB9FMC	211	49	Top CW OP
W9JPR	50	12	Top Phone OP
N9ZD	42	10	
KB9FQB	39	9	Top Digital OP
K9ACM	26	6	
N9KWG	26	6	
KC9PCP	20	5	
K9JFS	7	2	
W9VCI	6	1	
KC9MLV	5	1	
KC9DSP	1	0	
KD9ZZQ	1	0	

Total = 12

A complete set of stats will be provided in the printed report.