2018 Field day

Field day 2018 is history for the ACARC, We had a big turn out , lots of help and great fellowship. We had between 15 to 18 members there all day in high heat and threatening skies.

The only thing that was negative was the amount of contacts made. The number was quite low with very bad band conditions. Other sites were having trouble also.

We were operating as 3A with 2 qrp stations on cw and a 100 watt phone station. Our goal was to show that small antennas and low power can work. Our 20 meter magnetic loop antenna did just that. Our cw operators made some contacts using 3 watts of power and rigs powered by batteries.

About 4:00pm we had a barbecue sandwich with slaw , chips and banana pudding for dessert.

We had a lot of people chipping in to help this year and that was a big reason for our success. Steve, AJ4JJ spent a lot of time constructing the magnetic loop antenna, Larry, WN4M cooked the barbecue and provided drinks. June N4FAM,provided the banana pudding. Pete, WB3FYR, provided the educational literature and hand outs. Anita, KG4IIL, provided the chips and got the slaw from Smithfields . Our cw guys K3DEP, Jim and W2KJ, Joe, both put up personal antennas for their cw stations. Allan,KX2H, put up the club's banner and Brad, WD4FTR, took care of the on site public relations. Other members jumped in and helped with the antennas and set up and take down.

I learned a very important lesson this field day about my Honda generator. We started having trouble with the generator cutting off when the operator would key the radio. The generator ran good until a quick key was made. The trouble was the generator changes speed from no load to heavy load. The solution was we put a light load on the generator, a small fan, The generator didn't give any more trouble.

Shortly after we had our barbecue the skies turned ugly and the thunder started. A look at the local radar showed a strong line of thunder storms coming. We made a decision to take down the Field Day Stations and call it a day.

Jack WD4OIN