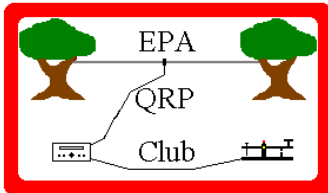




EPA QRP CLUB

ARRL Field Day 2004



Well ARRL Field Day 2004 was a blast! Seems like all who attended had fun. We had three stations set up as 3A EPA: one CW station, one SSB station and a PSK31 station. The CW station used an Elecraft K2 fed into a Vertical Black Widow Fishing Pole Antenna or (VBWFPA), 15m dipole and the "Twin Towers"

Antenna. The SSB station used an Elecraft K2 fed into a 80m doublet and the "Green Monster". More on the Green Monster and Twin Towers antennas later. The PSK station ran a Yaesu FT817(stock), running the full five watts. The antenna was a portable vertical antenna using the AD5X design from July 2002 QST (ground mounted vertical, four radials, about 20' of R/G-58). Toshiba Portege 660CDT laptop (150 MHz Pentium, 80 MB RAM, (Win95) DigiPan v1.5 PSK software, N3FJP Field Day logger BuxComCo RASCAL Interface and a battery provided by WB3AAL.

N3EPA F.D. 2004 SSB Station

The SSB station was set up in a gazebo at the far western end of the campsites. The station had a total of 167 QSOs on four bands. The bands used were 80m, 20m, 40m and 15m in order of highest Qs. The station had 91 Qs on 80m; 50 Qs on 20m; 22 Qs on 40m and 4 Qs on 15m. The SSB station ops worked 43 sections including: AL, CO, CT, ENY, EPA, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, LAX, MDC, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, NE, NFL, NH, NLI, NM, NNJ, NTX, OH, RI, SB, SCV, SFL, SNJ, TN, VA, VT, WCF, WI, WMA, WNY, WPA and WV.

N3EPA F.D. 2004 CW Station



The CW station was set up in the center of the field day site. It too was set up in a screened-in gazebo with picnic tables inside. The CW ops cranked out a total of 130 QSOs on 20m, 80m, 40m and 15m in order of highest Qs. On 20m they hammered out 53 Qs; 80m yielded 41 Qs; 40m supplied 35 Qs and 15m ended with one QSO. The CW station also contacted 52 sections including: AB, AL, AR, AZ, CO, CT, DE, EMA, ENY, EPA,

GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, LAX, MDC, MI, MO, MS, NC, NE, NFL, NH, NM, NNJ, NNY, NTX, NV, OH, ON, ORG, RI, SB, SCV, SDG, SF, SFL, SNJ, STX, TN, UT, VA, WCF, WI, WMA, WNY, WPA, WTX and WVA.

N3EPA F.D. 2004 PSK31 Station

The PSK31 station was set up in the same gazebo as the CW station. In fact that's Steve, W3HF, in back of Ron, WB3AAL in the above picture. The PSK boys cranked out a total of 40 QSOs on 40m and 20m. The 40m band yielded just a slightly higher number of Qs about 21 and 20m ended up with 19 Qs. The PSK31 crew worked a total of 18 sections including: AZ, EPA, GA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, NC, NFL, NH, OH, SC, SFL, VA, WI, WPA and WV.

N3EPA F.D. 2004 Summary

Here's the big picture of all the stations we ran at Field Day 2004 - (unofficial).

	QSOs	Sections	Score
CW	130	52	1300
SSB	167	43	835
PSK31	40	18	400
		Total	2535

N3EPA F.D. People Pics – What a Crew!



Matt, KB3JJV



N3EPA F.D. Show and Tell Stuff!



Matt, KB3JJV

Some of you members might know Matt, (picture above) and others may not know him. Matt, KB3JJV, was with us on Saturday night enjoying a relaxing campfire when he spilled hot chocolate on himself. Luckily, he is ok and all is fine. Matt, next year let the hot chocolate cool before you sit by the campfire!

N3EPA F.D. Equipment etc.



