

Field Day 2011
Cumberland Amateur Radio Club
**** K3IEC ****

Overview

Comfortably cool temperatures and blue skies greeted the early risers Saturday morning June 25, 2011 as Cumberland Amateur Radio Club established its Field Day operations in Shaffer Park, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Although the clouds thickened during the day, no rain fell. Overnight skies were crystal clear and remarkably insect-free. The on-site crew handled all aspects of set-up, operations, rest and relaxation, and tear-down with an enthusiastic spirit of collaboration.

Highlights of Field Day 2011

The 75 meter tape dipole soared to new heights this year thanks to Steve Hancock and his rocket launcher. A ground crew of as many as six CARC members provided all the heave-ho needed to loft the antenna. A different pattern of support trees came into play as the team positioned the aerial to avoid foliage.

We made QSO on six bands – 160, 80/75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters -- using SSB and CW modes.

The 2 meter VHF station was unable to beat last year's record-setting zero QSOS. The Penninger Radio Tipper Base and Snap-Tube Mast was an item of interest. It held the 2 meter antenna about 18 feet above the ground.

We entered Category 3A in the ham radio aspect of Field Day and Category 2G in the food aspect of Field Day. Category 3A means we had three stations simultaneously operating on different bands. Category 2G means we had two Weber Gas Grills cooking dinner.

For the first time in CARC history we ran the networked version of N3FJP Field Day logging software. Logs from the three HF stations and the VHF station were immediately updated on a central server. The PCs were joined together by our 802.11g wireless network. This arrangement allowed us complete flexibility to put any station on any band or any mode without the risk of making duplicate contacts.

Bobbe WA3BKK did a great clean-up job in the kitchen following dinner. It is good to have helping hands in the kitchen. Thank you, Bobbe.

Our long-standing record of no injuries and no arrests is a tribute to the professional standards we set for our operations and for Amateur Radio in general.

Bonus Points for setting up Field Day Operations in Public Location, having a Public Information Table, copying the W1AW Field Day Bulletin, obtaining Media Publicity, and submitting our results via the web application added 550 points to our score.

Thank you R.J. Harris and Clear Channel Communications for broadcasting the Field Day Public Service Announcement on WHP, 580 AM.

K3IEC Results

Between lunch and dinner, between dinner and breakfast, and for a short time following breakfast we made some on-the-air contacts.

	CW QSOs	Phone QSOs	
160m	1	1	
80m	21	240	
40m	53	25	
20m	23	99	
15m	41	21	
10m	9	0	
6m	0	0	
2m	0	0	
<u>1.25</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
TOTAL	148	386	1,364 points

Media Publicity	100	
Set-up in a Public Place	100	
Information Booth	100	
W1AW Field Day Message	100	
Educational Activity	100	
<u>Submitted via the Web</u>	<u>50</u>	
Total Bonus Points	550	550 points

K3IEC 2011 TOTAL **1,914 points**

On-Site Participants and Visitors

Jim Binkley K3GPS, Ed Butterworth KB3HCU, Ed Dyer KB3IRF, Garry Fasick K3EYK, Andy Forsyth AF3I, Jim Funkhouser K3MSH, Steve Hancock N3FWE, Ed Letersky KB3RKM, Frank Mellott KB3PQT, Bobbe Rothermel WA3BKK, Joe Sheldon K3CAR, Joe Sheldon Jr. KB3VWT, Jay Vogel KB3UFH, Bob Wardecker KB3SYZ and Jeri Forsyth. I apologize, and will stand corrected, in case I missed anyone.

Reminders and Planning for Field Day 2012

The multi-band band-pass filter needs a 12 volt power source. Without power it acts as a pass-through device. We did use the single-band band-pass dedicated to 80/75 meters.

The steaks could have been less well-done. A few cooked medium and medium-rare would have been nice. The chef has been notified.

Steak knives were nowhere to be found. I thought I had some in one of supply boxes. Nevertheless, we will have 24 steak knives in 2012 thanks to an amazing sale at Boscov's which was perfectly timed to catch my attention.

Roast Beef sub sandwiches had no takers. Tell me your favorite -- Italian, Turkey, and Ham were "sell-outs". Are there any other popular combinations I should have purchased?

Mark your calendars for next year's Field Day. Field Day always takes place the fourth full weekend of June. June 23 and 24, 2012. Please note: these dates fall a bit earlier in the month than in recent years.

If you were unable to attend Field Day this year I encourage you to make plans to do so next year. If you were able to attend this year invite your friends to share in our fun next year. Even better -- sign-up new members.

If your club could do something more or better to increase your ham radio and Field Day enjoyment please let me know. I already have Filet Mignon and Air Conditioning on my list as a result of suggestions offered. Location, accessibility, more food/less food, menu selections, better coffee, equipment availability, more time in the chair, more bands, more modes, directional antennas, more formal structure/less structure, scheduled operating times, etc. If something we do (or something we don't do) keeps you from coming out and enjoying Field Day with CARC please let me know. Responses and suggestions will remain anonymous.

73,
Andy Forsyth – AF3I
President Cumberland Amateur Radio Club

P.S. – CARC is in need of a Club Secretary. Volunteers are encouraged to step forward.