



# The GroundWire

Field Day Special Edition 2005  
A Newsletter of the Tyler Amateur Radio Club



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## Field Day-The Site



Field Day 2005 for the Tyler Amateur Radio Club took place at Tyler State Park. TARC used the Blackjack Area for its location. At 572' ASL, it provided a high location with a fairly clear line of sight in most directions. Although many trees dotted the area, they did not detract from the ability to set up the various antennas. They also provided welcome shade from the Texas summer sun.

Multiple camp sites accommodated everyone participating without crowding. A large covered pavilion provided additional protection from sun and rain. Although some electrical pedestals failed, for the most part the facilities were well-kept and clean. The Tyler State Park staff was very helpful throughout the weekend. Restrooms were close by and the site also had a large smoker/grill. The pavilion held a large number of picnic tables, easily accommodating everyone for common meals. All in all, the site was more than adequate for the needs of the TARC.

## The food-Of Course!



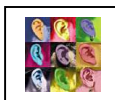
The average weight gain had to be 5 pounds or more! Food of some type was available from the time the first Hams arrived until the last Hams left on Sunday afternoon. Those of us arriving Friday to set up were treated to grilled hot dogs with all the fixin's. The fresh air and hard work certainly made a good sauce! Saturday morning was fend for yourself. The Walker clan cooked bacon and scrambled eggs in paper sacks on an open fire. If you've never done this, try it sometime. Lunch Saturday was catered by Vince Cassano, KE5CZM. He brought hot dogs and fixin's for everyone. Saturday night was Pot Luck night. All manner of dishes were spread out for the group. Special award goes to the brisket, provided by Don Henderson, WD5JLE, some of the best ever had. A personal favorite was the home-made banana pudding, provided by Ella Greathouse, KD5IJI. Sunday morning, Ella again gained points with her delivery of home-made biscuits and scrambled eggs, except for Mikey who had to have some of those famous baked beans. Lunch Sunday was leftovers from Saturday night. Even better the second time around. Needless to say, everyone packed it in and no one complained. Points should be awarded on Field Day for best food. We'd have a sure winner there!

## Best QSO



Bob Sanford, KC5SMC. Responding to an interesting call, xxnSEX, "I love sex!"

## Best Ears



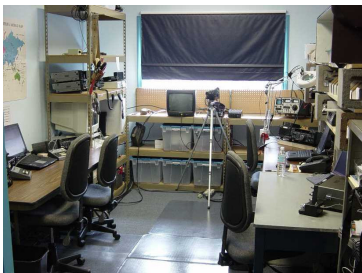
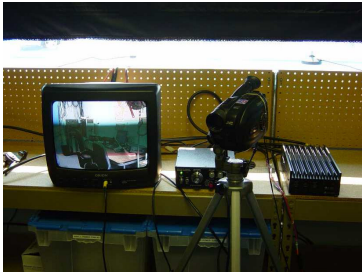
Ron Flournoy, KC4MYV. He could pull out those call signs that everyone else could not hear.

## Best Fingers



Don McNallen, W5EI. He flew on that bug, racking up many cw points for good ole K5TYR.

## Airport Photos



## Field Day at the Airport 2005



As most of you that came to field day this year you noticed that N1EW wasn't there operating. This year because of the heat and my move from one hangar to another I wanted to finish up my station and get it running again. This gave me a goal and purpose to get it laid out, reorganized and install a new tower.

For those who have been out to my new facility I gained a lot of space. I have a room now that is totally set up for radios and repair. From February on I labored on how the room was going to be setup but wasn't sure on how and where the ArCluster was going to fit into this. For the time I had it running near the hangar, but the increasing heat made me realize this place wasn't going to be a good spot for the computer. With Field Day coming up and the trouble with Love's Lookout I made a decision to concentrate on putting the airport station back together.

As you can see by the photos I had to get things in place pretty fast. My tower alone took two weeks to erect, first week to dig a 5 ft hole and set the base and the second week stacked tower early Friday morning thanks to the assistance of Rusty, Robby and Tom. Many thanks guys for helping me get this done on time. The room was pretty easy to set up, but it was all the extra junk I have been collecting for 30 years that took some time to organize and lay out. After it was all done I ended up using another room for storage of the unused items.

