

Field Day 2017 Results

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Director**

OMG! That is about all we can say about this year's Field Day. I have been tabulating and writing this article for a long time. I started tracking the scores back in 2002. This year, we have the highest score from a participant, the most satellites used, the most stations participating and the most fun since the loss of HEO's. We had twenty-one satellites in operation. Back in 2002, we had 1905 QSOs and 38 participants. In 2003, we had 2117 QSOs with 37 participants and 2802 points. As you can see, the loss of a HEO satellite hurt field day. However, all the LEO satellites operational today have created a push for many operators to get back on a satellite.

As I do every year, I have calculated the number of satellites based upon their modes. SO-50 has one FM transponder, and I count that as one satellite, whereas AO-7 has two modes, SSB and CW, and gets counted as two satellites. This means you can work the same station on the same satellite in each mode available for that satellite.

Among the 21 satellites operational this year

were SO-50 (FM), AO-85 (FM), AO-7 (SSB/CW), AO-73 (SSB/CW), FO-29 (SSB/CW), XW-2A (SSB/CW), XW-2B (SSB/CW), XW-2C (SSB), XW-2D (SSB), XW-2F (SSB/CW), EO-88 (SSB), LO-90 (Digital), ISS (APRS), UKUBE-1 (SSB/CW).

The ISS had no voice contacts again this year. However, one group downloaded a Field Day greeting from the ISS, and several groups made APRS contacts. We had one contact reported on LO-90's digital mode.

The breakdown of satellite usage is as follows.

	Phone	CW/Digital
AO-7	21	2
AO-73	40	1
AO-85	11	
EO-88	8	
FO-29	184	8
ISS		6
LO-90		1
SO-50	12	
UKUBE-1	25	1
XW-2A	94	
XW-2B	102	1
XW-2C	102	1
XW-2D	32	
XW-2F	72	4

This year, 27 stations participated in AMSAT Field Day. They reported a total of 728 QSOs



Photo 1 — San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club operating as K6MMM.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Satellite	8	12	12	9	9	8	12	9	16	21
QSOs	220	328	387	335	263	443	305	316	424	728
Stations	17	20	18	14	19	23	21	21	22	27
Points	270	486	505	455	329	613	357	386	448	778



and 778 total points. This is more than any other year (since the loss of HEOs) and more than double that of many years. A total of 703 Phone QSOs and 25 CW/Digital QSOs were reported.

Several stations operated from home with both emergency power and commercial power. Frank Westphal, K6FW, Tom Smith, KB6A, John Fickes, W0JW, used Commercial Power. Christy Hunter, KB6LTY, Paul Stotzer, N8HM, and Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, operated from home on battery or emergency power.

All of this year's winners will receive certificates at the AMSAT Symposium in Reno, Nevada, later this year. In First Place is the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club operating as W0GQ. They were also first place in 2015. They amassed a whopping 199 points this year.

Right behind in Second Place is the San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club operating as K6MMM, the same place they held last year. Look at their horse trailer with their antennas and rotor mounted on top (Photo 1). The station was inside. They accumulated 80 points.

The Loudoun Amateur Radio Group took Third Place operating as K4LRG with 63 points. They made a nice comeback since their last participation in 2015 when they were in sixth place. Photo 2 depicts their antenna

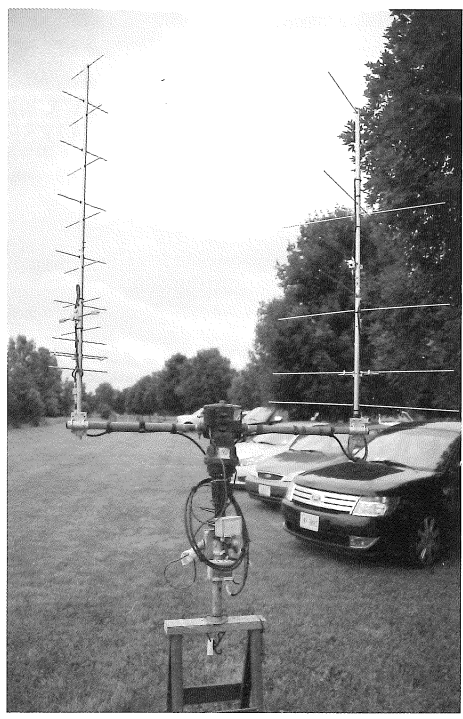


Photo 2 — San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club operating as K6MMM.

