

The Short Circuit

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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2007

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

Experienced Amateur radio operators know that Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise sponsored in the USA by the American Radio Relay League and takes place annually each last full weekend in June. The exercise is typically continuous for a 24 hour period. I use the term experienced because we recently have had a number of newly licensed hams in our area and club and not all are familiar with this event. Enough have asked questions that I felt a need to give a brief explanation of this exercise. The intent of this column is (1) to provide an overview of this event as club particulars will be no doubt be forthcoming from our club Vice President and Field Day Chairman Jon Clark. And (2) to provide everyone with an update of Field Day in general.

One of the purposes of this event is to encourage emergency communications preparedness. It is the largest amateur radio exercise in the country with over 30,000 ham radio operators participating each year. It also provides "rusty" and new users the opportunity to operate under someone else's tutelage. In addition, it allows non hams to Get On The Air(GOTA) without having equipment and/or antennas otherwise available to them.

Since the first Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States

have practiced the "rapid" deployment

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 5, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Primrose Room of the Larry Chimbole Center in Palmdale. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature a post-mortem of our Field Day activity. Also, Dan Sherwood WA6PZK will give a presentation on the procedure for renewing your ham license online. See you there!



From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

By the time you are reading this column, Field Day will be over. I had no idea what I was up against when I volunteered for this job in April. From the beginning, a number of people volunteered to help. However, for some time I was not sure what help I needed or what task needed to get done. So things got off to a slow start and we were late as it was.

In hindsight, what I really needed was a Field Day Elmer. Luckily, for me and the club, Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ realized this fact way before I did. He gave me a call to ask about whether we were going to field a CW station. He had heard that we might have a problem in that area. He volunteered to be the CW Station Captain. He quickly secured a team of operators, a trailer and equipment for the station.

In the process of discussing all the requirements for the CW station, the subject shifted to Field Day in general. Jim supplied me with some of the club's Field Day history and a laundry list issues that need to be dealt with to get Field Day going. He gave me a much better idea of what Field Day is about and why the club should be striving for better Field Days. Whatever success we have in this year's Field Day will have been largely affected by the mentoring I have received from Jim.

One of the main ingredients for good Field Days is continuity. We have had some continuity in recent years through the fact that mostly the same people

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President's Corner...



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of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). This year, and for a number of years now, our club has participated in this event from the Lancaster City Park located 10th Street West and approximately Avenue L.

Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged for this event, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather. While this event is not a competition there are various activities and modes that will accumulate points for participants to determine the effectiveness of the exercise. Additional points are awarded for such things as experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts through space satellites and involving youth in the activity.

There is some local breaking news regarding Field Day. Terry Runyon K3PXX has recently been appointed ARRL Assistant Section

Manager for Communications and Public Information. Terry is charged with the responsibility of ARRL Section Public Relations for Field Day for San Diego and Imperial Counties. Terry works with the media to generate as much PR as possible for this event. Since the term Field Day is a meaningless name to everyone except "dyed in the wool" hams and continually fails to garner any traction with the media Terry as officially renamed Field Day in San Diego and Imperial Counties as **"Nationwide Emergency Communications Drill - June 23, 2007"**. This not only better describes this event but will enable this exercise to be more clearly understood by the public. Personally, I think that the name revision will catch on and expand to other ARRL sections. Still..... hearing "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day" will still hold a special place for all amateur radio operators regardless of the acronym or shortened phrase that will no doubt become associated with this event. Somehow, whatever new phrase is chosen, I just don't think it will be the same.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC

From the VEEP...

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volunteer each year to get the work done. That's good in that it provides continuity for those areas that each person is familiar with. It's bad because it appears that we only want those people to help and it's bad because those people get burned out. As we strive to maintain continuity through this volunteer path, we should all think about what we can do to spread this knowledge to other members, so that we have even more continuity and a larger force of volunteers.

The main area that we've lacked in continuity has been in the role of Field Day Chairperson. It seems to me that we would benefit in having the role of Chairperson be an on-going position or get people to hold the position for a couple of years. We should also insist that the most important task of the Chairperson is the hand-off to the person who will perform the task next. I know that I will feel a great relief when Field Day is over, but I believe that this job is not done until I record the do's and don'ts of this years event for use next year.

July Meeting: In the spirit of what I've just said, I plan to hold a Field Day post-mortem for part of the July meeting. I will bring pictures and talking points. Dan Sherwood has also volunteered to bring us a little FCC education for that night. He will bring a few slides and talk us through one of the trickier aspects of renewing your license on line.

August meeting: Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, will talk about his experiences and successes with PSK31 operation.

73,

Jon N6NQ



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AVARC Field Day 2007

Pictures by
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