But getting back to Field Day.....As the time got closer and closer I had to decide what units I wanted to use for the operation. I knew HF was going to be the main base with digital packet, 6m and 2m SSB with a possible 70cm too if bands opened up. Knowing this is what I finally ended up with. It wasn't until Friday before the start of the contest when I was talking to Don Brown about battery operation. He suggested doing solar power along with batteries. With that invite, he allowed me to setup his solar panels and helped recharge my twin Ni-Cad batteries during Field Day. It was such a great deal that it helped me to decide on installing a solar panel on the hangar to keep my system up without using the Astron power supply. This way the ArCluster will be totally independent of commercial power. Plus with the 145.37 repeater added into the equation this should be quite a neat setup. I made the Field Day operation full battery power except for the air conditioning and lights, a 3B ops category. The station batteries did really well and at 1am when I went to sleep the BUS voltage was still at 12.3 volts, which surprised me. When the sun came back up I was back at 14.2 volts during the last hours of the contest.

Field Day started :35 minutes later for me because of the heat and the extra antennas I wanted mounted on my new tower / generator trailer. This was the first trial run for the trailer so I was in a learning curve on setup and how I wanted things arranged. I installed a 6m beam combination on the rotor and it worked really nice, I ended up with 117 6m contacts for the 24 hr period and clocked in a lot of new states. 2m and 70cm was a dud.....nothing so those antennas were a waste of time. HF was fun and with the exception of the last :15 minutes I had my hands full logging calls. 20m was the best band with 75m coming in second. 40m was OK but it had so much noise it made it very difficult to hear the calls. Like many working the 24hr run I ended up taking a 4 hr nap from 1am to 5am.

I had loads of fun, had a few HAM visitors, Tom (WN5TL) and David (K5TWR) came by and helped log some calls and had a chance to try my rigs. John allowed me to use his ATV setup and we broadcasted operations to Black Jack and I got to see what the crew was doing there during the 24hr period. That needs a bit more work, but I enjoyed being there in that capacity. After this was all said and done I would like to do this again with more operators, so I can get a better score next year....

73s de N1EW

## What Field Day is All About?



I don't know much about Ham radio, Ham operators or Field Days, but I learned one thing recently. Those folks sure can cook! I was invited to visit during the annual ARRL Field Day held at Tyler State Park. The day was beautiful, the setting was great, and all the operators were busily making contacts with other operators around the country. Then at six p.m. they spread a feast on the tables in the Pavilion and I learned what Field Day is really about. Thanks for letting me join the fun.

Alma Wade  
(Sister of KD5YWD)

## Too Much Field Day!

**Zzz**



KE5ECL and Rachel went as far as they could go.



## The Prez Sez Special Edition FD



The June 2005 Field Day for the Tyler Amateur Radio Club was a success. During the last year we tried to locate an alternative facility to hold field day but one by one each idea was eliminated for one reason or another. After much consideration and conversation we decided to return to Tyler State Park after park officials assured us our special needs would be accommodated. We are truly grateful for their hospitality.

From that point forward things started to fall in place as we were able to utilize previous experience to put together a workable Field Day setup that would allow us to support and operate our stations efficiently.

Preliminary reports indicate our contacts and extra points may give us a higher score than any of our last ten events. Why? The answer to that is always "the people". Without the club members there would be no Field Day. Our thanks to each and every one of you for helping our club put on this in a quality way. Field Day for the TARC is and should always be a team effort. It is supposed to demonstrate our ability to set up and operate an emergency communication system that can be sustained indefinitely with personnel, equipment and support. Again, number one is personnel. From the committee chairman, to the setup people, to the operators and loggers, to the support people, visitors and well wishers, everyone contributes something. That's what makes it work. Lots of equipment was loaned to the event this year. Several notable upgrades from past years would include a logging program utilizing computers connected thru a wireless network, new radios, new antennas, amateur television, and packet. No Field Day or emergency communications event could be sustained very long without support. That includes backup at all the stations, food, water, comfort necessities, shelter, sleeping arrangements, all of which contributes to the overall success.

