



## **Amateur Radio Club**

**Radio clubs in the pass area competed in a Field Day exercise over the last weekend of June. This event, sponsored by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League), is held every year.**

**The radio club organizing the event is SPARC : San Gorgonio Pass Amateur Radio Club. Organized in Banning, a number of Amateur radio operators from 4Seasons are members, and participated in the Field Day event held in Dysart Park in Banning.**

**The Field Day event is held so that the many Amateur Radio clubs in the US can utilize their radios and equipment off the grid, in an emergency situation.**

**Basically this is a drill and we attempt to make a short radio contact with as many other clubs as possible. A club designated code is exchanged. This code tells the number of radios in use, and the club section area. Since the radio bands are crowded, it is a good exercise for the kind of conditions we could expect in an emergency. It is estimated that upwards of 36,000 Amateur radio operators in the US participate.**

**While ‘points’ are accumulated by just US amateurs, there is participation by many amateur radio ops throughout the world. Last year the Orange County, Ca. club accumulated the greatest number of points.**

**We utilized both Morse Code and SSB (Single SideBand). SSB is a form of audio that is most efficient for communication and utilizes much less of the radio spectrum. For the most part we use storage batteries and charge them via solar energy and generators.**

**During Field Day, we invite various individuals in the local community to observe the radio activity. This year the mayors of both Beaumont and Banning visited. It was through one of these visits last year that facilitated the interest in the city of Beaumont to construct a EOC – Emergency Operations Center, utilizing the ham radio ops in Banning and Beaumont to propose the radios and run monthly tests.**

**It is through events such as Field Day and the support of the Four Seasons at Beaumont EPP and HOA Board, we feel confident that at least a basic level of communications can be provided to the community**

**Our website is [W6FSB.com](http://W6FSB.com), our meetings are on the last Friday of the month at 10AM -- in the Lodge Ballroom. Our radio nets are every Wednesday at 5:45 pm**

**Dick Van Bree, W6RVB Club President**