setup. Photo 3 shows Phyllis Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors as she looks at the satellite station. In Photo 4, The Honorable Richard “Dick” Black, Virginia State Senator, sits at the helm of the satellite

station with Stephan, KS1G, explaining satellite operations to him.

Finally, the top home station operating on emergency power with 30 points is Paul,



Photo 3 — Phyllis Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors checking out K4LRG.

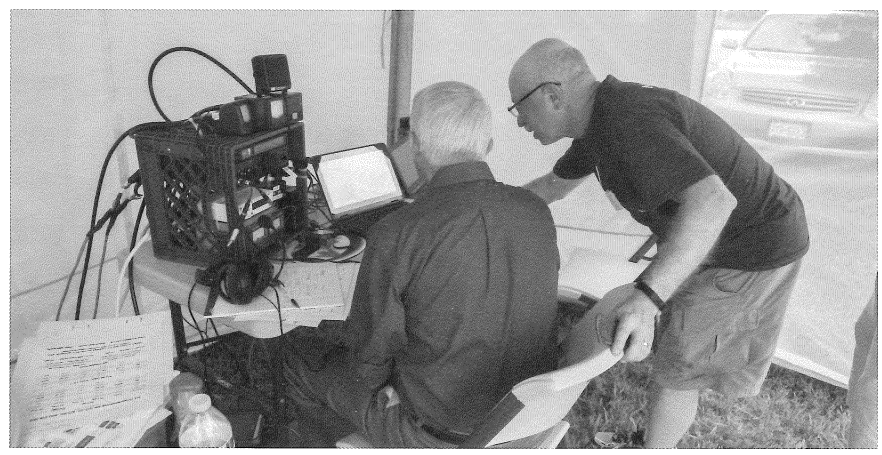


Photo 4 — The Honorable Richard “Dick” Black, Virginia State Senator, sits at the helm of the satellite station with Stephan, KS1G.

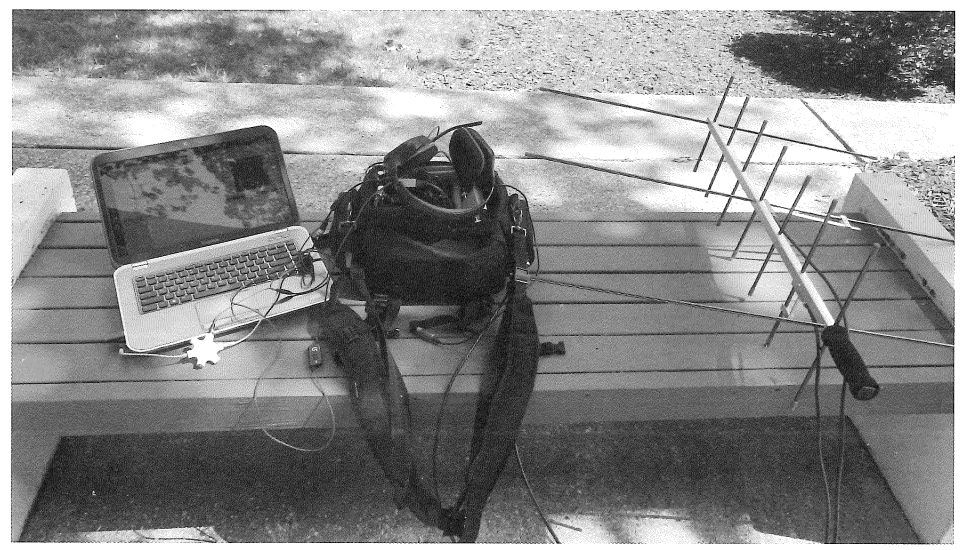


Photo 5 — Paul Stotzer’s (N8HM) portable station for LO-90.





