



# QVA

## High Desert Amateur Radio Group



Monthly Newsletter



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 6 & 7

June/July 2016

### 2016 Leadership

#### Elected Positions

##### **President**

Ray Spreier, KG7AV  
[hidarg-pres@hidarg.org](mailto:hidarg-pres@hidarg.org)

##### **Vice President**

Darrell Fevegeon, KD6WWK  
[hidarg-vpres@hidarg.org](mailto:hidarg-vpres@hidarg.org)

##### **Secretary**

Max Vaughan, KF7MAX  
[hidarg-sec@hidarg.org](mailto:hidarg-sec@hidarg.org)

##### **Treasurer**

John Cherry, KE7GYB  
[hidarg-tres@hidarg.org](mailto:hidarg-tres@hidarg.org)

##### **Director At Large**

Brian Case, KF7WPK  
[hidarg-mal@hidarg.org](mailto:hidarg-mal@hidarg.org)

#### Appointed Positions

##### **ARES Coordinator**

Andy Johnson, KE7TMU

##### **St. Charles R7HPP Liaison**

Pending

##### **Technical Director**

Bill Johnson, N7RGB

##### **W7JVO Repeater Trustee**

Joe Barry, K7SQ

##### **Licensing / VE Coordinator**

Joe Barry, K7SQ

##### **PIO / Media Contact**

Don Shurtleff, WB0DVS

##### **Scouting / JOTA Liaison**

Mike Williams, KB7KLT

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Max Vaughan, KF7MAX

##### **Webmaster**

Bryan Ivie, N7VME

#### Meetings

##### **Weekly Lunch Gathering**

Wednesdays at 11:30am  
Jake's Diner in Bend

##### **Monthly Business Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every Month  
At 7:00pm  
Mid Oregon Credit Union

##### **HIDARG - W7JVO**

PO Box 723  
Bend, Oregon 97709  
USA  
[www.hidarg.org](http://www.hidarg.org)

## Field Day at Creekside Park--Sisters, OR

Greetings!

First and foremost, a thank you to everyone who made field day 2016 a success for HiDARG! While we were a little shy on contacts due to some propagation issues, we still had a good time and it was a great public event for the club. Our signs, banners, antennas, and bips and boops attracted quite a few people to the tent. With the melodious sounds of CW and the not quite so harmonic sound of static, how could one resist coming by to take a peek?

We managed to make contact with all of the California sections, all of the 7 sections, and a few in Georgia and Alabama. We had international contact with Canada in several sections and talked to a good many in between all of these. We had some noise from the nearby campground that we weren't able to isolate and had a hard time getting out, due to conditions. That didn't stop anyone from trying and firing away at those distant stations!

Thank you to Brian Case for getting the smokers running and cooking the chicken for the Saturday potluck. I hate to start naming people because I know I will forget someone who was a key to the success of field day. Suffice it to say that a good number of club members were present and collectively made the event what it was. Our board members were present and key to setting up and helping those of us with limited gear and knowledge. Their patience (most of the time) was appreciated and it was a great learning event for me.

If you weren't available to come to field day this year, pencil it in next year! Besides the great BBQ dinner on Saturday, everyone is welcome to sit down in front of a radio and try their hands at making some contacts. We had three stations operating this year and the event runs 24x7. Most of the "regular" operators welcome a break when someone wants to give it a try so don't be a stranger for field day 2017.  
---- N7VME Bryan

John KE7GYB, Bryan N7VME, Max KF7MAX enjoying a very nice summer day. Pic courtesy of Tim KG7LHV (that's Tim's station with the Blue chair)



Some More Pics.....Thanks to Ann, Tim, Don, Elaine, Max, Bryan, Mark, etc for all the pics they provided.  
Full Setup N7VME, KE7GYB, KF7MAX



Hanging wire..... N7VME, KU7F

KF7MAX with KU7F checking the angles.

