

2010 ARRL Field Day

K8DF

K8DF Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association (SJARA) Early in the week running up to Field Day (June 26/27) the biggest worry we had was the possibility of rain. In previous years we had withstood nearly hurricane force winds and heavy rain so storms are always on your mind. We did have a very heavy rain and a thunder storm on Thursday night but by mid day on Friday the sun returned and it was beautiful.

We all met Friday evening at our chosen Field Day site, location in a Civil War battle field over looking Clarksburg, WV. We set up two shelters, and dipoles for 40/80 meters, then raised the tower with a tri-bander. We secured for the evening around 8 PM to return on Saturday morning to finish preparations for the 2 PM starting time. A CW station, and two SSB stations with one position to be shared with PSK31 were installed with one station utilizing a vertical antenna. The GOTA station was set up along with four computers to be used for logging.

At 2PM Hal, N8FXH started on 20 meters SSB as he has done for the last several years. John, NW8U started CW on 15/40 meters. The other SSB station and GOTA stations were put into action and everything ran very smoothly. The vertical was not working as well as we expected so a single element rotating dipole was erected, thanks to an abundance of surrounding trees.

Visitors came and went though out Saturday afternoon and an evening meal was enjoyed by all present prepared by our resident cook, Dave N8YPE, with his assistant, Tyler (age 12). Several XYLs attended bringing a great selection of covered dishes and Hotdogs and Hamburgers were supplied by the club. The temperatures dropped slightly after sundown making it very comfortable after going through the 90 plus temperatures during the day. Everyone settled in for the long haul just to get through.

As time moved on we were visited by several creatures of the night. A friendly raccoon found his way into the site and succeeded in obtaining a loaf of bread. Mike, N8FWD took action hitting the raccoon with a bottle of water. He wouldn't give up the prize but did escape with his ill gotten reward. Several deer roamed in and out of the Field Day site at will during the night. The younger operators gave up the ghost around 3 AM but the old timers held their posts until sunrise when the sleepers were aroused to take over for the remaining time.

At mid morning we were visited by a very attractive young lady with motion camera in hand from the local TV station (WDTV-TV) Pictures were taken and appeared on the 6 and 11 PM local news. Things continued without any mishaps and as 2 PM approached preparations began to wrap things up and police the area and leave the Civil War battle field as we found it for another year.

Everyone said their good byes to Field Day 2010 looking forward to Field Day 2011. Myself and others then returned home to catch up on the sleep we had gladly lost over the weekend. For pictures and more information please visit our web site: <http://www.sjara.org>

-- K8TPH



Field Day 2010

Field Day Instructions and Rules Download	K8TPH	
1 shelter	K8TPH	Dick
4 tables		Church
16 chairs		Church
1 station IC 751 w/mic w/tuner w/PS	KA5NYN	Club
1 station TS 520S w/mic w/tuner		Club
1 station	NW8U	John
1 80 meter dipole w/100' coax w/lines		Club
1 40 meter dipole w/100' coax w/lines		Club
1 tri bander beam w/coax	NW8U	John
1 tower w/rotor w/controller	NW8U	John
3 computers w/monitor w/mouse	K8TPH	Club
1 network w/cables	K8TPH	Club
1 or 2 generators		Unknown
Eating utensils and supplies	N8YPE	Club
Grill/stove w/propane tank		Unknown
Logging and note supplies	K8TPH	Club

Let's Ham it up

It's that time of the year again. Memorial Day has passed, the pools are open and everyone is looking forward to a great summer. We are all anticipating those summer picnics, family reunions and all that is summer.

We in the Amateur Radio world are going to enjoy the summer also. Our big outing will be the weekend of June 26/27th. Hams, as most people know us are really Amateur Radio Operators, who will be holding their annual Field Day to talk to as many other Hams that we can throughout the United States and Canada. The last weekend in June is always known as Field Day. Field Day is an event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) located in Newington, CT organized to support, encourage, and further Amateur Radio in the United States. The local Hams will be setting up their equipment with antennas and run without the local power grid. Operations set up in an emergency situation will begin late on Friday June 25th to make preparations to setting up our communications site on Lowndes Hill just behind the Harrison County YMCA on the grassy knoll. The Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association, SJARA has been a local Amateur Radio Organization in Clarksburg for nearly 40 years. SJARA has filed a Mutual Operation of Understanding (MOU) in cooperation with Harrison County Office of Emergency Operations to furnish communications during any local, state, or national declared emergency. We all know that all of the modern ways of communicating throughout the area can break down and stop working. That's where Hams come on the scene. Hams can furnish communication without landlines or cell phones. We all know cell phones,

and all of that modern technology fails, just when they are needed the most.

Full operations will begin at 2PM on Saturday and run continually until 2 PM on Sunday. The public is invited to drop by anytime to see or even participate in the operations. Have you ever talked on a radio? Now is your chance. There will be three operating stations running for the complete 24 hours. If you would like to talk just drop by and try it out. There will also be information available to let you know just what we do and how you can become a Ham and enjoy the hobby. A meal will be served at 7 PM on Saturday so join us. We will be having hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone.

If you are curious or have any questions please go to our Web Site <http://www.sjara.org> or drop us an email at K8DFSJARA@aol.com. We are happy to answer any of your questions about Ham Radio or communications in general.