

After Action Report

Cupertino Annual Field Day 2026

1. Overview

Event Name: Cupertino Annual Field Day Event
Event Date: June 27, 2026
Op Period: 1100-1600
Activation #: CUP-26-32T
Submitted By: Brian Tanner (AG6GX)

i. Introduction and Background

Cupertino has held the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsored Field Day event in prior years as a way to engage the public in emergency preparedness and emergency communications provided by the CARES volunteers. We are continuing this function for 2026 on June 27th with a Field Day deployment of CARES personnel to Memorial park with a planned activity starting at 07:30 and concluding at 17:00.

ii. Description of Event

The event is centered on a drill that the Com Van 469 is deployed and set up prior to the operational period, a safety / operations briefing is done after everyone arrives, then the deployment of the tables / chairs / pop ups is completed to provide public access to the operation. Then the antennas are set up along with safety barriers / markings to the restricted access area. Then the operational tests begin for the radio stations. This is required to be completed prior to the start of the field day event (11:00AM). The stations remained in operation with personnel changes as directed by the lead operators. At 12:30PM, the lunch arrived (Pizza, Drinks), and was enjoyed by all. The operation continued with out major incident until 16:00 hours, during witch the Get On the Air station accommodated participants (members of the public not associated to CARES) with making or trying to make HF contacts. Additionally, the Com Van made Packet contacts with officials. There was also participation in a Radio Direction finding learning and mentoring activity where participants (including members of the public not associated to CARES) performed a Fox Hunt. After 16:00 hours, demobilization was started with tear down of the antennas, storage of all equipment deployed and return of the Com Van to the Cupertino maintenance yard with completion near 17:00 hours.

iii. Chronological Summary of Events

June 27th 2026

Time	Description, Note, Comment
07:45	Com Van 469 and ARK supply trailer arrive on site
08:00	Volunteers arrive for setup
08:15	Site planning, safety briefing, assignments
08:30	Site setup (Hex beam, 40m antenna canopies, Com Van, radios)
10:30	Site safety walk-through check list
10:40	Field Day operation and safety review
11:00	ARRL Field Day radio operation begins
12:30	Lunch is delivered
16:00	End radio operations, Disassemble site, return equipment
17:00	Debriefing
17:10	Demobilization complete

Safety Briefing

This event is not a test of personnel. This is public service event is designed to test capabilities and procedures. – Safety is #1 (If is does not look “Correct”, please let the Safety officer know - (Mary)

Antenna placement is done giving consideration to RF safety guidelines (see attached RF exposure calculations), and all known hazards such as tripping, guy wire, staking, coax cabling (marking hazards away from public access), antenna erection / tear down (marking hazards blocking public access, hard hat, gloves), use of generators (fire extinguishers), power cables (tape to highlight / avoid tripping hazard). Radio placement of coax cables and other equipment to mark potential tripping hazards or avoid public access to these locations. Additionally, the ARRL Safety Check List was adopted.

Limiting public access to walkway clear of hazards or Communication van where a safe environment is maintained.

Provide Pop up shelter, tables and chairs to avoid excessive exposure to the elements, give comfortable operational conditions to volunteers.

iv. Personnel

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v. Improvements, Conclusions, Recommendations**What worked?**

Morning Donuts and coffee was terrific!

Logistics support was excellent, Ken kept us informed about construction / access issues in the parking lot, questions about lunch, and trailer availability. - I appreciate the efforts made.

What didn't work / needs improvement?

The solar panels in the parking lot are a problem, logistically.

Recommendations.

Need to create more public info materials to hand out to passers by.

Need to document the Hex beam assembly procedure to avoid assembly errors.

Need to verify the noise radiated by the solar panels - could be a deal breaker next year – may need to consider moving the location if noise is a significant issue.

Need to include in the briefing that the PIO officer has Ham Radio info to distribute to the public on how to start off in the hobby.

Need to enlist someone to split or take over GOTA coach function to better support Fox Hunt activities.

Comments.

The event went well.

Enough helpers for setup.

Change of usual location to afford better access to CommVan

About one hour with the mayor!

Foxhunt. Too few interested people. Can't control this. We could have used someone else besides you to be the chaperon for this.

Maybe during sign up, ask volunteers what job(s) they would choose.

? Active participant with my HF radio.

? Setup and demob.

? Manage fox hunt.

? Public relations with passersby and VIP visitors. (Also, stealth member recruiting).

As Jim noted, have printed CARES brochure in supply.

Thanks for organizing Field Day! I think it went pretty well and was fun. There were quite some visitors, more than what I expected. :)

Just happened to have some discussion with a visitor and the visitor shared his experience of how a neighbor's solar panel was affecting his transceiver. I don't know if the solar panel covering the garage will have any effect on our field day next year. Hopefully not. Just something that I noted down on Field Day.

I noticed that we seemed to have less setups than last year. Just wondering if it's ok to bring my HF transceiver next year if we don't have that many setups. Would just like to utilize the hex beam antenna and have some fun. :) Only 20W though. Not sure how far it can reach.

Btw, it was nice and fun chatting with Mary on Field Day! Many thanks to you and Mary for all your work on the Field Day!

Thanks for the opportunity. I had a good time helping and learning along the way. The antenna setup was complex, but it would be helpful to have a written sequence for others to follow, practice and be prepared the next time.

1.what went well:

- a. good membership support for event activities.
- b. Other than the fence, the site location turned out well
- c. Steady stream of visitors to see what we are doing, and interest in ham radio
- d. Pizza was good!

2.suggestions on how to improve the event

- a. need event handouts: (i) CARES & who we are, (ii) how to get your license, (iii) introduction to amateur radio, (iv) others?

o Great pre-event Communications from the organizer / supervisor (Brian Tanner AG6GX)

Even though I was a very last minute addition to the list of volunteers, Brian responded in a very timely manner to my email and provided exactly the information I needed with a minimum of communication overhead. The satellite map showing our meeting place within Memorial Park was a very nice and helpful 'above and beyond' resource.

o Great on the ground organization the morning of the event

Between Ken Ericson, Jim Oberhauser, and Brian, the organization and communications during the setup at Memorial Park enabled all of the assembled volunteers to be quickly engaged and efficiently utilized resulting in a rapid and coordinated setup for the event.

Darryl KI6LDM did a very good job of organizing and leading the setup of the antenna.

Coffee and bagels / donuts for the volunteers was a very nice touch.

Suggestions for Improvement:

o Nothing to add here

other than thanks for leading the event Brian!

What went well:

Setup

Coordination

Equipment

Visits by officials, etc
operation

It was awesome that no AC power was used.

What didn't; go well

NOW the location

The WX - first time I can remember not being too hot in the afternoon.

I'm saddened didn't get to attend most of the event. However, I was at the previous one- which was well attended and organized very well and I'm sure it was the same today. Everyone really works well together toward a common goal, and the breakdown went very well, as usual.

My one regret is that I didn't see this event listed in Ken's email: but that rests with me.

Does CARES have an Instaram account/Facebook account or an ability to send text messages to the group? I'm not saying it's not currently effective communication, just asking/throwing out the idea as a suggestion.

vi. Training Needs

No specific training needs have been identified.

vii. Reference: Maps, charts, training materials, etc.

The following documents are made a part of this report by reference.
ICS-211

End of Report

Revision Control

Rev.	Description of changes	By Whom
1.0	Initial document creation	Brian Tanner