



# The Monitor

Newsletter of the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association  
ARRL Affiliated Club #1720 - - - Celebrating our 54th Year

www.w6tj.org  
July 2009

Volume 54

No. 7

## Field Day 2009: Look! No Strings!

"I've got no strings to hold me down  
To make me fret or make me frown  
I had strings, but now I'm free  
There are no strings on me.  
Hi-ho the mer-i-o  
that's the only way to go!" sings Pinocchio, in the Disney classic.



That about sums up what our planning was all about this year, a radical departure from the past. Our objectives were FLEXIBILITY and GREEN(er) alternatives. So how did it play?

All stations had multi-band/mode capability. Utilizing open wire lines and antenna tuners or separate antennas, every station was capable of operating on at least two bands. Station managers cooperated to coordinate operations, and operate two stations, using different modes, on any band. Mutual interference was not a big problem. Some said it couldn't be done.....we did it very successfully.

Probably the most significant "string cutter" was the connecting of lap tops via Wi Fi to a router so that all logging was done in a common data base, stored on all lap tops. Thanks to Chris' efforts this worked out extremely well....allowing us to log contacts from any band/mode at any station.

We cut more strings (power distribution wires) by using battery power for all stations. Charging was done by a small gas generator and some green power from solar and human power. Again, this worked out extremely well. In some cases, the batteries powering the lap tops and rigs, might have come close to lasting the 24 hours.

All HF stations had antenna's supported only by trees.....no poles needed. We had antennas higher than any erected in at least the past couple of years. This was made possible as a result of Ric's pneumatic antenna launcher, which worked as advertised. For quick set up in emergencies this is the way to go.

The only downside to our operations was a lack of operators, which left stations unmanned for considerable periods, and necessitated deactivating and removing one station Saturday evening, since there was no one to operate or secure the station. This personnel problem will have to be addressed when we consider doing another Field Day.

Yes, we cut a lot of "strings" this year...and it's likely, that if we ever do another Field Day, that this model may be the "way to go."



Flying High-Helium filled balloon assisted delta loop antenna



20 Meter Contacts-Bob Trujillo, KG6NIB, Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

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NEXT MEETING  
FIELD DAY FOLLOW UP  
Photos, Stories & More  
July 9 at 7:30 PM



### BALLOON INFLATION

Ric Maxfield, Jake Moore  
Ed Morgan, Clair Cessna,  
Paula Willette

### DEDICATED OPERATORS

Ted Hudson, Frank Van Derpoel  
and Tom Whelchel.



### DEMOSTRATION

Chris Maness, demonstrates  
CW operation to City of  
Wildomar Mayor Pro Tem  
Bridgett Moore and her son  
Jake, Paula Willette also  
representing the City of  
Wildomar

### MAKING CONTACT

Jeff Couch calls CQ as  
Mike Cirocco records the  
contact via the computer-  
ized Wi-Fi logging system



### ANTENNA ASSEMBLY

Clair Cessna instructs Gervase  
Hammond, Huy Nguyen as  
Mike Cirocco and Tom Whel-  
chel support the mast.

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### PUBLICATION DATE

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ing, and all articles for the next issue must be received  
by the Editor no later than Thursday, July 30 – send as  
a text file via e-mail to kf6bnp@sbcglobal.net with pho-  
tos as attachments. Tnx.

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Open

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Frank Van Derpoel, K6UIZ (951)686-1873

#### Monitor E-Mail Distribution Notices

Clair Cessna, K6LG (951) 689-4580

#### Monday Night Net Control

Bill Hering, N6WMH (951) 689-3055

Contributors to this issue: Ric Maxfield; Clair Cessna; Art Sutorus;  
Ron Braley; Gervase Hammond; Fred Roberts, Frank Van Derpoel,  
Chris Maness

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NO BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED  
DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

### FINAL RESULTS

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts
1.8	CW	1	2
3.5	CW	2	4
3.5	LSB	5	5
7	LSB	112	112
14	CW	122	244
14	USB	49	49
21	USB	105	105
28	USB	22	22
50	USB	27	27
144	USB	1	1
Total Both		446	571
Score :		1,142	

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### May

Income \$133.95  
Expenses \$383.45

#### Balance:

Checking \$757.66  
Savings \$3610.89

### VE TEST RESULTS

Congratulations!  
Jeffrey Gillespie,  
KJ6ACK (Technician)

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Riverside County Amateur  
Radio Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by President Ric Maxfield (N6RIC) followed by the flag salute and round table self-introductions. There were 22 members and guests present. The location of the meeting was at the La Sierra University Church.

#### Old Business:

**Field Day:** Finalized announcements and discussions were done for the Field Day event (June 27 & 28). Ric Maxfield (N6RIC) explained that preparations and equipment set up will begin June 26 at 11 a.m. and the event will start the following day at the same time. This year the club will be 3 Alpha Orange. The specific location will be at Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park in Riverside. Ric then stated the proposed the budgeted amount for the event is \$500. John M Labrum (WA6DRG) carried the motion and Michael W Cirocco seconded the motion. The proposed was presented to the Club and was approved by a unanimous vote. Clair E Cessna (K6LG) announced all the members that were signed up for Field Day as of that date and was able to sign up additional members throughout the meeting.

