

W3

FD 2008 Year #1



PVRC/CARA FD

Rol Anders, K3RA, Overall Chair

Co Chairs:

**Dave Prestel (W8AJR), Jim Horton (N3KTV),
Frank Donovan (W3LPL), Rich Boyd (KE3Q)**





W3AO Scoring History



YEAR	QSO's	SCORE	CLASS	PLACE
1998	6,697	19,366	4A	2 (Class Record)
1999	9,163	26,224	7A**	1
2000	9,908	31,534*	30A**	1
2001	10,143	31,760*	26A**	1
2002	10,158	33,442*	38A**	1
2003	7,754	27,834	51A**	1
2004	9,304	32,372	50A**	1
2005	8,553	27,534	21A**	1
2006	9,504	31,144	22A**	1
2007	8,648	27,150	19A**	1
2008	10,709	33,664*	23A**	1

* New All-time Scoring Record

** Current Class Record

The W3AO Approach to FD

- Good Site
 - 1000' Clear Line, Good Elevation
 - Nearby for convenience
 - Public Access
- Team Contest Club with Excellent Broad Interest Club
 - Need many resources to place #1
- Good Equipment
 - Band Captains provide stations except for computers
 - 14 Identical Computers (Donated) used only for FD
 - 14 AB577 Towers Owned by Team Members and Stored at KE3Q for FD Use
 - W3LPL FD-only Yagis and 1 Mile of Cable



Oh, and Experienced Ops

K2YWE, W2GG, WB2ZAB,
AI3M, K3LFO, K3MM, K3MIM,
K3RA, K3ZO, KA3EJJ, KE3Q,
N3AM, N3OC, N3RR, N3UM,
W3DIO, W3IDT, W3LPL,
WR3Z, K4ZA, KD4D, AC6WI
and more!



The W3AO Philosophy

Safety First

- Do not work when losing light or tired
- Safety Overseer with authority to stop any activity
- Planning Planning Planning—Starts in January
 - Co-Chairs All Have Lead Roles
 - W3LPL, Antennas, Layout, Cable
 - N3KTV Site Planning, Tower Erection, Safety
 - W8AJR Site Selection, Fuel, Power, Visitors, VIP's, etc.
 - KE3Q Tower and Computer Storage/Transportation, GOTA
 - Plan for all bonus points
 - Food
 - Spot-A-Pot !!
 - Operator Assignments

The W3AO Philosophy - 2

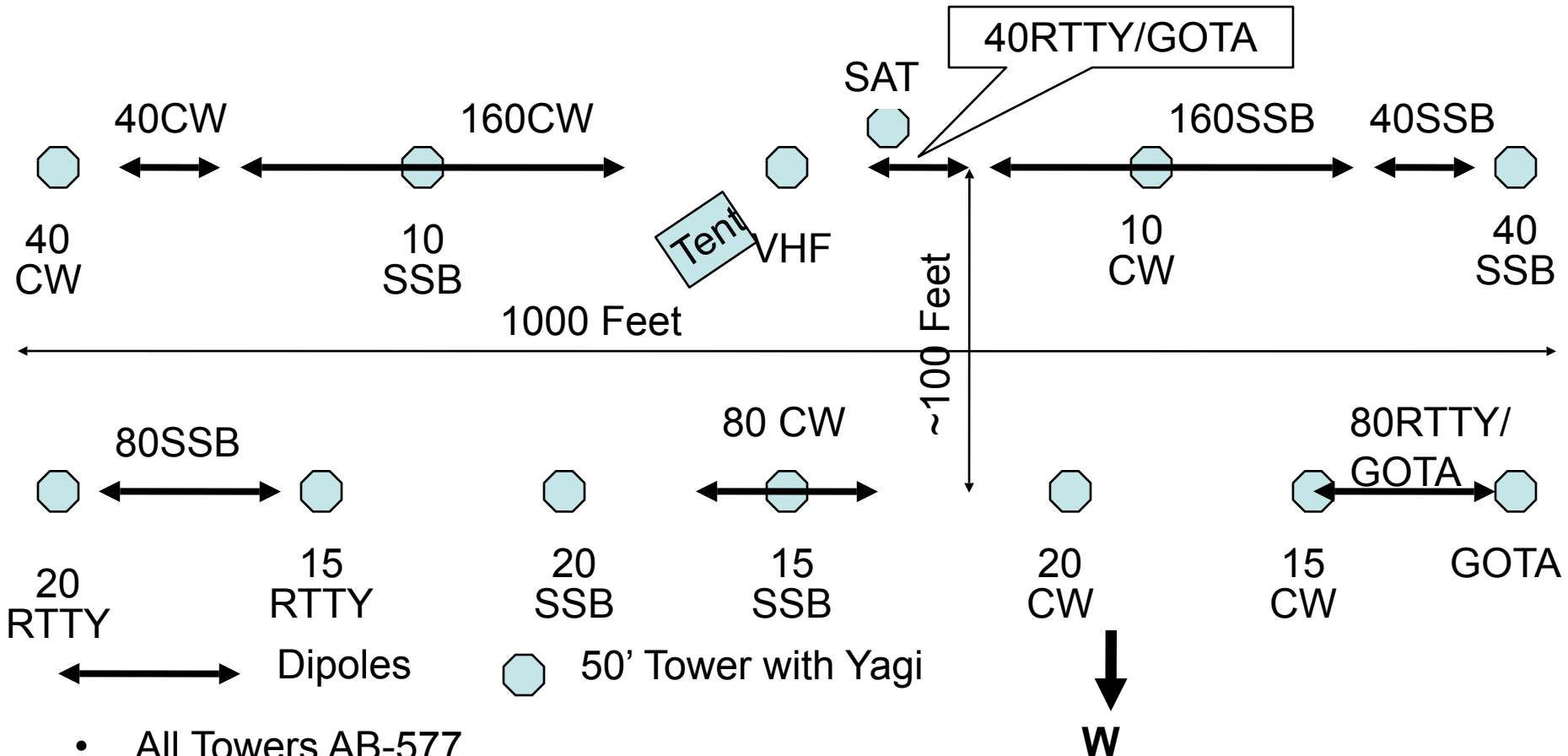
- Staff All Bands When Even a Chance They are Open
 - 80 Meters During the Day
 - 10 Meters to Nearly Midnight
- 2 Digital Stations: Both Capable of RTTY and PSK31
- Have Fun, but win!!! (Aren't they the same thing?)

