

29 June 2025

This was probably the most fun, and well-attended Field Day we have ever had, with a final count of 103 people traveling more than 40 miles to attend with us. The kids (13 yo Jaxon, 12 yo Abbie, 12 yo Gabby, 15 yo Isaac, and 14 yo Izzie) helped erect the antennas, set up, and add actual contact points to both the GOTA and SSB stations. Chad KD7BKO set up the entire solar-powered (batteries at night) communication mesh network to facilitate logging between our three main stations.

Last year we had a three-person CW crew who brought in a record number of contacts. They inspired one new ham (28 yo Forrest KI7QCF) so much, that he added to the five-person CW crew this year, helping us to smash our previous record. The ARRL Treasurer (John WJ7S) was one of the CW crew who helped us break our record.

Dave Becar KI6OSS organized a Laurel exam session two hours into our event, and had been advertising this for a couple of months. His five-person team passed seven new Technicians and upgraded four others. One person (now KM7BLB) struggled for weeks with a brain disorder, and could not pass the practice tests, but studied day and night right up until Field Day, and came out and passed the Technician exam with tears of joy.

Our GOTA station master (31 yo Sabra AI7UG) kept the calling and logging going almost all night and both days. She helped many of the attendees, both youth and adults, learn about how radio works, and how to make contacts, and how to log them. I believe her younger attitude and excitement enticed many youth to get involved. Sabra established an elmering station of sorts in the GOTA trailer, for people to come and ask questions of any kind. She kept the station rolling, which always had a line of people, until really late. And by the way, Sabra is blind from birth.

About five hours into the event we held a potluck dinner, which is what we do every year, and drew the peak of our crowd. We set up nine tables and six canopies for the dinner, and for an hour sat and socialized and caught up with each other. The kids organized a short kickball game that turned into a Frisbee game. Our ARRL Section Manager K7BDP showed up for the potluck and we got him on the air as well, and he contributed a couple of SSB contacts.

The presidents of the Murray Amateur Radio Club (Dan N7XDL) and the Utah DX Association (John KK7L) didn't want to get their own clubs going for Field Day, and so joined with our event for the entire time. We had an official from the Coast Guard visit us (Joe KV1RTL) visit us because we were near the large reservoir, even though he couldn't stay. Just like last year, more of our contacts were made by women than by men.

Finally, none of this could have come about without the leadership and terrific efforts of our Field Day Coordinator Joe WH6QV, who obtained the permit, advertised Field Day to our county, set up the potluck dinner, organized the various stations of the entire event, helped out with the exam session, and took photos.

Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI
Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club