

## 2024 GARS Summer Field Day 22-23 June Summary

**Attendance:** 22 signed in with 10 as guests. We had a visit from fire chief (Kevin Rulapaugh KE4NUF). Three guests went on the air and made contacts (David Heeder K4ABJ, Jelani Young, and Diana Benton KQ4SJV).

**Activities:** Attaching a crimp-on PL-259 connector to RG-8 coax cable, (we made up two cables with crimp-on connectors) and a solder-on PL-259 connector (we made one cable with solder-on connectors). Demonstrated Coax cable analyzer and tuning a 6 cavity duplexer. We provided instructions on amateur radio to all visitors.



Barbara Mathews stripping coax with Mike Martell instructing



Barbara Mathews soldering the tip on a crimp-on PL259 connector



Shannon Boal (in center of picture) demonstrating attaching a solder-on PL-259 connector to coax. Vann Chesney (in green shirt), Terry Gordon (standing in black shirt), Dave Dockus (in front of Terry), Barbara Mathews (sitting in blue shirt) and Hugh Minnich (leaning against the wall).

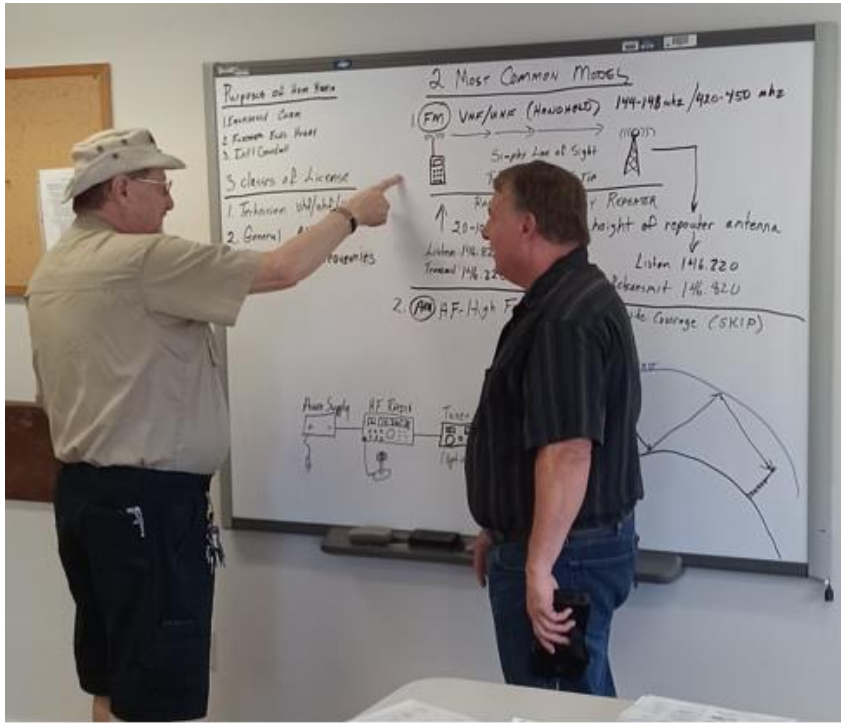


Terry Gordon sitting in (black shirt seated) demonstrating a cable analyzer to John Troupe (sitting) and Dave Dockus (standing).



Jim Carr (standing) teaching how to tune a 6 cavity repeater duplexer using a spectrum analyzer to Terry Gordon (seated) and Hugh Minnich (in ball cap).





Ken Miller showing Terry Gordon what he uses to explain amateur radio to visitors.

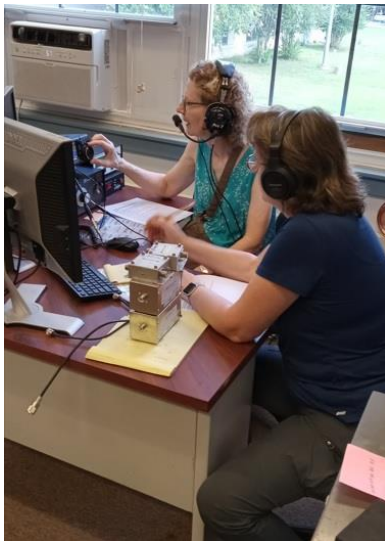
**Operating:**

We had a number of amateurs and guests making contacts through out Saturday and Sunday. Here are some of the pictures.

Barbara Mathews assisting David Heeder, K4ABJ (Adjusting the ICOM 7300 radio) and Jelani Young (recording contacts) on 20 meters.



Barbara Mathews assisting David Heeder, K4ABJ (Adjusting radio) and Jelani Young (recording contacts) on 20 meters. John Troupe in background making CW contacts on 15 meters.



Diana Benton, KQ4SJV, and Barbara Mathews, KO4TWZ, making contacts on 15 meter phone.

## **Not everything ran smoothly:**

On Saturday, we were not making as many contacts as we had hoped. After investigation we found two suspect connectors and a bad coax cable.

Also going on the roof we found the Hex beam was damaged. The connection between the rotor and the beam was broken so the beam was pointing mostly south. There was also a cracked spreader arm on the beam.

Terry Gordon went on the roof and managed to secure the connection between the rotor and the beam with a pin and (yes with "Duck Tape").

This temporary fix got us back on the air in the right direction.

We did not want to use our duplexer and filters so we only ran one radio on the Hex beam and used the two dipoles for two other stations.

## **Time for lunch:**

We had an excellent feast for lunch. See are menu below;

Smoked pork butt (Thanks Karyn)

Home made Macaroni and Cheese (Thanks Lorilyn)

Home made Chili (Thanks Debra)

Home made Corn Bread (Thanks Barbara)

Home made Tossed Green and Fruit Salad (Thanks Carol)

Soft Drinks (Thanks Shannon and Debra)

Barbecue and Hot sauce, chopped onions (Thanks Shannon and Debra)

Spring Water (Thanks Ken)

Coffee, Bagels, and Cream cheese (Thanks Barry)

Cookies, Grated Cheese, Rolls, crackers, and butter (Thanks GARS)

## **Topics of Discussion:**

Simplex Testing

- We will start simplex testing again in August

Using a Baofeng radio as a mini repeater

- Using a Baofeng radio with a plug in attachment you can make a mini repeater

- Haul this up into a tree and get much better antenna height without hauling up a coax line.

Using cross band repeat for emergency and special event support

Hosting a "Where is Waldo" get on air event to raise money for the Waldo EOC.

Establishing a periodic maintenance schedule for the Waldo EOC.

- Check all feed lines (run coax analyzer on each feed line)

- Visually inspect all antennas

- Test radios output

- Test grounding

- Run computer checks