

SFARC Field Day 2016 Results

As you may remember reading in the last Newsletter, SFARC planned a little different Field Day this year. The plan was to run from batteries and solar only, transmitting with only 5 watts, about the power level of your bathroom nightlight, someone said. We erected excellent wire antennas this year, like a 300-foot loop at 70 feet, and a 40m bob-tail curtain pointing East. SSB was challenging, as might be expected with QRP, while CW and Digital modes were productive. 17 operators tried their best on three different modes, and when the final bell sounded, we were surprised at the results.

The fact is, we made less than half the contacts of last year, but due to the 5x multiplier for QRP, we beat last year's points score by over 400. Total contacts made was somewhere in the 400's, (remember, QRP folks), but the final points tally with bonus' was over 5,000!



A highlight of the 24-hour operation was youth participation. AK6OK's grandson Noah made at least 20 Q's at the mic, while another youth did almost as well. In any case, everyone had a great time. Our public information table organized by Jim-WA8MPA was a hit with an "active map" tied to the N3FJP logging software that displayed states worked in real time on an LCD monitor.

The Saturday night potluck offered good food as usual with tri-tip and chicken cooked by Jim-KQ6VP, and all the trimmings. Our custom Field Day T-shirts designed by Bob-K6UDA were a stand-out hit as well, and made it easy to find Club members as visitors strolled around the site.

Of course, no Field Day report, or antenna raising worth reporting, would be complete without AK6OK's awesome, air-powered, tennis ball shooting cannon to get those wires up high. This thing reminds me of the air cannons at the end of the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz ... if you weren't expecting the noise, it made you jump, every time!



(L to R: Les-KG6NME, Al-NI2U (VP), Dennis-WU6X (network logging & CW) and Casey-W7IB)

A few others who contributed to our success: Tyghe-W6TJR (Event chair), Bob-N6EMS (antennas), Earl-K6GPB (CW), Bruce-K6BAA, Birton-N6UG, Orion-AI6JB (the Pres), Scott-WA6YNE (batteries), Richard-WA6RWS (greeter) ... and many more.

The Club is already looking forward to next year ... will it be another QRP-only event, who

knows? One thing for sure, it will be a great time for everyone who decides to come up to Nyack near Soda Springs. We hope to see you next year as an operator ... or visitor. (WU6X reporting)