

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club – After Action Report
Field Day 2017 – Setup and Execution
Saturday and Sunday
June 24-25, 2017

July 3, 2017

The Field Day 2017 Committee was chaired by Phil Salley, K4PO, and included El Erby, K4DJL, the phone station captain, Fred Beatty, K8AJX, the CW station captain, Lew and Karen Nyman, K1AZE and KA1BYP, running the chow hall and publicity, and Randy Sedlak, KV4AC, the site owner. KV4AC also assumed the duties of coordinating and reporting the activities and results to the ARRL, sending the Section Manager message, and ordering the Porta-Potty. Other members included N4AU, who copied the ARRL Field Day message and Joe Metzl, KK4KGU, who procured and managed t-shirts for the event. Fred, KR4YK, coordinated the use of an AEMA generator. Tommy Martin, KK4TDP, MARC president, served as the committee chair, ex officio.

Committee members decided on the two HF, but no GOTA, VHF/UHF, or digital stations. The welcome table was pared down to a sign-in sheet and a few handouts to be supervised by the members running the food preparation.

Karen, KA1BYP, MARC Publicity Officer, had an article in the *Advertiser* and announcements on local television. There was no on-site coverage. Announcements/discussion took place at the MARC meetings of May and June and a MARC-List email was sent several days prior to the event. Public invitation signs were posted on Woodley Road at the Snowdoun-Chambers intersection and at the drive into KV4AC's farm. A Field Day welcome banner also was set up at the parking area. A total of 21 individuals participated, of which seven were guests. The latter included Alabama Representative Reed Ingram, thanks to Clay Redden, KC4YAU.

The MARC trailer and another owned by KK4TDP were used for the phone and CW stations, respectively. The plan was to deliver the trailers and EMA generator to the site on Friday afternoon, with setup on Saturday morning beginning at 8:00 AM. While earlier heavy rains made working in the prairie soil a challenge and minor shortages of antenna hardware were encountered, equipment was in place Friday afternoon and antenna and station setup was completed Saturday morning with time to spare. Mud from the rain was annoying, but it did not affect operations other than tracking up the trailers. The weather cleared before operations began and remained good for the entire event.

The EMA generator powered the CW station and the club generator, the MARC trailer and phone station. Heavy, club-owned power cabling was used for the CW station (stored in KV4AC's barn) and trailer-equipped cable for the phone station. Radios were an FT 2000 for phone and Icom 756Proll for CW with computers using N3FJP Field Day logs. Antennas for both stations were the club inverted V's on 40 foot push-up masts supported by metal fence stakes. Both stations were manned for nearly the entire test period and equipment performed without incident.

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Operations began on schedule at 1:00 Saturday afternoon and continued through the test period with little interruption, running up the following numbers:

Phone contacts	428
CW contacts	800
Total contacts	1228
Contact points	4056
Bonus points	1050
Total claimed points	5106

A total of five phone and four CW operators manned the radio stations during the event.

K1AZE and KA1BYP provided food Saturday noon, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning/noon. Food and drink purchased for the event were in excess to what was needed. Of a box of 45 hamburgers, 35 were eaten. Similarly, of 80 hot dogs and buns, 25 remained. Two packages of cold cuts of three purchased were consumed, as were the two tubs of potato salad bought for the event. Paper products and condiments purchased for the above were used. Three medium bags of chips and a box of small brownies were purchased, as well, all of which were consumed. Drinks purchased for the event were nine 12-can cases of soda pop and four 24-bottle cases of water. Of those, three cases of soda and one of water remained after the event.

After operations, the MARC trailer was removed without incident, but the ground was too soft to tow out the larger CW trailer. It was successfully removed on Monday afternoon, however, after the ground had dried out a bit. Scott, W4SPA, has provided an after-action report on the MARC trailer. No corrective actions were necessary for KK4TDP's vehicle, other than mud clean-up.

Problems/issues that need to be addressed:

1. Decision whether to have Field Day at all in the future, given the level of member interest and participation.
2. If one (1) above is decided in the affirmative, determination of the primary focus of Field Day: social event, public-service demonstration, or equipment/operator test.
3. Depending on the decision on two (2) above, decide on an appropriate location for the event.
4. Operator participation: small numbers of operators at both stations resulted in longer operating times or station dead time.