

April May 2024

The Airscoop

K8PL

From the Editor

I apologize for not posting a April newsletter so you are getting a late April May Newsletter. The Auxcom training was held in Escanaba on April 23-24. We had 3 DCARS members attending the training. Roger brought the ECOMM trailer over on Sunday and the trainers and other participants were impressed with the work. One of the trainers commented on the fact that the trailer included GMRS capability. June is a busy month for ham radio. The Green Bay ham radio club will have a ham fest on June 2 and Luce County Amateur Radio Service will have their hamfest on June 8. There is an updated google calendar on the K8PL.org website with upcoming events. The Hardwood Rally race is June 15, and Field day is June 22 and 23.





Field day will be at Aaronson Island this year. The Salvation Army is bringing their mobile canteen vehicle, and the Escanaba Vet Center will have their MVC on site as well. We are hoping for a good representation of local hams to help out this year. Please check the website for ongoing updates

Secretary Report

MINUTES of the DELTA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Located in Escanaba, Michigan

Meeting of April 15th, 2024 Location of State Wide Realty or Ham Shack

N8DP, Dave, called the meeting to order at 7PM sharp.

Congratulations to Pat Green for passing the VE test. Congrats also to

Angelo, KE8YER, General; Pamila KE8YFF, General, and Christopher Pfothenauer, Tech.

Condolences go out to Todd, N8JWT in the loss of his father, Norbert. A Sympathy card will be sent to him, and one has been sent to Aileen, WA8DHB for the loss of her husband.

KD8SDE, Maureen, read the Minutes from last month's meeting. Bob, N8UPR motioned to accept them, and K8WLT, Walt, seconded the motion and it carried.

Repeater Update: Dave, N8DP, had a problem registering the new Repeater. There seems to be a mistake. He's gone over it with a fine tooth comb but will contact Yasu's Head of Marketing and report the findings at our next regular Meeting.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jim, N0OUR. Bob, N8UPR motioned to accept and W8LE, Les seconded and the motion carried.

Correction: FIELD DAY WILL take place this year, on Aaronson Island, on JUNE 22nd and 23rd this year, the last full weekend in June. It is a 24 hour event, beginning at 2PM on Saturday. N8DP has arranged for our Permit and the Fee was waived once again! Maureen, KD8SDE, will contact Stenberg's for a sitter. Comp, hopefully. Dave, N8DP will Chair the event: Please get with him regarding your intended Band and Location. Any questions? Now is the time to ask! Also, prepare early and pack your equipment such as antennas, radio, computer, trailer, tent, etc. We need Brochures for the Table. We are usually blessed with beautiful weather, so lets hope it remains that nice this year! Tasty food is yet to be arranged. Any ideas? You may download ARRL's website's Rules for Field Day 2024. N8UPR, Bob noted he has brought the generator needing repair, to Four Seasons. Good going, Bob! N8XAH, Mark is maintaining the other generator. Looks like we'll have power! Reminder: ONLY PREMIUM GAS IN BOTH!!! KD8SDE, Maureen, will bring & attach 2 laminated signs, 1 for each generator.

HAMFEST Info: Walt, K8WLT, checked and found that we had NOT been added on ARRL's website for the event! He will contact Larry Camp and he will add us. Good going, Walt! The WORLD has to know when it is! **HAMFEST is scheduled for Saturday, August 3rd.** Set up (tables + any displays) will be on Friday between 5-7PM. Saturday's Set up will be between 7 and 9 AM. **The Event takes place from 9 AM til 2 PM.** The Location is in Rapid River. Make a LEFT at Jack's Restaurant. Go down a couple of blocks to the Old School. You will see many cars and trucks in front. That's it! **NOTE: The Food and workers have not been found yet. We will need a person to buy, temporarily refrigerate food and drinks and to transport the food to the kitchen on the day of, and 2 people preparing and serving food as well as a person to handle the cash drawer. Maureen, KD8SDE, has offered to serve food and help with end of the day Clean-Up, but 3 more workers need to be found. The Menu ??? Walt will tell us how many he has signed for tables so we have a loose count of how many to buy for. OPTION2: Hire out rather than #1 Option.**

We have been asked to assist in the Gladstone **FIRECRACKER RUN** on the **4th of July.** N8DP, Dave, asked Dave, K9VFS, if he would consider heading up that Event. We'll know by our next Meeting. It is an early but short time for us to serve.