Antenna Layout Strategy

- Use Entire 1000 Foot Circle
- Antennas On Same Band “End-to- End”
 - Distance Apart Proportional To λ
- 3 EI Yagis For 20, 15, 10
- 2 EI Yagis For 40 Long Haul
- GOTA Tribander For 20, 15, 10
- Beams Fixed West, No Rotators (Fortunately, We Are On The Coast!)
- Dipoles For 160, 80, 40
- Bandpass Filters On All Radios
- VHF/UHF On Highest Terrain
- Biggest Challenge Is CW, SSB, RTTY, & GOTA All On Same Band



Antenna Layout



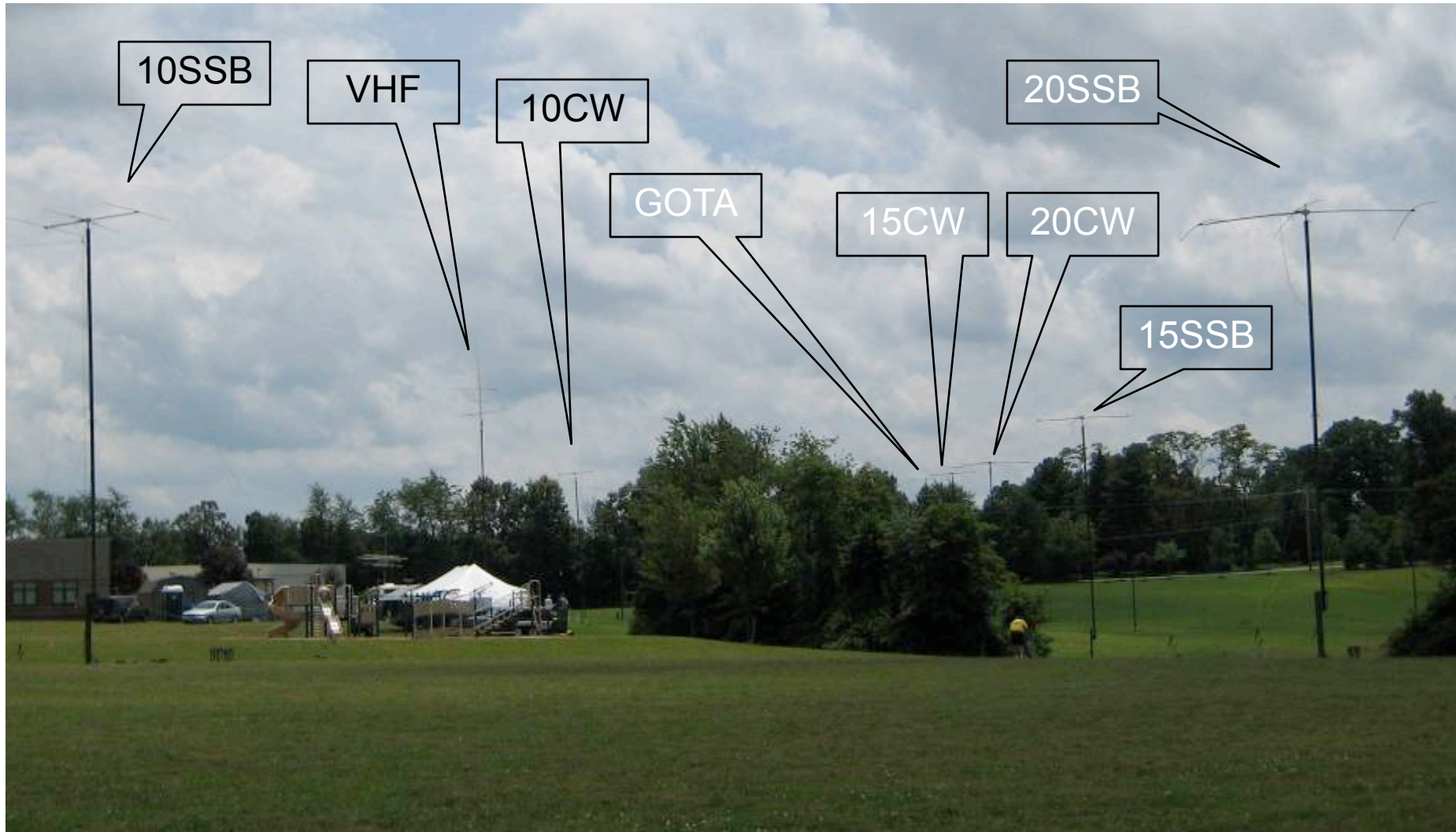
- All Towers AB-577
- 40 Meter Beams 2 EI Cushcraft (40-2CD)
- 10, 15, 20 Meter Beams 3 EI W3LPL Yagis
- GOTA Beam Cushcraft A3S Tribander
- VHF Tower 6, 2, 432 Yagis + Station Master Vertical for 2 meters

