

CVARS



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Official Record Executive Board Meeting July 9, 2003

The CVARS Executive Board met on July 9th at Kim Aikens office at 205 S. Tower Ave. in Centralia. Due to a lack of quorum, no official meeting was held.

Present Were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice President; and Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ, Secretary. Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV and John Jackson, KQ7JJ were present as guests.

New Business: No action due to lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Pack is currently on vacation.

Old Business: No action due to lack of a quorum.

Discussions: The Executive Board considered the ongoing problem with lack of a quorum preventing action at executive meetings. Several possible solutions were discussed and it was decided to bring the problem and possible solutions before the general membership at the August 6th meeting.

Hearing no other business to be brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

“Ship High In Transit”

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship. It was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet. But once water at sea soaked the manure, it not only became heavier, the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the

first time someone came below at night with a lantern – KABOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term “Ship High In Transit” which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch the cargo and start the production of methane. The acronym which has come down through the ages is still in use to this day.

I always thought it was a golf term!

Field Day 2003 – The Set-up

OK, WOW is a pretty good way to express this year's Field Day! This year WA7UHD was a 5 Alpha Station (5 transmitters). Friday night, the set-up evening, began with tents being set up by the Civil Air Patrol (thanks again Toby) and that giant crane (thanks Chris Johnson). Mike Payne, AC7UP, and the crew went right to work bolting on the tri-bander antenna (thanks Gil) and rotor to the crane's mast. With the addition of the flag at the top, Chris sent the antenna up 126 feet. Hello World!

Gary Litter, K7PG, the Field Day Boss became inventive this year. He bought three, six foot, balloons and two large Helium tanks. One balloon, once filled, lifted the 80 meter wire antenna to about 100 feet. The other two balloons held up the 160 meter wire at about the same height.

Add to that an R-7 vertical, a 3 element 40 meter wire, a 20 meter dipole and a 40 meter loop and WA7UHD was packing power! John Jackson, KQ7JJ, brought his motor home. Bill, AC7SR, set up the logging programs on the computers. Add lights to the tents and plenty of sweat and we were ready.

Field Day – The Food

Bill Harwell, AC7SR, took it upon himself to coordinate a Field Day potluck. For several weeks prior to FD, he was soliciting dishes and desserts. It was well worth it. We had more food than Martha Stewart in a prison lunchroom! Funny how the FD crowd swelled (in more ways than one) when the food was ready to eat. Anyway, no body went away hungry and it was really fun to sit and talk with everybody. I was particularly saddened by the fact there were no donuts but I was probably the only person who noticed. Goodo job, Bill and everyone who brought the eats.

Field Day – Honored Guests

CVARS got extra points if we managed to pull in a few “official Guests”. Gary talked our area Representative Richard DeBolt and the Chehalis Mayor, Bob Spar into making an appearance. They were suitably impressed. Jim Pace, K7CEX, the Western Washington ARES Section Emergency Coordinator showed up to take some pictures and give his “well done” to the group. Al Jorgensen, W7ZLR, the club trustee, came by on Saturday to see if all was set up properly.

Field Day – Motorcycle Mobile

Steve Pack, WB7VAS, was fiddling with 2 meter simplex just calling “CQ Field Day” when somebody came back with a faint, scratchy signal. As Steve called again, the signal was getting louder by the minute.

It was Russell Decker, KB6YAF, traveling through the area on his motorcycle. Russell is from Yuba City, California and belongs to the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club there.

Steve invited Russell to drop by since he was passing on I-5 and have a cool drink. “Just look for the crane and balloons” said Steve.

Moments later Russell and his wife motored up. They had a nice visit, a cool drink and took some pictures to take back to their club. You just never know who you’ll meet over the air waves on Field Day

QSL Card

The club received a QSL card for a field day contact. It is from N7TT for a contact on 80 meters. N7TT is John Gohndrone from Bothell, Washington. Don’t know who worked him but good job anyway.

TJ Christen and the Civil Air Patrol

This is another great Field Day story. Everyone knows the Civil Air Patrol goes to the trouble of erecting the FD tents each year. Just watching them work makes me tired! On Saturday I noticed this young lady

working with Steve Pack, WB7VAS, on 20 meters. She was dressed at that time in her Civil Air Patrol uniform proudly wearing Sergeant’s rank. Steve says TJ just came over and looked interested. When asked if she wanted to try working a radio, she put the earphones on and listened to Steve make a contact. They switched places and TJ tried it with Steve’s coaching. When she made contact, her eyes lit up and she was hooked! When Dad, Tony, came to get her, she wasn’t about to leave, so Steve put Dad on the extra phones. TJ made about 8 contacts and really did well. I think we’ll see her again.