Les, WA8LE, **voiced an opinion to change the configuration of the Shack's Antennas.** Dave, N8DP said he would like the 40 and 80m dipole to remain as is.

Mark, N8XAH, offered some **older radios** that he had been given, to any hams who might want one. See him about them.

Jim, N0Our spoke about the **Salvation Army's connection to Saturn Energy Network.** It is on 2meter. They have a Net on 40meter. Any interest in getting with them? Next Meeting?

Bob, N8UPR **motioned to adjourn,** Walt, K8WLT seconded and the motion carried.

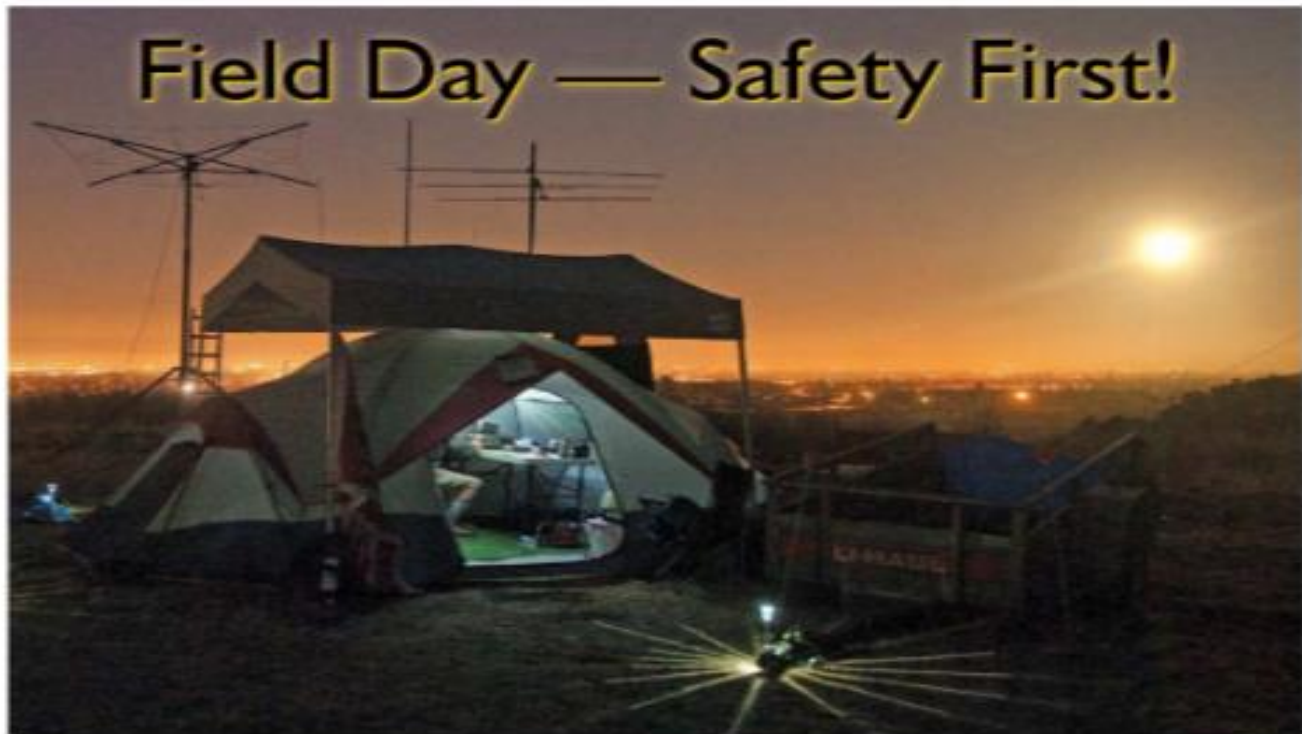
Hams Present: N8DP, K8WLT, N8XAH, WA8LE, KE8YFF, KD8SDE, KD8KKN, K9SGD, K9VFS, NJ9V, KE8YER, N8XOD, KD8TTQ, KD8PLR, N0OUR, K8AO, KB8PLR, WWOJ.