Erecting the AB-577



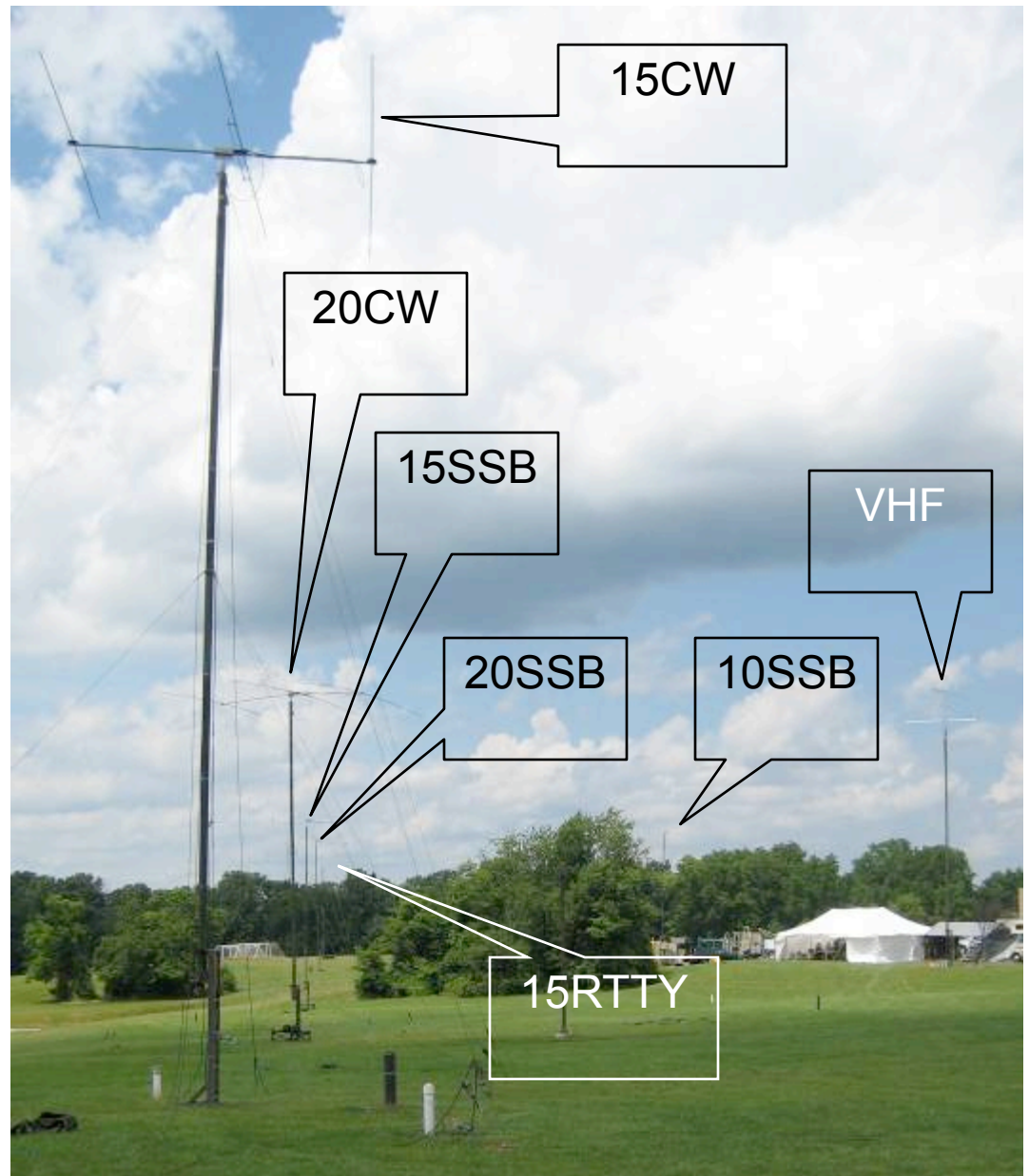
Jim, N3KTV, and Brian, N3OC at Work

View to the North



View to the South

- Far 20 RTTY on Left Not Up Yet
- Far 40 CW On Right Obscured by Trees