From the club president's point of view, this was probably the best Field Day I have participated in. Thanks to every one for their efforts. From an operator's point of view, I could not have asked for better support. The HF bands were not at their best this year, but by utilizing better and more efficient equipment we were able to overcome that disadvantage. But the best part to me is to be able to stand by and observe some of the most dedicated and enthusiastic people do what they do best, serve their club and fellow man.

73 de kc5smc



KC5SMC, KD5ZRD, and KC5UBM



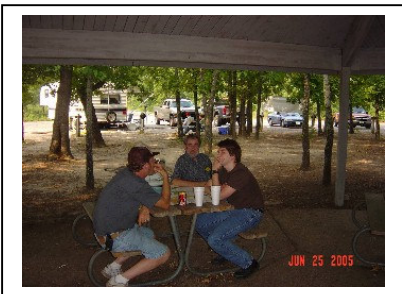
I promise, they are almost ready.



KD5IJI & KB5MVP entertain.



KD5KIZ & W5EI hard at work.



Time for a conference.

## The Radios



**K**5SMC Field Day amateur radio station equipment:

Yaesu FT-847 all band all mode radio  
MFJ-949 antenna tuner  
Diamond MX-200 triplexer  
RG-8U coax  
GAP Hear It noise eliminating speaker + external speaker  
16 Ft double axle utility trailer/with  
Rhon 25 top section and double push up pole  
Channel Master Rotator  
Cushcraft A3E /W 40M kit horizontal beam- 10 thru 40M  
Hustler 5-BTV 10 thru 80M vertical antenna  
Comet GP-3 dual band antenna for packet  
Club Comet GP9 dual band antenna.  
Antron A99 Vertical antenna  
Generac 4000XL 220 volt generator  
2 group 24 12 volt batteries, 1 24 AH gel cell battery  
15 gallons fuel  
MFj-259 antenna analyzer  
HTX-212 2M mobile radio  
Kantronics KPC3 Packet TNC  
2 Yaesu FT-5100 dual band mobile radio  
Outbacker 10-160 Meter mobile HF  
Yaesu Atas 440-40M mobile antenna  
compaq presario laptop  
Optimus pro-155 headset  
40 cup coffee pot  
2 fans  
one air conditioned truck camper  
17" Traillite support trailer  
garmin GPS-72  
2 Kenwood TH-78A HTs alternate packet radios  
That's all folks.  
73 de kc5smc



**K**D5KIZ Field Day station consisted of the Kenwood TS-2000, Heil HM-10 dual element mike, BWD-45 folded dipole antenna at 30 ft. and a lot of cold water and hot coffee. I also had a home made vertical for monitoring six meters on the Icom 706MKIIG and Heil IC microphone.

Several people operated my station and made a lot of contacts on 40 meters and a few on 15 and 20 meters. We were so busy on 40 most of the time that we did not have time for monitoring 6 meters, although it was open a lot of the time. Maybe next year we will have enough operators to be able to use 6 to the fullest of it's potential.

Last, but not forgotten was the ATV station that we used to send video of the HF operators to Pounds Regional Airport, where our friend Ed, N1EW was conducting field day for the Civil Air Patrol cadets. We were able to see the operation of N1EW at our Tyler State Park location after tweaking some antenna and coax problems.

Everyone enjoys the Food.