#### New Business:

**Account Balances in Meeting Minutes:** Ric asked the club if they would like to see the club account balances in the meeting minutes on a monthly basis. The discussed was tabled since no agreement was reached. The issue will be voted on at the next meeting on July 30.

**50/50 Drawing:** John M Labrum (WA6DRG) won drawing.

**Attendance Drawing:** The drawing had no winner so the balance has been increased to \$15.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

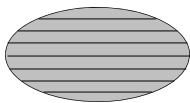
Gervase Hammond, KI6TFL, Secretary

### FROM THE BLUFFS OUT INTO THE RIVER BOTTOM



V-Beam Antenna constructed of two 400 ft lengths of wire, erected on the bluff and extending into the dense under growth of the Santa Ana River Bed. This successful project was spearheaded by Clair Cessna, K6LG.

### WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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## How to Work DX (sneak up on them)

(submitted by Fred Roberts, W6TKV)

ARRL DX Contest, CW

Call: VP9/W6PH

Operator(s): W6PH

Station: VP9GE

Class: SOAB LP

QTH: Bermuda

Operating Time (hrs): 40

Summary:

Band QSOs Mults

-----  
160: 467 53

80: 683 55

40: 1049 58

20: 1257 60

15: 25 15

10: 3 3  
-----

Total: 3484 244 Total Score = 2,550,288

Comments:

Equipment: IC-7000 CT-WIN

Antennas: (160) Inverted L (50 ft vert)

(80) Full wave G5RV 30 ft

(40) Dipole 20 ft

(20-10) A4S 30 ft

Last year I said things couldn't get worse but they did. It was a 20M contest during the day and a three band contest at night. Those 15M and 10M contacts were at S0, most of them QSY's. Bermuda is not the Caribbean. I could hear Caribbean stations working W's on 15M that I could not hear. VP9 propagation is very similar to W3. But VP9 proximity to the northeast US helps on the low bands.

It was good to log so many west coast guys on 160M and 80M. It is a real stretch with my 100 watts. I only remember two QSY's with W6YI and W6TK.

N6AA asked for one to 160M but the sun was already up in Bermuda. But I worked him the next night. I always try to accommodate QSY requests. I never did work W6 on 15M.

There were not that many pileups, just a continual grinding away. My CQ meter says that the F1 button was pushed 2989 times but that doesn't count the RPT CQ's.

Highlights were VY1EI calling me on 20 meters and getting four more multipliers in the last hour. I was able to successfully move VE4EAR, VE5MX, and VY2SS for new multipliers during the contest. Other than that everything else answered my CQ's.

I was glad to try QSY's for a number of people of which only about half worked because of propagation deficiencies. This is the longest sunspot minimum that I can remember since the late 50's. It seems the solar flux has been at 70 for the last three years.

Again I appreciate the hospitality of my host, Ed, VP9GE. He is superb. K3PH will operate there for the ARRL Phone this year

73, Kurt, W6PH

## FIELD DAY ALL STARS

### *Operators & Support Crew*

N6RIC, Ric Maxfield

K6LG, Clair Cessna

KG6NIB, Bob Trujillo

\*KQ6UP, Chris Maness

\*KI6JRM, Mike Cirocco

\*KI6HPV, Damon Jones

WA6TLL, Tom Whelchel

KQ6U, Ted Hudson

AF6HR, Steve Evans

W9GCS, Dennis Lynaugh

KG6CVC, Huy Nguyen

W6GEV, Erick Vaughn

\* Denotes overnights

K6UIZ, Frank Van Derpoel

W6HGS, Jeff Couch

KI6FTL, Gervase Hammond

KQ6HF, Art Sutorus

WA6DDL, Paul Mathews

KI6OQU, Steve Bluemel

NC6V, Kevin Seeger

AD6FR, Jim Anthony

AD6JF, Liz Anthony

KI6RQK, Kiki Cervantes

KF6BNQ, Ed Morgan

KQ6BMW, Carlos Sosa

### Visitors and Guests

Carl Gardenis, WU6D- ARRL S/W Div. Orange Sect. Manager

Zuzzette Bricker, KI6PPO, Riv. Co FD, RACES Coordinator

Brigitte Moore, Mayor Pro Tem- City of Wildomar

Paula Willette, Event Coordinator-City of Wildomar

Jake Moore

Pat Dean

Celeste Reyes

J. Berg, WB6KBC

Mary Ann Van Derpoel

Darcy

Maria Maness

Oliva Contreras

Sophia Maness (6 month old)

# PRESIDENT'S QSO



We made it through another Field Day. While the turnout was small, those that did show up had a great time. As planned, we got started with setup Friday morning shortly after 11:00 a.m. and had over 10 people show up. People kind of came and went and I didn't get an exact count, but we had more than enough help getting the antennas up.