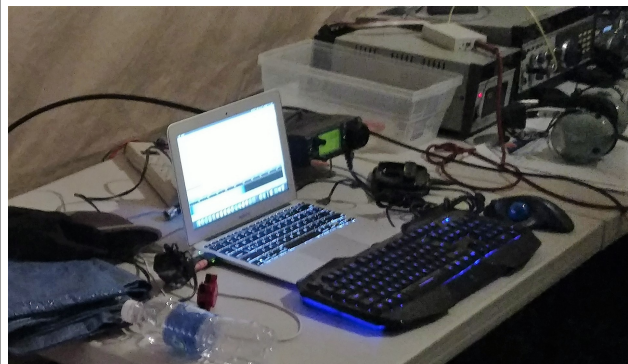


**KU7F & Dennis KD6PLU waiting on instructions, KF7MAX & John W9CZ checking SWR on the 80 meter dipole. We also put up a 40 meter dipole as well. Two Buddie Poles to work 20 meters and Colin K7FM put up a multi-band vertical. K7FM also provided the club with band filters, and stubs to help limit cross band interference, there was still a little bit of it, but it was tons better than the issues we had last year with mult-band dipoles and verticals scattered about. Also want to welcome a new member who signed up at Field Day. Kerry KI7FKS**

Some More Pics.....Thanks to Ann, Tim, Don, Elaine, Max, Bryan, Mark, etc for all the pics they provided.  
N7VME using N3JFP's logging software, we had 4 laptops networked together for logging all our contacts.



KF7MAX making contacts, and Bill N7RGB making pics..... my question is, why are those other seats empty...?! no CQ, no contacts!!!!



Mark KF7DMF digital mode setup on Sat Night.



Joe K7SQ

Colin K7FM

Colin explaining his vertical to Joe and (unknown)



KU7F smoking chicken.



Brady W7YPZ

W9CZ smoking with CW



KF7MAX logging contacts for W7YPZ as he calls CQ. The power of CQ folks!!

Some More Pics.....Thanks to Ann, Tim, Don, Elaine, Max, Bryan, Mark, etc for all the pics they provided.



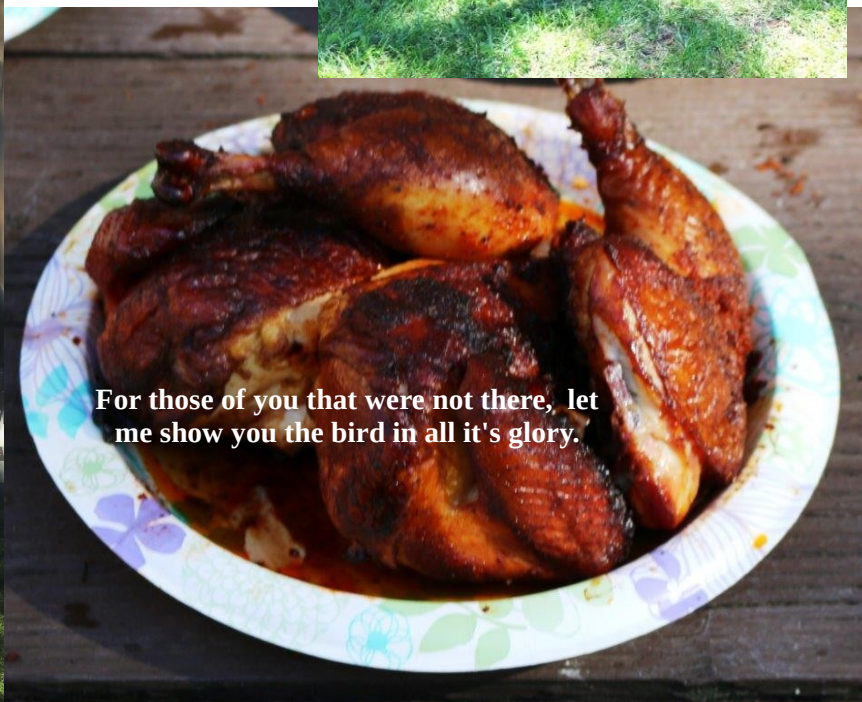
Dennis KD6PLU getting ready to do a bit of CW work!



KU7F showing off the birds.



KU7F prepping the birds, as W9CZ looks on in anticipation.



For those of you that were not there, let me show you the bird in all it's glory.

Trust me...if nothing else, just show up for the this excellent smoked chicken on Sat afternoon. No one will force a mike into your hand, well most folks won't anyway. This is what you missed out on. Some tasty treats were to be had for sure. I want to thank all that brought all the required extras. And a big thanks to KU7F for pulling himself away from the station long enough to get the birds presentable. And thanks to everyone that was there to help with setup late Friday afternoon, as well as you folks that helped tear it all down again. Special thanks to K7FM for the filters, and stubs that helped keep the stations from stomping all over each other. Thanks to the City of Sisters for the use of the Park and not letting the sprinklers come on when we least would expect it.