40 Meter CW Beam in Foreground



KA3EJJ's VHF Marvel



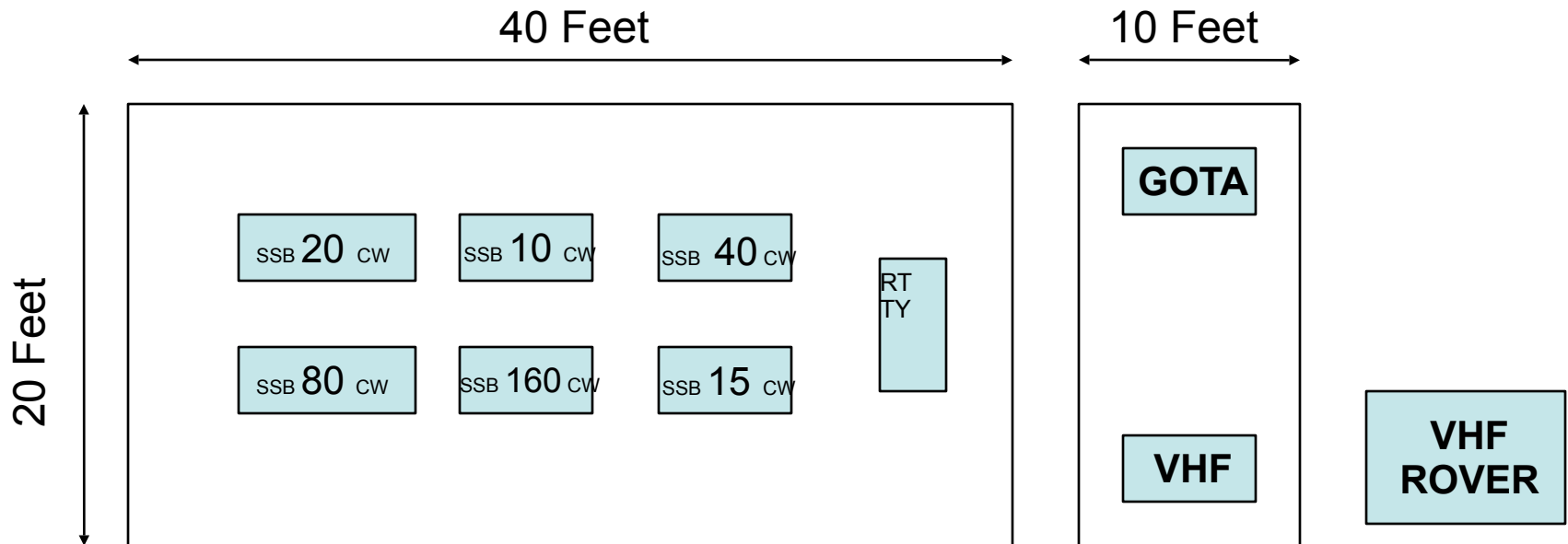
- Two Rotors on One Mast!
- 6 Meter Yagi Rotates independently from 144/220/432 array
- FM Vertical Tops the Array!

