



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Field Day Update 6/23/23

Welcome to the Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club and thank you for viewing our third monthly newsletter! This month was especially involved as we participated in ARRL Field Day 2023 as a club for the first time. We're really looking forward to next year!

For Field Day 2023, Paul Jameson WB7N (myself) and Larry Palmer KJ7JJT ventured out to the Big Bend of Colorado State Recreation Area, located at 4220 Needles Hwy, Laughlin, NV 89029, with radios, gear, and more than enough food and drinks for a whole day of fun. We had trouble finding parking initially even though we thought we left early enough, around 8:30am, but we found a spot tucked away with a small armada and a concrete parking area. Thankfully it wasn't too hot yet when setting up the equipment and preparing for the day, but the heat came up throughout the next few hours.

Larry brought his Diamond CP-6AR Quad Band Trap Vertical Antenna which was dug into the ground and guyed down with moving straps (ingenuity right there!) while Paul brought a Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 vertical antenna and a KM4ACK End-Fed Half-Wave with both operators using Icom IC-7300 radios. We ran into some issues with radio blanking because our antennas were so close together (only maybe 5-6 feet or so) which caused some issues making contacts. We should invest in band pass filters for our next event. We also had local electrical noise which had the tendency to come and go as it pleased, but when it was gone, we could hear everything! It was probably from local camping rigs with AC units or something like that, but it's hard to say exactly.

We made one POTA (Parks on the Air) contact before the event started. Once it hit 11am, we started making Field Day/POTA contacts! The bands essentially lit up, although the conditions were rough. We heard lots of local stations within a radius of 5-6 states or so, but not too many stations across the country. As the day went on, we began to hear the east coast and a few DX stations but had trouble contacting them. With Larry's antenna and its height, he was able to make some contacts on his rig. The electrical noise plagued us throughout the day, but we made the best of it. At one time, Larry even pulled up his WebSDR to listen and tune into some other stations. We even heard the local Kingman club WB6RER's callsign from another station in a QSO with them! Unfortunately, we were too close to make contact.

As the day got warmer and lunch time came around, we decided it was time to grill up some juicy bratwursts for lunch. It was then that we realized we had enough food to feed a whole group! We were hoping that there was a chance that others would come join us, but it didn't work out that way this year as many people were out of town. As the day went on, Paul switched from 20m to 40m and that's when the contacts really started to roll in. The 40m band went short for the most part being within the area of Washington to Texas, but Larry remained on 15m making the "cross-country" contacts.

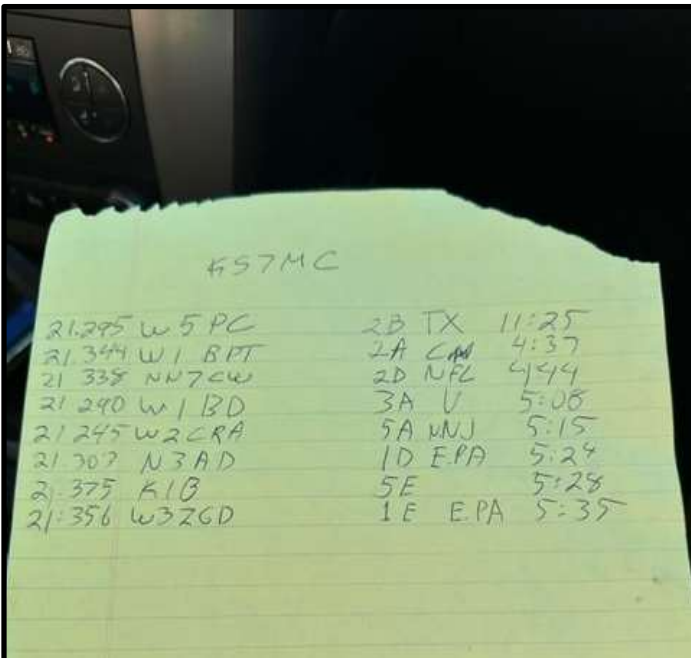
Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club KS7MC

Since the park closed at 7pm that day, we began to pack up around 5:45pm to make sure we had enough time to take down all of our equipment without having the park rangers on our backs as that makes it easier to forget things.