## The Logging



Thanks to KD5KIZ, we had a Field Day logging program. The program was used to log all contacts made during field day. It was purchased on line at [www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com) for \$10. This program was designed to work on a Local Area Network (LAN). Computers could be wired together using Cat 5 cable through a router and switch. However, we decided to use a wireless router. For our Field Day logging, we used three laptops. W5EI's laptop was used as the "server" with KC5SMC and KD5KIZ's laptops connected wirelessly via 802.11g technology (2.4 Ghz). The 802.11g standard provides transfer rates of 54 Megabits per second (Mbps) plus. We used a Netgear WGR614 wireless router purchased at Best Buy for \$29.95. A wireless PCMCIA card (cost \$13) had to be added to KC5SMC's laptop, as it didn't have this equipment built in. We mounted the wireless router to one of the RV electrical posts between the two HF stations. KD5YWD provided a very expensive weather cover for the router (Big Lots plastic sack). With a little help from my friend, Kent Davis, we set up the router for DHCP routing. W5EI's laptop was set up with the database file in the C drive root directory (recommended for the server computer by the software geek). The other two laptops were then routed to W5EI's laptop and any contact made by either HF station was stored in the W5EI database file. The program also sent a copy of the server database file to each computer every 15 minutes to prevent total loss if the server computer crashed. I think we only had one issue, when KC5SMC's laptop loss signal (probably confused by all the loose RF in the back of SMC's truck) and had to be re-booted. Once back on line and directed back to the server laptop, Bob had all the data again as if nothing had happened. Please give thanks to Gaylen for purchasing the program. It sure made contact logging a breeze at a HOT Field Day. Till next year...

N9JN

## Field Day Observations from Behind the Key



The sun shone on the K5TYR Field Day Event this year, and nowhere was this fact more appreciated than at the solar powered CW station. Even though it was extremely hot, all that sunshine allowed the solar panel to put out its full 80 watts of DC power during the daylight hours. With the battery fully charged battery at sundown, the Elecraft K2/100 made it through the night running full power out with nary a hiccup.

Declining sunspot activity is certainly beginning to degrade propagation on the 10 meter band, but from 15 meters on down, there were plenty of contacts to be made. It was really crowded on the 40 and 20 meter CW subbands, certainly enough to keep me busy. Thanks to plenty of help from loggers such as Randall, N0UYX, Rusty, KD5YWD, and Tara, KE5ARK, my job was pretty easy.

How easy would all that logging have been without the help of Gaylen, KD5KIZ who showed us the ropes of our new logging software, and John, N9JN, who got all our logging computers networked properly? I can tell you from experience that a lot of time and effort was saved, and because of their efforts, our score was rapidly and accurately determined. This new method sure beats the heck out of compiling by hand all the raw contact information.

Our Field Day group was not the largest I have seen, but enthusiasm was very high. Lots of work was done by our dedicated participants, and the effort paid off. Not only did we score very well, but the food was really fabulous thanks to brisketmeister Don, WD5JLE, and Vince, KE5CZM, who cooked up some really tasty Ballpark hot dogs. Lots of great covered dish deserts and trimmings were furnished by the usual suspects, Ella, KD5IJI, and Charlotte,

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*The opinions expressed in each of the articles are solely those of the author and are not the opinions of the Tyler Amateur Radio Club.*

***The Tyler Amateur Radio Club for the benefit of its members, the Ham Radio Community and its served agencies publish the GroundWire monthly.***

To view more Field Day 2005 photos go to [www.members.cox.net/groundwire](http://www.members.cox.net/groundwire) and click on the link on the left side of the page.

Behind the Key cont.

KD5BKC. Ella helped us all reenter the fray early on Sunday morning when she served up homemade biscuits and scrambled eggs.

I hope everybody had the opportunity to take a close look at the great setup Bob, KC5SMC brought out. His trailer-mounted triband beam + 40 meter rotatable dipole array provided our effort with a huge advantage. He has put a lot of thought, time, effort, and money into his portable antennas, and I'm confident they will also be a great asset in the event of a true communications emergency. Bob is also as serious about making contacts as he is about his equipment, and our score got a big boost from his efforts behind the mike.

This year marked the first time anybody had the presence of mind to put together a public information table for ham radio. Tara earned us 100 points with her excellent amateur radio info table and visitors' log. Gaylen's amateur TV contact with Ed, N1EW out at Pounds Field, got us another 100 much appreciated bonus points. I hope everybody enjoyed our Field Day as much as I did. Hope to CU all there again next year.

73 de Don, W5EI

Everyone is hard at work setting up the antennas and getting everything ready.