Our rough contact count was a bit over 300 contacts, many on CW and a few on Digital as well. A special mention to o Brady W7YPZ who called CQ for about an hour and a half, and made more contacts in that time frame than others made in 4 hours. (Hey...not pointing fingers, just saying!) I will have more info later in July on exactly where we are with points. Now that it is over, time to think about what we are going to be doing next year, and where. Since we can't expect the solar cycle to be as good next year, as this year, which wasn't that great. Might be time to get out into a noise free zone, with lots of altitude and big trees, or..... ????? Lets think about our options for next year, after all 2017 is coming in fast and furious and next thing you know the snows gone, and we have to start scrambling again to "get-er" all done.... --KF7MAX

**Dan Romanchik, KB6NU** (This column is going out to 385 clubs. Dan should hit 400 soon!)

This year's Field Day was a blast as usual. In fact, in some ways it was a lot more fun than previous years. Here are some random notes about this year's Field Day.

Setup was much easier this year, mainly because I did not make it out to the site on Friday evening. I felt a little guilty about that, but as it turned out, I needn't have. There were quite a few new members—new members who attended my classes—who did show up, so my help wasn't really needed.

What I did do was get the club's IC-746PRO and checked it out on Friday. The power cord needed some surgery, i.e. I replaced the huge lugs that someone had put on it with smaller ones that worked a lot better on the Astron power supply that we used.

On Saturday morning, after breakfast at a local diner with our crew, we got over to the site about 9:30 am. With help from Rich KA8BMA, Prem AC8QV, Faye KE8DDB, and Joe AC8ES, we set up the 40m/20m fan dipole, supported by my surplus fiberglass mast set. We've been using this setup so long, and there was very little wind, so that went up quickly.

Rick had brought extension cords, which he ran over to the generator, so we had power. Finally, we connected up the radio, and we had the station on the air (in record time) by 11 am. After that, we just sat around for a while enjoying the nice weather. The weather was so much nicer than last year, when we experienced monsoon-like conditions.

I tuned around a bit and answered a few CQs and called "CQ almost Field Day" a couple of times. The bands seemed to be in pretty good shape, and we were making contacts left and right. I was even "running" a frequency, calling "QRZ?" after saying 73 to the previous contact.

Get on the Air (GOTA). I was again the head coach for this year's GOTA station. Seeing as how we are in Ann Arbor, MI, home of the University of Michigan, you could say that I was the Jim Harbaugh of Field Day. I had a lot of great assistant coaches, too, including Rick KA8BMA, Mark W8MP, Dinesh AB3DC, and probably one or two more that I'm forgetting. Their assistance made it a lot easier on me.

One nice thing is that we had no shortage of operators for this year's GOTA station. I e-mailed the students who attended my January class and the class I held just a week and a half ago, and many of them showed up. There were five operators lined up at 2 pm Saturday when we started operating.

After a little tutorial on how to tune for stations calling CQ Field Day and then how to reply and give the exchange, I showed them how to log the contact on the computer. To make it as easy as possible, I made up a cheat sheet with our call, W8PGW, spelled phonetically. Also on the cheat sheet was what to say for the exchange, "THANK YOU. PLEASE COPY THREE ALPHA MICHIGAN, MIKE INDIA."

They struggled a little through their first contacts, but eventually, most of them got the hang of it. Three of the operators made more than the 20 contacts needed to get the 20 bonus points in addition to the contact points. We made a total of 119 contacts in all, mostly on 40m SSB.

One of the operators was ten-year-old Sofi. She passed the test on Saturday, June 18, but unfortunately did not have her call sign yet. I showed her what to do, coached her through her first contact, and then she made three more.

I think she'd still be sitting there if her mother hadn't made her give her eight-year-old brother a turn. He made two contacts, and then the parents said that they had to leave. I'm sure that we'll be seeing Sofi again at next year's Field Day.

About 4 am, Mark W8MP, showed up, and shortly after, Noah, one of his son's friends, joined us. Although the GOTA rig had been disconnected so that it didn't walk off on us, we immediately decided to fire it up again. After a little coaching from me, Noah was off to the races, and when our CW station operator decided to call it a night, I took over the CW station and Mark took over as GOTA coach. All told, Noah made 30 contacts, including the contact with Hawaii.

Finally, on Sunday, we even got our elected official to make a contact. How cool is that?

If your club doesn't have a GOTA station, you're missing out on one of the best things about Field Day. It's not the points, either. It's about the fun that both the participants and the coaches have.

