

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club – After action report Field Day 2017 Weekend – MARC Trailer

June 26, 2017

The big story this year was Tropical Storm Cindy and all the rain we received in the Montgomery area during the week leading up to Field Day weekend. Our event was held at the farm of Randy and Carla Sedlak again this year and conditions were quite muddy making it difficult to move equipment in and out of the fields.

Pre-field day prep: I towed the MARC trailer from the Red Cross to my house on Monday, June 19, 2017 immediately after the MARC Board meeting at Schlotzsky's restaurant. I noted the trailer had a tendency to sway quite a bit during the trip to my house. The following items were addressed before Field Day:

1. Changed oil in the generator and reset maintenance timer—used 1 quart of 10-W30 oil (available in trailer)
2. Added distilled to trailer batteries as needed, inspected battery connections and wiring – no issues noted.
3. Inflated all 4 trailer tires to rated pressure of 50 PSI
4. Charged generator battery
5. Test ran generator – no issues noted

I towed the trailer from my house to Field Day site on Friday, June 23, 2017 at approximately 2:00PM. No towing issues noted, behaved much better with properly inflated tires. Arrived at Field Day site and positioned trailer per El Erby's guidance (very muddy conditions) without incident. Due to the soft conditions, we decided not to utilize the stabilizer jacks. After operations concluded on Sunday, I towed the trailer out of the field and back to the driveway where we loaded the generator and other equipment. Due to the muddy/slippery conditions in the field, I judged to be safer to load the equipment while the trailer was on more solid ground. Loading and stowing when well and according to plan.

Overall, the trailer's performance during Field Day operations was acceptable. I did note however, the A/C isn't cooling as well as it should. We used El's Yeasu FT-2000 radio for phone operations this year. I found the radio to be exquisitely sensitive with great adjacent signal rejection and excellent receive audio which made phone operations very enjoyable.

Problems/issues noted that need to be addressed:

1. We don't have all the hardware for the push-up poles. I recommend we inventory and buy additional hardware so we have enough to deploy both push-up poles.
2. Generator quitting randomly – may be due to faulty low oil level cut-off – need to investigate/research
3. Evidence of water leak in rear of trailer (storage area)
4. Roof mounted A/C unit not cooling well – need to service/add Freon
5. Trailer needs a thorough cleaning inside and out.

Recommended improvements/ enhancements:

1. Need an audio distribution system with speaker and multiple headphone jacks

Submitted by: Scott Poole, W4SPA