

Alabama Field Day puts an emphasis on New Technology for emergency communications.

This was a year of increased excitement and participation in Alabama! Alabama amateur radio operators were found putting 50-year-old technology together with cutting edge technology to make Field Day a success. Again this year, the SEC and I visited several sites and saw a large variety of technology, antennas, towers and station configurations. From card tables and tents to RVs the stations were impressive, functional and operable.



11 year old Jared Bash, KI4IKL at the mike and 16 year old Robert Tucker are racking up the contacts on the Collins 40M station.



With traditional radio methods, modes, and practices as a solid foundation, Alabama amateurs are leading in the incorporation of new technology. We are not afraid to wade into new modes and techniques, working hard to invite innovation.



Montgomery Alabama ARC members El Erby, K4DJL and Tracy Sprankle KF4RHA inspect the ICOM D-Star 2m, 440 and 1.2g digital repeater system.

Digital is Here!

Alabama amateurs continue the innovative spirit by using High Tech equipment at several Field Day sites. Some new technologies seen in use this year were:

Winlink 2000
D-Star
Streaming video over the internet
APRS



El Erby, K4DJL makes friends with the new digital radios at the Montgomery site.

Anniston, Montgomery and St Clair county Field Day sites demonstrated working Digital, ICOM D-Star communications technology. Communicating over digital radio was a hit at these sites and the digital audio quality receive high marks. Look for Digital D-Star repeater systems to start popping up around Alabama soon.



D-Star controller and 440 MHz digital repeater module.

The new Alabama Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Management Agency, communications vehicles that are placed in each Alabama EMA region and at the State EMA visited several Field Day sites. These are loaded with communications gear and a very nice generator, too. The new Lamar county ARC emergency communications vehicle and many other impressive trailers and vans were exercised.



Portable towers are a HUGE part of Field Day and emergency communications.



Alabama SEC, Jay Isbell KA4KUN, under the tower does the hard work as James Bruckle, KG4ATW watches and encourages him on.

Everyone's a Winner! Hams, National Weather Service, EMA, Red Cross, teenagers and the public all benefit when thousands of amateur radio operators descended in parks, fields and EOCs to make Alabama shine in Field Day operations.

This Field Day was a fine example of a well rounded ARES practice exercise. Field Day continues to help amateurs be better prepared to set up and operate amateur stations that enhance their emergency communication skills.

I enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship at every site we visited.

Thank you,
73,
Greg, W4OZK
Alabama ARRL Section Manager