Overall activity. While this was a very successful Field Day for our club, it seemed to me that overall activity was down. It wasn't hard at all to find an open frequency on CW, and a couple of other guys commented on this. Activity will probably only get worse over the next couple of years, as we hit the sunspot cycle minimum.

Well, another Field Day is in the log. We all had a lot more fun because of the participation of everyone that helped set up, operate, provide food and drink, greet visitors, and tear down. I'm already looking forward to next year. --KB6NU

**Ham Notes from around the Country:** On occasion I will be posting links to various info that folks might be interested in. If you find it useful or not, please provide feedback. If you have something you would like to see posted, let me know.

..... KF7MAX

**What does NDB stand for....?**

I know a few of you folks are into listening to Short Wave stations, etc, or may you just like tuning the bands, (both ham and commercial) to see where, who or what your ears can hear. There are actually groups devoted to specialty areas in various aspects of this pastime For instance the NDB group (Non-Directional Beacons) listeners. They do have some fun. I won't go into a lot of detail but suffice to say, there are a lot of beacons out there filling the airwaves. The folks who listen in vie for certificates on who they hear and when. A lot of these folks are hams and one advantage is that you can get a clue on changing propagation conditions. Many DX'ers have their favorite beacons to see what areas are opening up around the world. This site will get you started into what NDB's are all about. <http://www.ndblist.info/>

**And speaking of beacons...**

If you get QST or the ARRL news feeds in your email you may know this already. (reprinted from ARRL news email) The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched several satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads. Satellites put into orbit include Swayam-1, a 1U CubeSat that carries a digital store-and-forward messaging system for use by the Amateur Radio community. "We are eagerly waiting for your reception report of the CW beacon at 437.025 MHz. You can also get the decoded beacon data by entering 'beacon' in Swayam beacon signal decoder available on our website," said Rupesh Lad, VU2LRD/VU2COE of the College of Engineering Pune CSAT team.

The website can be found at <http://beaconsignaldecoder.weebly.com/>

Swayam-1 is in a low-Earth polar orbit. It operates on 437.025 MHz with a power output of 1 W.

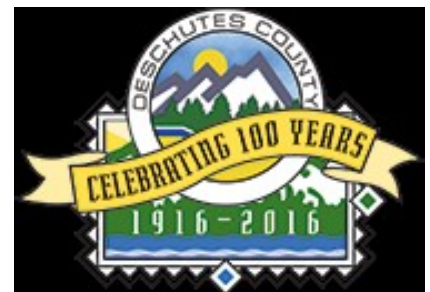
- Other satellites on the launch that carried Amateur Radio payloads include
- BEESAT-4 (435.950 MHz - 4800 bps GMSK, CW)
- BIROS (437.525 MHz - 4800 bps GMSK)
- Max Valier (145.860 MHz down, 145.960 MHz CW beacon)
- Sathyabamasat (145.980 MHz - 2400 bps BPSK).

**And finally, since I am on a beacon kick check this one out.**

Always amazed at the folks that come up with this stuff. Alex Schwarz VE7DXW, has put up a monitor station of sorts. It monitors JT-65 frequencies on 6 HF bands for 8 sec. each, repeating the scan every 52 sec. The recorders record the background noise of the band and display the result in six colour-differentiated long-duration time graphs. The total displayed time is 6 hours. I have to dig into it more, but another interesting concept for sure. Maybe we need to set one of these up in Central Oregon. Anyway check it out. Very interesting stuff indeed.

[http://www.nsarc.ca/hf/rf\\_seismo/main.html](http://www.nsarc.ca/hf/rf_seismo/main.html)

## Affiliations and Sponsors



good friends. great service.



## Mark Your Calendar

### July

7 HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU  
13 ARES Meeting 18:30

### Aug

4<sup>th</sup> HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU (Tentative)  
Deschutes County Fair is going on at this time.  
Looking for folks to help in the booth!!!!  
10<sup>th</sup> ARES Meeting 18:30

### Sept

1st HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU (Tentative)

14<sup>th</sup> ARES Meeting 18:30

Please note that times may change after publication, keep an eye on the HIDARG email list for latest information for club meets and ARES dates and times as well as the website. MOFCU is of course the Mid-Oregon Federal Credit Union. Again CHECK Website for any last minute changes.....

### Area Exercises and Events on the horizon

Cascade 100 and 24hr mountain bike races coming up.