There were some neigh sayers who didn't think that we would be able to get our antennas into the tops of the trees, but the spud gun, or bazooka as we called it, proved them wrong. It did take a little practice to keep the rope from snagging when we retrieved the fishing line, but by the second tree, we were humming right along.

Besides a 40m and 80m dipole for one station, we also put up Clair's V-Beam with two 400 legs of bare wire and a 40m Delta Loop with a balloon at the apex of the triangle.

We did have a few stumbling points with the antennas, but nothing we couldn't overcome. While putting up the V-Beam, we originally had the head of the antenna on a guyed 30 foot pole up about 20 feet. However, the shear pressure from the two 400 foot lengths of wire being tightened caused the pole to buckle halfway between the guy point and the ground. We ended up tying the head insulator off to the tree itself and that overcame the problem.

The other problem we had was with the Delta Loop. The winds got very strong Saturday afternoon and broke a solder joint to one of the upper legs. The balloon was brought down, but hit something sharp and popped. Before it broke, the antenna worked really well on 20m. To solve the problem, we cut off the two top legs, turning the antenna into a dipole, tuned it back up on 20m and started working away again.

Another new thing we tried this year was to not use the clubs military surplus generator because of the amount of gas that it used last year. We set up deep cycle batteries for each station and used a combination of solar power and a small gas generator to recharge the batteries when needed. For the whole weekend we only ran the small generator for about 6 hours and used about 3 gallons of gas, really cutting our Field Day costs.

Lastly, we used a new logging program that Chris, KQ6UP, pulled together for us. While it took a few people a while to get used to the new format, the N1MM logger work great and Chris even set up a WiFi network to link all the laptops together. By Sunday evening all of the contacts had been compiled into one file ready to send off to ARRL.

I'm sure that I'm forgetting other high points for the weekend, but I believe everyone that came out had a great time and I want send out a warm thank you to all who participated as it was your involvement that made it another great Field Day.

Sincerely,  
73 de Ric, N6RIC

## SPOTLIGHT

This month we recognize Damon Jones, KI6HPV for his dedicated service to our association.

Damon is the provider of refreshments served at our meetings, and was a prime mover at field day.



Damon Jones  
KI6HPV



## FIELD DAY eQSL FOLLOW UP



Our log files were uploaded to ARRL, LOTW, and eQSL. All stations contacting W6TJ on FD received eQSLs. We have already received two dozen incoming eQSLs from this event.

# THE CLUB SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2009

<p><b>REGULAR WEEKLY NETS</b></p> <p>Every Sunday at 8:30 AM          Every Monday at 7:00 PM (discontinued)          Every Monday at 7:15 PM          Every Monday at 7:30 PM          Every Wednesday at 8:30 PM</p>	<p>RACES Public Service Net, 3.945 MHz          10M Early Check-In Net, 28.328 MHz          2M Net on the Repeater 146.880 - PL 146.2          Newslines on the Repeater          Simplex Net on 145.52 MHz</p>	<p>Info: KQ6U-Ted          (net control needed)          Info: N6WMH-Bill 687-3055          temporarily discontinued          Info: K6GUK-Mark</p>
<p><b>EVENTS UNTIL NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>July          July 9– Thursday at 6:30 PM          July 9– Thursday 6:30 PM          July 9–Thursday at 7:30 PM          July 14– Tuesday 7:30 PM          August 1– Saturday at 8:00 AM          August 13– Thursday at 6:30 PM          August 13–Thursday at 6:30 PM          August 13– Thursday at 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Club Breakfast (temporarily discontinued)          VE Testing (by appointment only)          Club Board Meeting          Club Meeting          RF Group (aka Real Friendly Guys)          T-Hunt – St. John’s Church, Corona          VE Testing (by appointment only)          Board Meeting          Club Meeting</p>	<p>Info:          Info: K6UIZ-Frank          Info: N6RIC-Ric          Info: N6RIC-Ric          Info: AA6SD or K6GUK          Info: W6TKV-Fred          Info: K6UIZ-Frank          Info: N6RIC-Ric          Info: N6RIC-Ric</p>
<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p>August 15 (8am—5pm)</p>	<p>ARRL S/W Div. Convention/          Hamfest— Earl Warren Show-          grounds</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sbarc.org">www.sbarc.org</a></p>
<p><b>LOCAL SATURDAY SWAP MEETS</b></p> <p>July 11– 7:00 AM          July 18– 7:00 AM          July 25– 7:00 AM</p>	<p>Cable Airport Swap Meet, Upland          Chino Hills High School Swap Meet          TRW Swap Meet, Manhattan Beach</p>	<p>Sponsor: IEARC          Sponsor: CHS Boosters          Sponsor: W6TRW ARA</p>

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