Field Day in Meridian, Mississippi by Eric Gildersleeve, KD7CAO

(Eric, who should be home by now, sent along his experiences of Field Day in Meridian, Mississippi) I started out at 0900 CST on a bright, sunny, hot day. The temperature was already in the upper 70’s and was not expected to get any lower. The humidity was well above 95%, which just destroys any idea of going outside. But, I was not going to be without Field Day. I drove with my team to Bonita Lakes Campground about 30 minutes away from my spike at East Central Community College in Decatur, MS.

I was going to join the Meridian Amateur Radio Club, W5FQ, for a fun filled weekend of on the air enjoyment. I spent the first couple hours helping set up antennas and radios. A gentleman by the name of Bill Robinson KB5ASR introduced himself to me. Bill showed me the equipment that we would be using for this 2A station. We had two Kenwood HF stations operating off of deep cycle batteries, a packet station (just for fun) and an older style Honda 1000 generator. We operated everything off this small generator, until we decided to plug in the 5 foot tall construction fan (to blow away the mosquitoes), for this we had to fire up the 3500W genset. Around Midnight, local time, I contacted Jim KC7ASV and Stephanie KC7ASY on a frequency rather close to the 2M Ham Band. Granted it did not count as a contact since it was a cell phone, but we sort of arranged a meeting for later that night on 40M with a backup of 75M. Well as many of you know, we did not meet up.

It was quite a ball of fun. If you head on over to their website you can see Field Day pictures and yours truly is in some too. (<http://www.strato.net/~mcarc/>) I would appreciate everyone saying hello to these fine people. – Eric, KD7CAO

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Chris Johnson and Erik

Anyone who has been to the CVARS Field Day in the last year or so saw that big, beautiful, very tall crane we used to hold up the antennas. This was generously donated by Chris Johnson. We owe a big "thanks" to Chris for his help. I watched this year and it was no small job to set this piece of machinery up for us (and take it down). Last year, another Johnson participated in Field Day. Son Erik made some contacts (Australia as I remember) last year and came back this year for more punishment. I'm sorry I didn't get a photograph of this young man but anyone who will come back to FD twice gets our attention. Somebody needs to take Erik on and get him a ham license. His dad says he is pretty busy and they live in Greyland but spend a considerable amount of time in the Chehalis area. Anyone out there willing to get Erik hooked up with an elmer in Greyland or be one themselves? If interested, I've got Erik's address. Anyway, good job Erik! We'll make a ham out of you sooner or later.



CVARS Is Now A "Special Service Club"!

A very special honor has been awarded the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society. ARRL has approved CVARS as a "Special Service Club". To be considered for this award, clubs must actively pursue all aspects of Amateur Radio, such as new ham development and training, public relations, emergency communications, technical advancement, operating activities, special events and so on. A club must be active and involved. CVARS members participate in ARES, Field Day, new ham testing and local informational nets. In addition, we are active in the fun stuff such as the Lewis County Bike Ride, Sheriff's Day, bunny hunts and LXpeditons. They all add up to an active, well rounded club. Congratulations to all.

Steve Pack, WB7VAS Recuperating

While searching for the ferocious and elusive wild "bunny" during the last bunny hunt, Steve managed to damage his knee. After limping around for a few months, he decided to "go under the knife" and get it fixed. He is home resting comfortably and is expected to make a full recovery. Get better soon, Steve.

Work'in on Worked All States Award?

If you're like many hams, one of the first "awards" you might try for is Worked All States (WAS). Basically, this requires a confirmed contact (QSL cards received verifying the contact) from all 50 states.

One of the easiest ways to begin collecting these states is by looking for the "QSO Parties" almost every state does sometime during the year. When a state hosts a QSO Party, someone from almost every county in that state is on the air looking to contact you. It is also an easy way to begin collecting counties.

In August there are several QSO Parties. On the second weekend in August, Maryland will be on the air. During the third weekend, New Jersey operators will be calling. And, finally, during the last weekend, Hawaii, Ohio and South Dakota can be found. Most operators work from 20 meters but several can be found on other bands.

So don't be shy. Get on the air and start collecting those states. Its fun, its cheap and its easy. Its even legal!

Dates To Remember!

August 2 – Lxpedition II – on the air at 10 AM

August 6 – CVARS club meeting – 7:30 PM

August 13 – Executive Board Meeting, 205 S. Tower,

Centralia at 6:30 PM

September 3 – CVARS club meeting - 7:30 PM

September 17 – ARES Mtg. at PUD Building, Chehalis

October 1 – CVARS club meeting – 7:30 PM

October 4 – ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET)



A Great Month To

August is a great month. Usually nice weather and sunshine! Lets make the most of this season and get out and be with friends and family. The rain will be here soon enough.