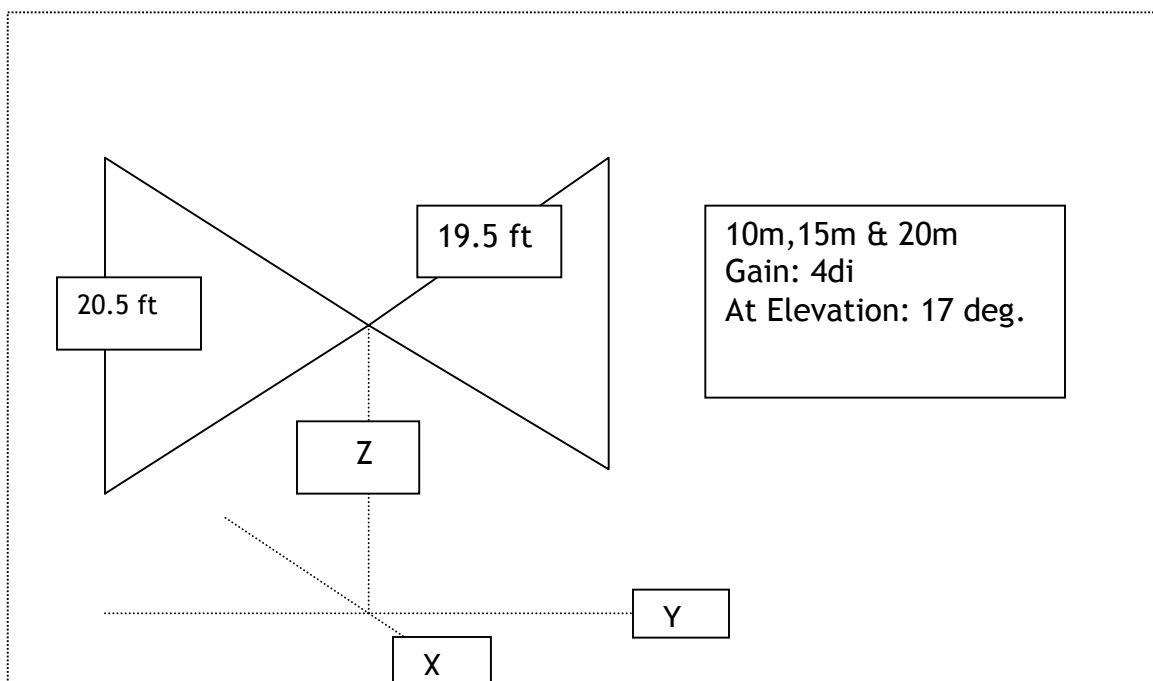
80M Twin Towers Vertical Antenna

The left tower supports a VBWFPA coil and the right tower is a 33' fiberglass pole wound with small wire. Guess what? This thing actually works great!



SWAT-4 Antenna (The Green Monster!)

The SSB station ran using two antennas. A 80m doublet and “the Green Monster.” The green Monster is actually two delta loops connected so that the result is a beam pattern with gain. We used the Green Monster on the upper bands and the 80m doublet on the lower bands. This antenna was named for the #14 gauge wire that is green in color. The monster part is the size and shape.



Matt, KB3JJV & Steve, W3HF

From Matt KB3JJV: I had lots of fun. It was cool that I could operate the PSK station and listen to the SSB and CW. I had fun camping with everyone, and it was nice to see all the other people who are in the club. I really liked seeing all the projects people had built, but my favorite was the keyer paddle with no moving parts. The worst part was the hot chocolate!

From Steve W3HF: I had a great time, too. This was my first "full-time" Field Day effort, and it was nice to be with a group that had experience. Aside from Matt's hot chocolate incident, it was a wonderful experience, and we're both looking forward to next year.

EPA QRP Club Dictator F. D. Message!

The EPA QRP Club's 2004 Field Day event was one for the record books. Murphy was one of our visitors this year which no one invited.

I arrived to the Group Site #9 around 3:30 PM on Friday. Steve, N3FWE, was sitting there in his car. I greeted Steve and we started to talk. He told me that he just finished a nice hike around the French Creek State Park and he had a great time. Shortly after that Ed, WA3WSJ, drove into the site. We all chatted for a little while, then Ed started to setup his tent and I started to hang the "Killer Vertical" with Steve. After a few shots I had the bottom of the antenna around 30 feet off the ground. I had a big smile on my face, that was high. Steve and I strung out the radials and started to setup the CW station site. A few other EPA QRP'ers started to show up around 5 PM with the thunder in the background. After we had the tent situated for the CW site I had to leave for home to find some equipment for the event. I just moved a week before and I spent all day Friday going through boxes looking for my equipment. Around midnight I had everything I needed for FD 2004.

I arrived to the site around 7:30 AM to be greeted by the other EPA'ers that came in during the night and to have breakfast. After a quickly eating I met with the other club members. Then we started to finish setting up the CW station. We were going to use the "Killer Vertical" and a full size G5RV.

Nine o'clock came very fast and it was meeting time. I talked about some old and new business. Then we went onto the show and tell. Everyone that had something to show and tell us their story was very interesting. We have a great variety of members and interest. The knowledge that is in the club is unbelievable.

After the meeting was over that is when Murphy came to visit. I turned on the K2 and computer for the CW station. There was a S9 to S20 over 9 noise. We tried everything except placing a ground onto the station. We were picking up the computer noise from the 450 ohm ladder line. To be truthful, I was becoming upset and getting ready to pack it in. But with some help from the fellow club members we worked it out and had a great time. We were using Ed's, WA3WSJ, vertical antenna the VBWFPA for 40 and 20 meters. I came up with a polish configuration of the DK pole and Ed's antenna for 80 meters which was later dubbed the "Twin Towers." The SSB station was having problems hanging the antennas, but thanks to a trusty fisherman in the club, we had the fishing line to hang antennas.

Band conditions made it a challenge to operate this year. Once you called a station, his signal dropped out before we had a chance to make an exchange. I almost had a KH6 worked on the VBWFPA antenna on 20 meters in the evening. He just could not pull out the EPA on the call. Every time he said "The N3 station please go ahead de KH6??" the QRM was heavy. Ahhh the trials and tribulations of contesting.

Over all it seemed like everyone had an enjoyable time and from what I heard they would like to do it again at the same spot next year. We had Group Tent Site #8 & 9 at the French Creek State Park. This was a large area, plenty of tall trees and parking for everyone's cars and tents.

72 for now
Ron de N3EPA
EPA QRP Club El Presidente'