

RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

Issue 07 & 08

Club Web Site www.rcarc.info

July & Aug 2006

Junes club meeting started out with the typical business. After the business we went into the program. You're right the program was Field Day.

First up, where are we going for Field Day? Their were a couple of different locations that were proposed. One, was the park and the other was the mountains. I went to the parks and recreations office to see if we could get the park. It was to late, all the parks were taken. So it looked like we were going to the mountain. The mountain, it is a big place! We ended up choosing to go to Deer Valley. Just up highway 14.

Deer Valley has a nice primitive campsite. It does have a couple of restrooms there; they are the smelly kind, HI HI. The location of Deer Valley is up on top of Cedar Mountain. As you are traveling up highway 14, when you see mile maker 22 you need to start slowing down. The turn is right before mile maker 23, it is the only right turn after mile marker 22. There is a sign posted, Deer Valley.

As the discussion went on, we talked about the equipment that was needed to set up the Field Day site. Things like, radios, antennas, generators, and are we going to go solar etc. Even having dinner at Field Day came up.

It was decided that we would run a 2A station at Field Day. 2A if a Field Day station that runs 2 transmitters and 150 watts or less.

Now, as far as equipment, Ken W7KBM and Russ N7BO, Volunteered their radio equipment. The club owns a tower, with a three-element beam, also a Honda 2200-watt generator. At this time, we were all but ready to get after it.

Oh and we talked about dinner as well. Russ N7BO took on the challenge of cooking dinner up at the Field Day site.

Friday, the day before Field Day, Shirleen and I headed up to Deer Valley in hopes we were going to get the site we wanted, to set up Field Day. I of course was very nervous and excited to get up.

When we arrived, we found Ken W7KBM and Jon NR7T where already up there and had the site all secure. At That time I went into a relaxed mode and from then on it was smooth sailing.



On Saturday, woke up and got the day started. We started Setting up the stations for the operations. In the background you see a blue tarp. That is where Ken set up his station. In the front you see the trailer, which is where the other station was set up.

Treasury Report 2006

Beginning balance
Repeater Power Bill
Power Poles
Ending balance

Here is a better look Ken's station that he had setup for Field Day. You see he has just about every thing under the sun to make a successful event. Ken was running an Icom radio and his antenna was a G5RV. There were also other things like his emergency grab and go two-meter radio set up. You can't see it very well in this picture; it is the item in the lower left hand corner of this picture. You see Ken was working out of the back of his SUV. Ken's bed was the back of the SUV. Ken did a really good job of putting the meaning into emergency operations. Way to go Ken.

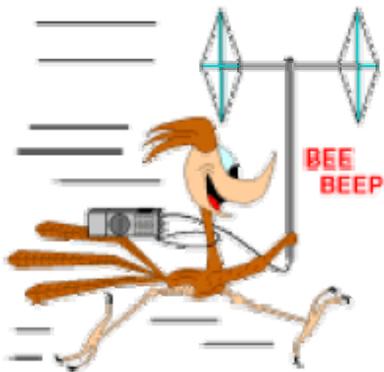


Attention all Cub Members

There will not be a club meeting for the month of August. Instead there will be a foxhunt on August 12th. There will also be a BBQ at the end of the fox hunt.

Please make special note that you will need to tune in your radio on 146.760 PL 123 at 2:00 PM for instructions.

If you have not played this game before and would like to team up with some one, just make a few calls until you find some one to go with. It is always fun to work together as a team. Let the game begin.



Our second station was set up out by the clubs antenna tower in the white trailer. I did not get a very good shot of the inside of the trailer, the picture turned out blurry. It would have been a good picture of Kevin running the radio if it had turned out clear.

The radio was a Kenwood TS140S. This radio has seen many Field Day events. I have had a lot of fun with this simple radio. The antenna is the clubs three-element beam up on the clubs portable crank up tower that extends up to 38 feet. Also there was a 40 – 80 meter dipole right at the trailer.

The power source for both of the radio stations are batteries, with a generator back up. Yes, we did have to fire up the generators a couple of times. I also had my solar panels hooked up, but there just did not seem to be enough sunlight to keep up with the demand.

