

ARRL Field Day June 25-26,2016

PAARC operated as "W3T 3A EPA"

This year we operated from a hilltop. We had used this location with success three or four times prior to Field Day weekend. The location was the Hopewell Fire Tower's pavilion. The fire tower is located within French Creek State Park. The patch of land the fire tower sits on is managed by the Pennsylvania Forest Service. We were required to apply for a permit to reserve the site, a first come, first served opportunity. I cannot give enough praise to the forest service for all of their help and support of our club! We paid no fees for the permit! We also received the same enthusiasm and support from French Creek State Park personnel. The Park Police handed out our handbill to park visitors and campers to come visit us and learn about and operate Amateur Radio! We left the site cleaner than we found it.

We were able to visit our Field Day neighbors "The Boschveldt QRP Club, W3BQC". How great that was! Were close enough to visit and far enough away to operate. I can attest that I could not stop laughing at the jokes and witty sarcasm of such a terrific group!

Pre-field day on Thursday, Tom K3TWL wanted to go up to the site and rake and blow the massive amount of leaves away from walking paths and possible tenting areas. So Tom K3TWL, me N3WXW and my grandson Joey McCoy "the tree pruner" went up and cleared the site. The next day was the Friday before Field Day and K3TWL, N3WXW, Jerry K3BZ and Joey set up lines in the trees for the antennas so that on Saturday all we needed to do, was hoist up the wires and cables, and connect radios. We started the day with breakfast at the Ridge Restaurant with lots of coffee!

Saturday morning at 9 am, was the club's pre-field day breakfast and gathering set up by Ed K3BVQ at the Pottstown Diner. After breakfast the crew headed up to the hill to install field day stations. It took about 3 hours. We were running on generators and the VHF and GOTA stations ran on batteries this year.

We ran VHF and above, for HF, GOTA, CW, SSB and Digi. Antennas were 3 OCFD, 1 full wave loop, VHF used halo style loops and yagis for 6M, hand held yagis for 2M and 440 also used for satellite contacts.

Our club station operators were Tom K3TWL - Digi, Jerry K3BZ - SSB, CW - Glen WA3LAB and Ed K3BVQ. SSB and CW - Ben Sr. KE3KQ, Ben Jr. KB3SJQ and Melody KB3SJR, Wayne KA3BQS for VHF and above, along with Alex KA2VLP and son Aidan KB3UMD. Total participants and visitors were 34. We had an excellent turn out again this year! For all stations, Field Day exchange totals were: Phone -464, CW-321, Digi -50 and 2 Satellite contacts.

There was plenty of help on hand throughout the whole weekend and too many names and calls to list. I cannot emphasize how much help the folks who come for set up and tear down, is appreciated each year. Especially tear down, when every one is exhausted from lack of rest. It is always extra hot on Sunday!

Thank you all PAARC members for your support and fellowship once again. 73 de Ed N3WXW