

KEY KLIX

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PART 2



RESERVED

FIELD DAY 2024



From the Editor in Chief..

I wish to thank Ted KC1DOY, Al N1API, James AB1DQ, Eric KB1EHE & Elssie KB1IFZ for pictures & comments on the 2024 FD. The majority of pixs came from the MARC FB group and does not contain any narrative nor calls etc. So I did not want to identify only those I knew so I chose not to do any....

Dave K1WJL

MARC FIELD DAY 2024

For the first time in many years, the Meriden Amateur Radio Club held its Field Day activities in multiple locations. A GOTA station operated from the shed outside the firehouse while radios were also operated from the firehouse main room and also in the radio room proper.

A remote location was set up at Wharton Brook State Park where several stations covered multiple bands and modes including satellite communications. These were powered by batteries and solar panels.

Various antenna types were in use, among them were verticals, dipoles, beams, an eggbeater satellite antenna and a prototype inflatable vertical (keep an eye out for a future article about that last one).

No one went hungry with plenty of food on hand with hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill plus side dishes. Someone even brought a pizza. I heard that the Wharton Brook crew added barbecued ribs to their menu.

Many thanks to all those who made this Field Day such a success especially considering the logistical challenges. This was a great kickoff for future Field Day activations and I'm sure that they will be even better.

Ted KC1DOY

COMMENTS FROM ERIC KB1EHE ON HIS NEW INFLATABLE ANTENNA DESIGN

The inflatable vertical had eight 1/4-wave (20m) radials. The antenna itself resonates in the middle of the 20m band and can easily be used for 15m and 10m. : I've been working on this technology since 2017. It was so much fun to do the "public unveiling" with MARC! And it was great to see the antenna make contacts. Thanks in large part to its special metalized-film construction, and the skin effect of conductors in AC/RF applications, it behaves like a 4" diameter metal pipe -- including wonderfully wide bandwidth. I filed a patent on the technology. So it is now patent pending.

Club members at Field Day saw me take the antenna out of my pocket, as it rolls up to practically nothing. And it weighs only 1.6 oz. So perfect for POTA and other ultra-compact, quick-to-deploy needs. Again, it's a no-compromise antenna with (as mentioned) enhanced bandwidth. Oh, with the tiny (couple-inch) 40m coil we attached at the base, we were also able to play on 40m with it, no problem. FYI, in case you're curious, I see the innovation as more than an antenna, but as a new structural material of sorts that can be used for a whole bunch of antenna types and designs. With that diversity in mind, since 2017 I have been accumulating associated domain names, including: inflatableantenna.com, inflatableantennas.com, inflatablebeam.com, inflatablebeamantenna.com, inflatablebeamantennas.com, inflatablebeams.com, inflatabledipole.com, inflatabledipoles.com, inflatablemoxon.com, inflatablemoxonantenna.com, inflatablemoxonantennas.com, inflatablevertical.com, inflatableverticalantenna.com, inflatableverticalantennas.com, inflatableyagi.com, inflatableyagianantenna.com, and inflatableyagiantennas.com.

41' MULTI-BAND VERTICAL DIPOLE: I'm glad everyone enjoyed using that antenna as well. Even though we only got the bottom end 4 feet off the ground instead of 6 feet, everyone said it still played well. During my little recuperation here, I ran the modeling again -- but this time with a 4-ft space from the ground. As expected, gain and elevation / take-off angles are not optimum, but actually just off by a fraction of a dB and a degree or two. So totally adequate for Field Day, as the weekend's operators discovered. This antenna can be deployed in minutes using just one tree limb. (ROB: Thanks for helping us with your air cannon!) As modeling confirms, the antenna performs as good or better from 80-10m as a traditional 43' vertical antenna with 16 33' radials. Pretty cool.

For more information, just type "vertical antenna" in our GROUPS dot IO search box to see a number of posts and details. And, in the FILES section of our GROUPS dot IO, I uploaded a bunch of EZNEC ".EZ" files, so you could run the simulations yourself.

Thanks, again for the well wishes!

73, Eric KB1EHE



