N7BO is working on his emergency portable station. It is a work in progress. HI HI

As part of the stations equipment I had supplied two laptop computers for the keeping track of the logging. I have found a real simple logging program that would network together. It was lots of fun to see each station log their contacts.

It was real easy to network the two computers together I use a wireless router and wireless cards in the computers so we were all wireless HI. HI

Saturday Evening we are gathering to get ready for the Field day Feast.

The meal: hamburgers, polish sausage, chips lemonade drink. And all the condiments you could think of.

We had twenty-eight people show up for the dinner.

It was sure good to see old friends we have not seen a quite a while.



We had six guests come up and visit us. One couple came from Bryce Canyon to visit up and they spent the night and had breakfast with us the next morning. Two fellows were visiting Cedar City in a Geological study with SUU. They came up for a couple of hours. Our last visitors, were riding four wheelers and stopped by to see about our big antenna setup and to say hi. I think they said they were from St. George. After Dinner we even had a couple more show up. Then on Sunday we had two more show up. So that makes a total of forty people who showed up and participated in Field Day.

We had made over 242 contacts and that was a real good count considering the band condition was tough.

To sum up the Whole Field Day experience

It was GREAT!!!! My thanks goes to you all good people! Those who set up and took down, and operated the radios, prepared the meals, donated food, made phone calls, came to the dinner etc.

If you would only remember this: it is good people like all of you, that put all of this together, and you have affected my life in a positive and beautiful way I will always remember all of you. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, and be your friend.

Thank you

DE N7BO ES Happy Hamming.

President's Page

Our news letter editor, Russ Chaffee, N7BO, says he thinks I should write a President's page seeing as we didn't get a newsletter our last month. Ok, lets see what I can come up with.

The end of June, all of July and the first week in August I had high hopes of enjoying quiet, cool evenings in a tranquil valley at 9200 foot elevation, making fantastic contacts via my 80 meter dipole antenna and my FT 100D all band-all mode radio! I did—to a fashion.

The first interruption came when my wife's brother called our cell phone, during the first week of camp, requesting help getting out of jam they got themselves into. Seems they sold their home much quicker then

they hand imagined. The jam; no place to live! “Can we possibly borrow the motor home until we can get into an apartment or home, whichever comes first?”

There went the operating station. No cause for alarm. I still had my backup station, the tent trailer.

Unfortunately, it was the week before the 4th of July and we had committed to serve on camp staff at Maple Dell, throughout the week of the 4th.

There went the operating station again. I tried once before to get a signal out of that narrow, steep canyon so I didn't bother taking the radio or antenna along.

It is now into the 2nd week of July before I have some semblance of a permanent place to set up an HF radio station in the mountains.

Then the rains came. Along with rain comes thunder and more troublesome, lightening! The radio was disconnected more than it was connected. I was able to make a couple VHF nets between thundershowers. Getting a signal over 2 mountain ridges took a 3-element beam (the one we made back in January) and 20 watts of power! I was happy to be able to communicate with folks in the valley.

I had made a schedule to work Brian, W0NW, using CW on 80 meters. The first couple sessions were perfectly. Then Russ, N7BO, joined in. We thought it would be fun to work in the evenings about 8:00pm. So the following Monday I connected the rig, turned on the power and couldn't make a contact on any band! What gives? After thorough testing I discovered the radio receives just fine—but no transmit would it make.

Before leaving camp Saturday I had checked into the 10-meter net and the 80-meter MARA net with no problem. I had disconnected all leads and grounded the radio. All was good or so I thought.

During the weekend I was away there was LOT'S of thunder and lightening around the area where camp is. I guess the static charge generated in the antenna followed the ground wire back into the radio, taking the finals—again! I had grounded both antennas and the radio to the same ground point.

Back to the factory goes my beloved, micro-miniature, all band-all mode HF rig for the 5th time! No wonder they quickly took them off the market. The finals are pure junk!! Three of the five trips to the factory have been finals problems. I bet I have paid twice for that rig in repair costs.

So, if you think a leisurely trip to the mountain to make some HF contacts during the cool of the evening would be great, and you plan on staying for more then the evening, make sure you bring along a **brick** for a radio!

Dick
K7ZI