Note: Paul, NJ9V mentioned his lovely wife, Donna, has cracked her femur. Please keep her in your prayers that her surgery goes perfectly!

Respectfully submitted by

Maureen, KD8SDE 73

2024 ARRL Field Day Theme: Be Radio Active



In this moonrise shot of our Field Day site, LED ground lighting (foreground) has been positioned to illuminate potential tripping hazards near the tent. [Bill Frantz, A6GJV, photo]

Expert advice on keeping your Field Day team out of harm's way in the heat of the contest.

Jim Peterson, K6EI, and Jim DeLoach, WU8I

It was the phone call that no ARRL Field Day coordinator wants to have to make: "Hello, 911, we have an injury here at Henry W. Coe State Park and need immediate assistance." During one of our events, a member of our group had tripped and fallen in the dark. Fortunately, the ambulance arrived quickly, and our friend's injuries turned out to be minor. But this incident got us thinking: What additional steps should we take next time to better protect our team from accidents and injury? In this article, we share what we are doing to keep our Field Day operation as safe as possible.

Planning Ahead for Safety

Planning for safety is as important as preparing the rigs and antennas for each band. Just like rig and antenna preparation, the steps each Field Day station takes to stay safe are different for each operation.

Our battery-powered, low-power Field Day takes place on a dry hill overlooking Silicon Valley. Fire safety precautions are critical. Our site has few trees, so our antennas are mounted on and between self-supported masts with numerous guy lines. Consequently, tripping hazards are a major concern. And with almost no natural shade from the California sun, heat is another issue.

Our site's safety planning therefore stresses fire prevention, minimizing tripping hazards, and managing heat and detecting its effects, along with emergency readiness. There are many other aspects to Field Day safety, and your operation may have different priorities, so be sure to review ARRL's list of tips at www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2022/2_2-FD%20Really%20Trying.pdf. To give you extra incentive to run a safe Field Day event, ARRL gives a 100-point bonus to groups that have an assigned Safety Officer and follow the types of precautions described in this article (see

www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2021/1_91-FD%20Safety%20Officer.pdf).

Fire Risk

Canada and the western US have experienced increasingly severe wildfires over the past few years, and fire risk during the summer months is of special concern. Because our Field Day site is covered with dry vegetation and has no access to running water, we follow a zero-tolerance approach to fire safety; no open flames of any kind are allowed at our site. This includes no smoking, as well as no camp stoves for food preparation. We have meals transported to our site instead.

We also ask each of our Field Day participants to consider bringing fire extinguishers from home. This usually results in six or eight fire extinguishers that we place throughout our site in highly visible and easy-to-access locations.

Tripping Hazards

Field Day can be chaotic with team members moving in all directions in an unfamiliar setting. With temporary antennas, masts, structures, and guy lines everywhere, tripping is a major hazard, particularly at night. Consequently, there are some basic precautions that we try to take each year.

We start by positioning our radio tents so that they surround a central social area with the antennas farther afield. This draws our site's foot traffic away from the guy lines and other tripping hazards of our antenna farm. Keeping all of the cables, power cords, and ropes away from areas where people might walk is critical. We flag all potential tripping hazards with yellow or orange caution tape (see Figure 1). We've found traffic cones to be especially handy for making hazardous locations visible if vehicles might be parked nearby. We also try to avoid using black, brown, or camouflage rope for our guy lines, instead using brightly colored rope whenever possible (see Figure 2).

Nighttime events can be problematic. Late-night operators may be less alert, and structures that are visually prominent in daylight often become totally invisible in the darkness. Our club has found that solar- and/or battery-powered LED landscape path lights (available at all major hardware stores) are a convenient way to provide lighting throughout our site (see the lead photo).