Photo 6 — Ed, KC7KCU, of Cottonwood Heights ARC in Utah, W7RCH.



Photo 7 — Carlos, W7QL, of Cottonwood Heights ARC in Utah, W7RCH.



Photo 8 — Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society operating as N4EH.

N8HM, a title that he held in 2015 as well. Paul used his portable station for working LO-90 (Photo 5).

The Cottonwood Heights ARC in Utah, operating as W7RCH, worked its one satellite contact and had fun doing it. Photo 6 shows Ed, KC7KCU, positioning the antenna. Carlos, W7QL, appears at the mic for the contact (Photo 7).

Those at the Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society operating as N4EH had to shut down for a bit when a thunderstorm moved across their site (Photo 8).

With so many operational satellites this year, Joe, K0OV, from the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, W6PA, field day site commented that he had been working satellites since AO-6 days, and this was the most field day fun yet. In Photo 9, Tom, WB2LRH, is teaching the fine points of antenna pointing to Rebecca, KI6OEM, while Bill, KZ3G and David, KB6BXD, look on.

The Boschveldt QRP Club, W3BQC, participated for the first time in AMSAT Field Day, and they did it with dual Arrow antennas, a WRAPS rotor, and homemade CP switches. They did very well for their first Field Day on satellites.

Photo 10 shows the Lambton County Radio Club, VE3SAR, site, with (from left to right) Mr. Bob Bailey, Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, The Honorable Ms. Marilyn Gladu, Member of the Canadian Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, Chuck Chivers, VE3VSA, Club President and Keith Baker, KB1SF/VA3KSF, Club Treasurer and Past President.

In Photo 11, The Honorable Ms. Marilyn Gladu logs a satellite contact for the club, and Mr. Bob Bailey logs another satellite contact in Photo 12.

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League celebrated its 40th year. Instead of their usual K4JJ call, they used a special call of N4O.

Steve, N9IP/VE7, operated from a campground near Hazelton, British Columbia. Here are his Arrow antennas and WRAPS controlling them appear in Photo 13. Nice.

At the Dallas Amateur Radio Club, W5FC, site, operators had all their antennas in full bloom. The satellite antennas appear at the left tent in Photo 14.



Photo 9 — Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society operating as N4EH.



Photo 10 — Lambton County Radio Club, VE3SAR, site, with (from left to right) Mr. Bob Bailey, Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, The Honorable Ms. Marilyn Gladu, Member of the Canadian Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, Chuck Chivers, VE3VSA, Club President, and Keith Baker, KB1SF/VA3KSF, Past President of both the Lambton Club and AMSAT-NA.



Photo 11 — The Honorable Ms. Marilyn Gladu logs a satellite contact for the club.



Photo 12 — Mr. Bob Bailey logs another satellite contact for VE3SAR.



Photo 13 — Steve, N9IP/VE7, operated from a campground near Hazelton, British Columbia.



Photo 14 — The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, W5FC.



