President’s Notes Column June 27, 2023

Greetings Fellow Hams,

I hope everyone is doing well these days and that everyone is staying cool. It’s been quite the humid start to summer, as we all found out at Field Day this past weekend!

I want to take the time to say a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who made Field Day 2023 a reality for our Club. The spirit of Field Day started on Friday night as we gathered to begin the set up process. Everyone found their niche in order to get the set up process going in a positive direction.

Mark, KA1INE did an absolutely incredible job as Field Day Chair. His head was spinning in a lot of different directions in the weeks leading up to Field Day, but he managed to keep a cool, organized head and guide the volunteers. The situation was well under control under Mark’s leadership all weekend.

For example, there was a bit of a panic around 4:00 PM on Saturday when Mark got a text saying the food people that were lined up were going to bail on us. Mark’s quick thinking got us a wonderful Italian meal to feed 25 hungry hams and guests from Stromboli’s in Billerica on a moment’s notice.

Ken, WO1N, did a tremendous job with station set up and logging coordination. He was the glue that kept all of the operators in sync and making as many QSO’s as possible during the event.

Kevin was a gracious host from the Town of Billerica and was very helpful in allowing us to get the most out of the available facilities. We are grateful for his assistance.

Ken, W7LSG and Paul, K1VK, were instrumental in getting the antennas built and up on the tower and operational.

Thanks also to Bruce, W1LUS, who brought the 80-40 meter dipole for us to use to make contacts on those bands.

A special thanks as well goes to Tom, K1TW, who brought over a Ham Radio Proclamation from the Governor of Massachusetts Maura Healy and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, which marked the special day. Everyone present was able to get in a nice group photo with the certificate for the B.A.R.S. webpage.

Lastly, I wish to thank Kayla, W2IRY, for her expert photography, which captured the essence of what was a great Field Day for our Club.

I could go on and on with the thank you’s and kudos for all who contributed to the success of our event. You all know who you are and your efforts and contributions were greatly appreciated in my corner of the ham radio world.

Everyone I talked to learned something about ham radio during their time at Field Day this year. Some of us had never worked the Magic Band, 6 meters, while some of us experienced the joy and simplicity of FT8 mode operation, while some of us kept plugging away on SSB and CW to get points and contacts for the W1HH stations that were on the air.

You could sense the excitement in the room as our great operators kept knocking off the states on the big screen on the wall. I believe that we only had a handful of states to get as of Sunday morning. ND, SD, IA and OR were the only states that we hadn’t made contacts with yet. I was very impressed by this, as it took me over a year to get my WAS, and the Club almost did it in a 24 hour period!

In closing, I want to thank everyone who participated as operators at Field Day. We are a G.O.T.A. Club, and we certainly lived up to that billing from 2:00 PM Saturday past to 2:00 PM on Sunday. You members are what makes our great Club tick! Keep up the good work and Get On The Air!

Until next Month,

73,

Doug

N1WRN