

The K5N crew is selecting the Internet locations they will want us to post to, making arrangements with the site administrators, and creating accounts and log ins for us to post their messages for them. They will be using a 50 watt mobile and a 4 element beam to insure they get a good signal out to the 146.820 repeater.

They expect they will probably need the most help with Internet postings from 8-9 AM and 8-9 PM, or 8:00-9:00 local and 20:00-21:00 local. But as they will be able to have 2-meter coverage right there at their site, we can announce when we are monitoring and when we are QRT, to let them know we are available. We can also provide them with Alpine phone numbers (no cell phones,) and give them instructions on using the auto-patch if the band opens up wide and no one is monitoring the 2-meter.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Allison, K5TDA

My first ham radio Field Day was in 1970 or 71 with the Big Spring Amateur Radio Club. They had set up a station in the parking lot of a local shopping center. The purpose apparently was to expose the local townspeople to Ham Radio. I do not remember operating with them that year but I did come away with the knowledge that some operators could sure make a lot more contacts using the same radio and antenna than others did. I don't think I participated in any more Field Days until 1977, again with the Big Spring Amateur Radio Club. This time they had gone all out and put a station up on the mountain at the state park. My college roommate and myself operated heavily in that one and had a blast. It is the only FD I have ever been in where 10 meters opened almost continuously for the entire period and almost all of our contacts were made on 10. As fast as we could work em.

The next year was a bit different. We used the Texas A&M University Radio Club call, W5AC and went class 2C. That is two transmitter, mobile. There were 8 or 9 of us, in two cars and the route was from College Station to Beaumont, to New Orleans, then north to Jackson Mississippi, then Memphis, then back to Texarkana and College Station. Hint: If you want to kick some mobile FD butt, figure out how to operate the entire thing from the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. That FD has some stories that go with it. We even made it into QST: November 1978, bottom of page 75. (If you are an ARRL member and registered on their website you can view it by looking for the QST Field Day Result Article for that year):

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search>

That DX sign (or one looking suspiciously like it) now hangs in the Shack at W5AC.

From that time on Field Day for me has been a time to reunite with old friends and do a lot of visiting and some operating. The location moved around for several years in the 80s and finally settled onto a friend's ranch southwest of Dallas, near the Dinosaur Valley State Park. The numbers of operators have ranged from the 20s down to 4 or 5 depending on the year. We worked hard for several years, running QRP all CW and using bonus satellite stations and everything else we could do to increase our score. And we "won" the class 1A battery a couple of times. (The arch enemy was a group operating from a salt water island off Florida). As time went along we started

operating more for fun than score and added in SSB, and finally the last few years we started running a KW and going for the highest "rate" possible. Accommodations over the years have gone from tents to RVs and the power source from solar panels to Diesel generators. There were a couple of years where some of us were camped on the ranch for over a week because it took that long to get all the visiting in. That group has not gotten together the last couple of years due to a dispute over the ownership of the land, but I hear that may be settled in time for FD, 2011.

And I think for most of us, that is the essence of Field Day. Get away from the normal routine. Set up some radio gear, something different. Join up with friends. Operate some, visit some, eat a lot. And unlike Big Spring back in 1970, invite those new hams and interested observers to get on the air. Because, then, they too will be hooked on Field Day.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Bill Baker, W5ATO

This month's Newsletter is short and to the point. I will be out of town from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and as soon as I get back, even before, we will be preparing for Field Day, and right after that we will be supporting the K5N 6-meter Gridpedition. So I have to get this letter out quick.

So 2 things. Everyone that possibly can, please monitor the repeater system from June 29 to July 2 to help the 6-meter folks pass information to the Internet. If you don't know how to get the info on the Internet, call some of us on the calling tree list until you find someone that can.

**MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF ALL! ...** If you intend to eat from the community buffets at Field Day, **GET YOUR ORDER IN NOW, BEFORE JUNE 17.** Friday night supper, 3 meals Saturday, breakfast and lunch Sunday is \$30.00 per member, one 12 pack soft drink donation and one 12 pack water donation. If you bring family members or guests, whether they eat 1 meal or all 6, their fee is \$10.00 per person. Payment due before or when you arrive at Field Day.

**IF YOU DO NOT SIGN UP FOR MEALS BY JUNE 17,** the fee will be \$10.00 per person, per meal, provided there is food left.

Contact Bob Ward, WA5ROE at True Value (432)-837-2061, or [wa5roe@juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com) to make your reservations.

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## THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

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