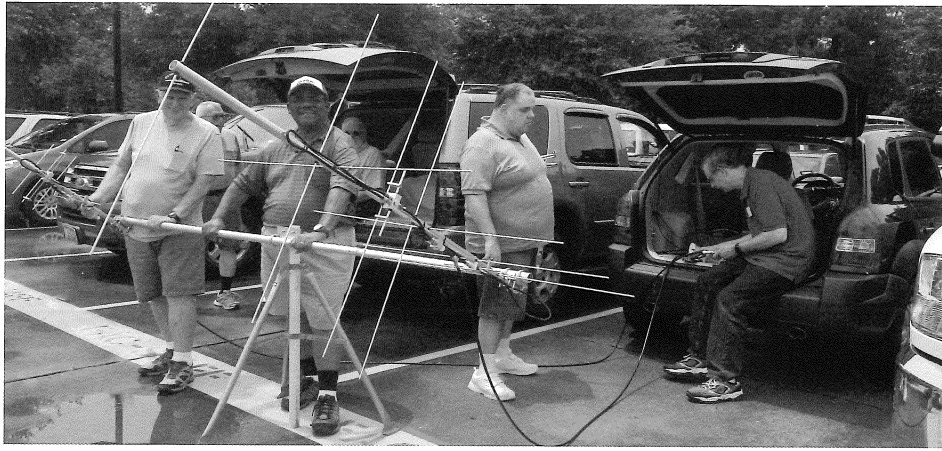


Photo 15 — The author sitting in the back of his SUV with the red shirt at TEAC, W5SI.

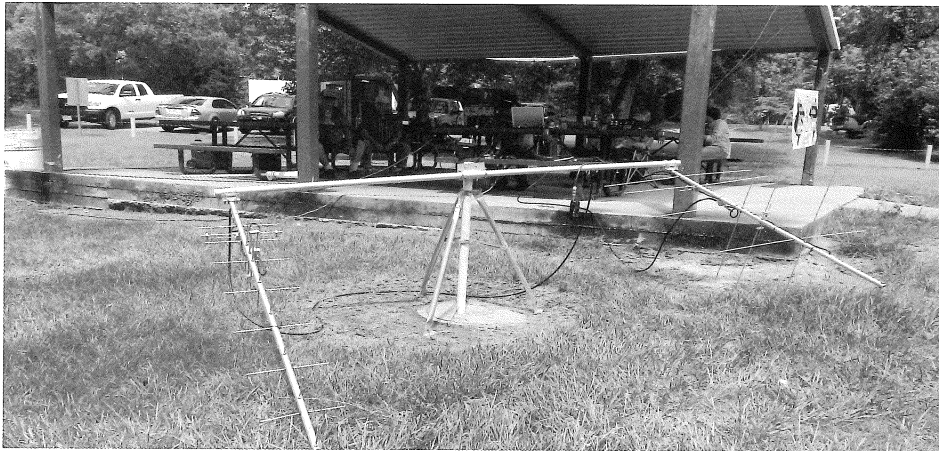


Photo 16 — SHARK, AI5M, site in Cleveland, Texas.

I ventured out once again for Field Day this year, visiting the TEAC (W5SI) site in Kingwood, Texas. Setting up my M2 Leo Pack with Armstrong rotors, Icom 2200H 2m mobile and Wouxun HT, I was able to make a contact on SO-50 for them. In Photo 15, I appear sitting in the back of my SUV with the red shirt. I then went to the SHARK (AI5M) site in Cleveland, Texas, for the next pass of SO-50 (Photo 16). I brought multiple radios and even had my Icom IC-9100 for backup. I was not successful on this pass as it was low to the horizon and the bird for some reason was very busy (hi!). As with all the other field day groups, satellite operations are always one heck of a hit.

For next year, remember, Murphy will somehow visit someone and spoil the day. Be prepared and have extra equipment, cables and connectors.

Here is a table of all entries received. In the case of a tie, the call signs are listed alphabetically. 🌐

	Call	Class	QSOs
1	W0GQ	2A	199
2	K6MMM	3A	80
3	K4LRG	5A	63
4	W6PA	2A	56
5	K4LKL	4A	52
6	W4MLB	2F	35
7	N4O	3A	35
8	N8HM	1B	30
9	KB6LTY	1E	29
10	K6FW	1D	28
11	W5FC	4A	25
12	KB6A	1D	22
13	VE3SAR	3A	21
14	W3BQC	3A	17
15	W1BIM	6A	14
16	K5COW	4A	14
17	WE7GV	2A	12
18	WD9EWK	1B	10
19	N9IP/VE7	1A	8
20	W3CWC	6A	7
21	N4EH	5A	6
22	W0JW	1D	5
23	VE7ECA	1A	5
24	WA5KBH	1D	2
25	W5SI	6F	1
26	W7RCH	1F	1
27	WA3NAN	3F	1