At the end of our time at the park, we had made a total of 92 contacts, and with our multipliers and extra points, we had claimed a total of 832 points for Field Day 2023, and two POTA activations for K-4437. We had lots of fun and look forward to next year! Thank you all!

Paul Jameson, WB7N
SMARC Club President

FIELD DAY PHOTOS



CLUB WEBSITE

The new club website is now up and running, ready to serve its members. It can be found at smarc.club. The Joomla software was chosen to run the website because of its cost (free) and because it is a well-known software with many features, and frequently updated.

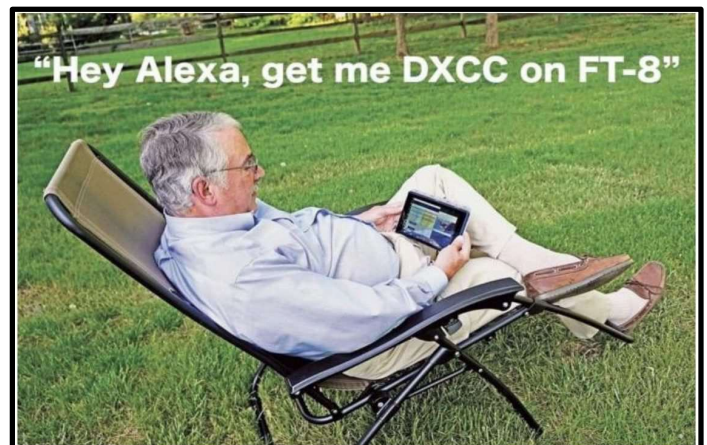
Club President Paul Jameson and I have been working for the past month to come up with a basic look and functionality for the web site. The website will be continuously updated with new information pertinent to club members.



Current and all past club newsletters can be found on the website, along with a list of upcoming events, and a page dedicated to our monthly club meetings via Zoom.

If you have suggestions for the website or spot an error, let me know by sending me an email at mightypilot@gmail.com.

Mark Melvin AE6MP



Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club KS7MC

SMARC Membership

Are you ready to become a member of the Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club?

Use the link below. It will redirect you to the online membership form. Fill out the requested information and click on submit. A PayPal request will be sent to your email address for payment.

The cost is listed at the top of the membership form, \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families of up to three members. Thank you.

<https://tiny.cc/smarcjoin>

CLUB MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Get your own custom SMARC membership badge from Ham Badgers. Several members have ordered their badges with quick results. Order using the redirect link listed below.

<https://bit.ly/smarcbadge>



THE HAM BADGERS

Zoom Video Club Meetings

The SMARC Club has a monthly online ZOOM meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 2pm MST. The next one is June 3. If you're new to online video meetings, it's simple, and fun. You need just a microphone and web cam. Most laptop computers already have the mic and cam built in. If you need a camera/microphone combo unit for your desktop computer search Amazon and you'll find a nice unit for just \$25-30+.

You can install the software on your phone but you and the others in the video meeting will all have a better experience if you use your desktop or laptop computer on your home or business Internet connection. There's a meeting client to download before your first online meeting. Use this re-direct link: <http://tiny.cc/zoomclient>.

A suggestion is to add your callsign to your display name, so it'll be displayed to everyone else during the video meeting. You do this in your account settings before entering the meeting. Give yourself extra time before the meeting to prepare.

Contact Mark Melvin AE6MP at mightypilot@gmail.com for help getting set up.

From time to time the meeting schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate member's schedules. The change will be announced on our group Facebook page.

—>USE THIS MEETING RE-DIRECT LINK TO LAUNCH THE ZOOM MEETING!<—
<http://tiny.cc/smarczoom>

