

July Meeting

There is no general membership meeting this month or next month. The next general membership meeting will be on September 9th, 2006.

Field Day Report

Field Day 2006 began bright and early on Saturday morning, June 24th at Dwayne and Judy Broderson's QTH. This year, we decided to relocate the beam antenna that was going to support the CW station, so we walked the antenna partway up the driveway to a partial clearing on the property. After assembling two sections of Rohn 25 tower and fitting a crowfoot base, we attached the beam to the tower and proceeded to raise the entire assembly. We then completed setting up the radio for the CW station and got the logging computer network up and running. We were able to participate in the pre-Field Day net held by the Boeing St. Louis club, WØMA. After confirming that all radios were operational, we were set to get underway with Field Day. The first several hours saw fairly poor propagation and contacts were difficult to come by. By late afternoon, conditions had improved markedly and the QSO rate started to climb. After our traditional pizza dinner break things really picked up. 20 meters was buzzing and conditions remained good well into the late evening hours. 40 meters picked right up where 20 left off and the contacts were coming fast and furious. At one point, the QSO rate was up over 90 per hour. The phone station wrapped up the first day's operation around midnight but the CW station continued on until about 3:30AM Sunday morning. By then, 400 CW contacts were in the log. After a few hours sleep and a hearty pancake and sausage breakfast, we finished up Field Day with a flurry, ending operations right at 11:00AM local time on Sunday.

We had a total of 5 club members participate in Field Day as well as a number of visitors. Thanks to Terry and Rita Briggman for the assistance during set-up and teardown and to Jim and Mark Strang for supplying us with some additional equipment that was used for raising the CW station's antenna.

We logged a total of 596 QSOs between the CW and phone stations. We will be claiming credit for 450 bonus points which will make our total score 2550 points, a little better than last year. We operated in class 2E.

Thanks to Dwayne and Judy Broderson for being very gracious hosts again this year for Field Day.



Photo of the set-up crew. From L to R: Dwayne Broderson, Mark McLauchlin, Mike Wuerth, Terry Briggman, Judy Broderson, Ann Wright. Terry's wife Rita snapped this photo. Not shown in photo – Fritz VonHagel.

The club website will be updated to include summary information for Field Day along with additional photos so be sure to check it out.

Results From 7QP

The results from the inaugural running of the 7-Land QSO Party are now posted on the 7QP website at <http://www.7QP.org>. An impressive number of stations participated and over 200 of the 253 7th area counties were activated. It appears that there will be some rule changes before the next rendition of this contest so check the 7QP website for all the latest changes and information prior to next year's running of this event.

Upcoming Operating Activities

The big operating event for July is the IARU HF World Championship and the World Radiosport Team Championship. 65 teams are going head to head from Brazil to decide the title. Also of interest is the Flight of the Bumblebees CW contest which features low power portable stations operating for 4 hours in this short contest.

Local Event – Tour de Whidbey

The Tour de Whidbey will be held on September 23, 2006. The route is still in development but it is projected that a total of 15-18 amateur radio operators will be needed to support this event. Much of the projected route will be in the radio shadow of the local repeater, so high power simplex will likely be used for about half of the planned course. If you are interested in supporting this event, please contact Mike Atwood at n7xlf@arrl.net

New Products

There's a new way to assemble PL-259s – it's called the K4AVU coax crimper and its designed to crimp the back portion of the PL-259 to the coax, thus eliminating the need to solder the braid to the connector shell. The price of this handy tool is \$29.

MFJ has a new rotatable mini dipole that covers 2 through 40 meters. The antenna is 14 feet long and has a turning radius of 7 feet. It has a power rating of 1500 watts. There is another version available that covers 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters only. These antennas are made from aluminum tubing and feature fiberglass insulators. They are lightweight and are easily turned by a light duty TV antenna rotator. Price is \$239.95 for either version.

BEARONS VE Testing

There is a BEARONS VE test session scheduled for Wednesday, July 26th at 6:30PM at the Everett Activities Center. There's no time like the present to get your first ham ticket or going for that upgrade you've been talking about for months!!

Classifieds

No listings this month