Having LED lighting at your site has an added benefit of reducing unwanted encounters with nocturnal wildlife. A favorite Field Day story of our club involves a late-night trek by one of our operators. After a long evening on single sideband, he had forgotten to bring a flashlight



Figure 1 — Use yellow or orange safety tape to flag all of the guy lines, and place traffic cones to keep vehicles in a safe place. [Steve Sergeant, KC6ZKT, photo]



Figure 2 — Bright neon rope is readily available and can make your guy lines more visible, which can significantly reduce the risk of tripping — or worse. [Jim Peterson, K6EI, photo]



Figure 3 — Use canopies to provide shade, and reflective material to keep tents cool. [Jim Peterson, K6EI, photo]

while on his way to the portable restroom. He was approaching his destination when, in the darkness, he stepped on something long and soft that moved — a large snake! Fortunately, he and the snake were unharmed, and it quickly disappeared into the tall grass.

Heat

Heat is another risk factor for almost all Field Day operations. As mentioned earlier, our club's Field Day site in California is on an open hilltop with few trees and limited shade. Most of our team members have indoor jobs during the week and are not conditioned for working outdoors in hot weather, which makes heat stroke a serious possibility. The risk is increased among older operators, especially as temperatures continue to rise. Here are some factors to consider in keeping your team safe in the heat.

Plan Early

While summer thunderstorms are not an issue here on the west coast, our local weather conditions in late June can range from pleasant (with highs of around 70 °F) to challenging (with temperatures well above 100 °F). As a result, we always factor the uncertainty of the weather into our contingency plans. A couple of days prior to Field Day, we review the predicted highs for the weekend. If temperatures are expected to exceed 95 °F, we adopt our plan B, which involves two changes: shifting our Friday-morning setup an hour earlier to take advantage of early-morning coolness, and scaling back the number of antennas we planned to deploy in order to reduce setup time. Additionally, if the temperature is expected to exceed 100 °F, we further reduce our antenna plans to a bare-bones deployment and potentially reduce the number of transmitters.

Keep Cool

Because of our site's limited shade, we have developed several mitigation strategies for keeping our operators cool and comfortable. The first tactic is to drape sheets of highly reflective Mylar® over the rain fly of each tent (see Figure 3). These are typically sold online as "Mylar emergency blankets." Sometimes we will also deploy an external awning above our radio tents. The combination of Mylar and secondary awnings has the added perk of cutting down on the glare inside each tent that would otherwise obscure a dim laptop screen. Portable, battery-powered misting fans that mount on 5-gallon buckets can also help keep operators comfortable.

Stay Hydrated

We always maintain a large dispenser of ice-cold water in the social area of our club's site, along with a second dispenser of lemonade. The lemonade option is especially popular at our site.

Be Vigilant

We make sure everyone on our Field Day team knows the signs of heat stress, which can include heavy sweating, cold/pale/clammy skin, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and/or headache. You can see a more complete list of heat-related symptoms and precautions on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html. Keep an eye out for symptoms, and don't hesitate to intervene with team members when needed. Be aggressive about encouraging your team to slow down or take a break.

The Takeaway

Field Day safety should not be an afterthought. Think ahead of time about what your Field Day site's risks are, and encourage your teammates to be aware of their surroundings. A great motto for any Field Day site is "if you see something unsafe, report it and fix it." After all potential problems are addressed, you can focus on having a good time and good luck during the event!

Jim Peterson, K6EI, has been a ham for more than 50 years. Jim recently retired after nearly 4 decades as a systems engineer at Northrop Grumman, and ham radio has become his primary focus. His interests include contesting, chasing DX, operating portable, and coordinating the West Valley Amateur Radio Association's (WVARRA's) annual Field Day event. You can reach him at k6ei@arrl.net.

Jim DeLoach, WU0I, when not at home with WVARA, brings Field Day along on his summer road trips. Jim's most recent trips took him to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Indiana, and Alaska. You can reach him at jim@deloach.net.

For updates to this article, see the [QST Feedback page](#) at www.arrl.org/feedback.



The latest QST magazine has a field day guide that has a lot of helpful information.



Treasurers Report

Website

I encourage you to check out our website www.k8pl.org for updated information. You can also check out our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dcars.k8pl> for updates on current events. I will be working to develop a google chat account where people can post information and chat with other members.

Coming Events

DCARS Calendar



DCARS
Calendar_d3936b24r

Swap Meets

Green Bay Hamfest June 1
Luce County Hamfest June 8