VHF/UHF/Microwave Specialists

- K3LFO and W3DIO brought their excellent Rover
 - We have had ND3F Rover in the past
- In addition, station in tent for 6, 2, and 432



W3AO 2008 Tent Layout



- SSB and CW Together for Easy Passing
- GOTA Separated from other Phone
 - Coaching prevents use of headphones

The Tent



20, 10, 40 and RTTY



K3RA. W3LPL, KD4D, WB2ZAB, N3AM, W3IDT, N3OC

15 Meters and RTTY



N3UM, K3MIM

K3MM



Logging

- Every year we discuss changing logging programs, every year we use CT
 - We have a solid version installed on our FD computers -- NO SURPRISES!
 - Everyone Knows It!
- Network Not Necessary, BUT
 - Provides automatic backup on all machines
 - Increases fun-factor to see totals across all bands
 - Occasional passes
 - Alt-J Issues with CT for contest with SSB and CW and RTTY on same band
- GOTA Not Networked (Separate call)
- RTTY Uses Computers on Network to Log, separate computers for Digital Operation
- Dave Wilson, N3OYF, is our Computer 'Guru'

Keeping the Generator Fueled



25 KVA Diesel Loaned by K3CB

Keeping the Operators Fueled!!



“Mrs. K3RA” Audrey is the
Gourmet Cook!

- Continuous Snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic!), Good Food
- Serve Friday Supper, Saturday Lunch and Supper, Sunday Breakfast and “Cookout” after Contest ends

Field Day – Operator’s Name _____ **Saturday Supper**

___ I’ll get my own supper

___ I’d like it brought to me

___ Roll my burrito/tacos ___ Bring ingredients salad style

___ Flour tortillas (8 inch) ___ one, or ___ two.

___ Chicken, ___ Steak, or ___ Fried Tofu

___ Add all the toppings

Or only the following toppings:

___ Black beans

___ Shredded lettuce

___ Salsa (mild)

___ Shredded cheese

___ Guacamole

___ Sour cream

___ Jalapeños

___ Chips

Dessert: ___ Strawberries ___ Cake

Beverage:

___ Iced Tea ___ Crystal Lite Ice Tea ___ Crystal Lite Lemonade ___ Water

___ Coffee, with: ___ Milk ___ Sugar ___ Sweet-n-low

We Plan for ALL Bonus PTs!

- 100% Emergency Power
- Publicity
- Public Location
- Public Information Table
- Message to SM
- Message Handling (10)
- Satellite QSO
- Alternate Power
- W1AW Bulletin
- Educational Activity
- Visit by Elected Official
- Visit by Repr. Ag'y
- GOTA (1000 pts w/Coach)
- Youth (20 Pts/op ≤ 18)

This is CARA Strong Point: Satellites, Message Handling, Visiting Officials and Agencies, Public Info Table, Power, etc.

The Largest FD Operation in the Country is An Attraction to Officials!



**Gail Bates, MD. House of Delegates Dist 9A
Helen Dietrick, Medical Reserve Corps
Info Booth Chairman Jon Wilson, KF30.**

Howard County Fire and Rescue Emergency Services Command Unit interfaced with our amateur communications.



GOTA Points and Bonus Are VERY Important (500 Q's + 1000



KE3Q Coaching

- GOTA Captain is Key!
 - Excellent Contest OP
 - Good with beginners
- Line up eligible operators in advance
 - Family, Friends, Neighbors, Students, Inactive club members

Oh, I Forgot, Order Perfect Weather (Note Rain Dripping from Tent Pipe)



2008 QSO Totals

	CW	Digital	SSB
160	61		
63			
80	603	29	952
40	1074	180	1893
20	1172	248	1950
15	415	82	645
10	127		505
6	23		91
2	11		53
1.25	2		2
Other	11		16
Sat			1

*500 Contribute



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

W3AO

Field Day

June 27 – 28, 2009

Always the fourth full weekend in June