Deschutes County Fair... Need folks to help man the booth for a few hours, from Wed to Sun. We have a limited number of free passes to the fair to folks that are willing to put in the time to help out.

Jim Sellers N7RDN wants to thank all that helped out with the PPP this year, we had a great turnout for ham radio help. Though a bet wet for some, we all managed to pull it off, if you have pics for the newsletter send them to the editor.

Max KF7MAX wants to thank all that helped out with the SunRiver Horse endurance race...it was very appreciated!

### Statement of Financial Condition as of June 29th 2016

Bank of America Opening Balance 1 May 2016.....	4,337.33
(a) Paypal Balance (HIDARG).....	140.59
(b) HIDARG general fund.....	2682.20
(c) Drew Holmes Fund (Outreach and Education).....	1,395.72
(d) Trailer Fund .....	400.00
(e) Total Cash Assets (BOA bal + a).....	4477.92

### Upcoming Meetings and Topics

**July 7th. Tues night 7pm MOFCU ....Fair Booth, misc discussions, check Website for latest info, upcoming fair support for the booth.**

#### Nets

+ JeffCro Net – Mondays 1900H, 147.38+ PL 162.2  
+ HIDARG Weekly 2m – Tuesdays 1900H  
See the [HIDARG website](http://www.hidarg.org) for a list of repeaters.  
+ HIDARG 2m Simplex – Mondays, and Tuesdays following JeffCro and HiDARG nets, 146.58 MHz This net has been very active and interesting, set some time in to check in.

#### 2016 FCC Licensing Test Sessions

July-13 Aug-31 Sept-28 Nov-2 Dec-14 All days are on Wednesday 1Pm at Deschutes Public Library, downtown Bend branch, upstairs. BUT Please confirm the location prior to the day of the test. For more information, contact. [Joe Barry, K7SQ](mailto:Joe Barry, K7SQ) [joek7sq@gmail.com](mailto:joek7sq@gmail.com) <http://www.hidarg.org/>

### Repeater Maintenance & Planning

Now is the season for repeater maintenance. Here is what is on tap in the next several months. Work parties are being put together. Keep in mind that the word “work” is a given. We have room at times for extra folks, but if wish to take part, you may have to provide your own transportation in some cases. The only site that might be an issue is Mt-S, it has controlled access, and looki-loo's are discouraged by the owners. However if you want to learn and be part of the repeater maintenance team, please let KF7MAX know.

Long Butte: Replace old back up batteries with new set. Done!

Mt. Stephenson: Early summer inspection. Test coax etc, document any issues, evaluate for replacing antenna. Replace or add a set of batteries if appropriate. Test all batteries.

Pine Mt & Glass. Spring Maint completed.

Sharps Ridge: Revamp computer system, add remote systems control. Add another bank of batteries, tie in the wind generator to provide better backup support and control.

JohnDay: Revamp current system, add local access from 2 meter system to link system into Mt. Stephenson.

### HIDARG WEBSITE NEWS!

We are finally live at [www.hidarg.org](http://www.hidarg.org) Thanks to Bryan Ivie N7VME whose hard work over the past year to get moved to a new provider, moving old content over, and other stuff to get things setup and working. There is still some work to do, the members area is still under construction. A picture gallery.

Getting the new site up has been challenging, to say the least, Bryan has been working full time at a “normal” job as well as taking courses at COCC, and what time he has left to help with the site is very much appreciated.

I also should mention that if you are NOT on the HIDARG email reflector please let us know. As a reminder, having your email on the roster does not make you a member of the email list server. Please keep that in mind.

### ARRL Membership Reminder.

Please keep in mind that if you are not an ARRL member, that in order for the club to have official status from the ARRL, 50% of members in HIDARG need to be ARRL members. And something I have recently become aware of is that if you join the ARRL through HIDARG, the club gets to keep \$15 dollars of the ARRL membership fee for NEW ARRL memberships, this is also true for any former ARRL members who have let their dues go past 2 years. For renewing ARRL members: HIDARG will keep \$2 back.

### Call for NewsLetter HELP! – kf7max

*If you have something of interest to include in the newsletter by all means let me know. If you would like to see a specific topic covered let me know. It is increasingly difficult for JUST ONE PERSON to keep coming up with all the content!! If we want to stay a monthly edition, I need help in the way of idea's: content that I can expand on, or a full fledged article. I would prefer this to be the clubs newsletter, not just mine or what I think is interesting to me and my slice of this great hobby. Your choice folks!*