

Field Day June 24-25 2023

Central Missouri Radio Association (CMRA)
and Boone County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (BCARES)

Our Amateur Radio Field Day was held at the Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, just south of Columbia, MO. Although it was relatively hot and humid, during the day, we enjoyed welcoming more than 50 amateur radio operators and guests to the park. The guests included three from the Boone County Office of Emergency Management and the Boone County District 1 Commissioner.



Figure 1 County Commissioner tunes in the GOTA station as the Director of OEM looks on.

We set up four operating stations including one “Alternate” powered station using only batteries and solar panels for power. The other three stations (Digital FT4/8, Single Side Band, and CW) were powered from portable generators. We powered down one of the generators about 8:00 PM, while the other ran from about 11:00 AM to beyond 2:00 AM on its one-gallon gas tank. It was quickly refueled and restarted to run until about 3:00 AM when we decided we were

through. Removing the antenna wires from the trees in the dark was not as hard as we thought and all was loaded into the trucks and cars, leaving the park as we had found it 18 hours before.

In addition to the 4 stations above, we provided a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station for those who may not have had a Ham License, or not used HF much for the experience in making contacts on HF bands. One person persisted and managed 10 HF contacts and was rightly quite proud of his day on the air.

As suggested by the ARRL guidelines, we

designated a “Safety Officer” for the day, who diligently checked out wires in trees, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and water for all leading up to hot dogs and pot-luck sides at 5:30.

Stats: 52 signed in, 942 QSO points, 1500 Bonus points for a total of 2,442 points. Contacted 44 states in the 286 QSOs.



Figure 3 Safety Officer W0ZH, reviews the info table.



Figure 2 GOTA station in operation as mentors look on!

Thanks to all who made Field Day 2023 a Fun Day in the Park and demonstrating Ham radio to our guests.