

HamCation Mini-Rally 2011

It was a wind-blowing, bone-chilling experience as 5 of our ARC Members attended the Orlando Amateur Radio Club's 2011 HamCation® Amateur Radio and Computer Show held February 11-13 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando, FL. And while Leo Hunter (K9GDI) was parked 'down Lakeside' visiting with old acquaintances, the 4 remaining ARC Members, Larry (N7LWD) and Karla Dayhuff, Dave (WB4OHV) and Beth Rathke, Jay (W4PVN) and Shirley Starks, and Les (AA7YC) and Carole (KB7VWA) Wright circled our Wagons around a 20-amp light post in the main field.



Dave and Beth kicked off our Rally with a Friday Noon buffet of Walkin' Tacos, a delightfully-fun new way to have your taco and eat it, too, all while walking around, visiting...and not dripping!

As the men-folk headed off on their scavenger hunt, armed with lists and 2-meter radios, us women-folk got better acquainted and did some errands of our **own**. It's a really good thing we were already there on Friday, because trying to drive out of the Fairgrounds against the incoming traffic on Saturday would have been near impossible! Hey Carole! Great Job and Thanks for driving!

Sunday afternoon warmed up enough for us to have an early cook-out/pot-luck after all the door prizes had been announced; the Grand Prize was a 40' Aluminum Tower. No

one from our group won a door prize, so why are we all smiling? Guess we're all just a bunch of Happy Campers!!!!



(L->R) Dave (WB4OHV) & Beth Rathke, Karla & Larry (N7LWD) Dayhuff, Les (AA7YC) & Carole (KB7VWA) Wright, Clyde Rogers (WD4LWG), Shirley & Jay (W4PVN) Starks

Dave and Beth get the award for longest distance traveled in the shortest amount of time; and reported their safe arrival home with a 10-hour trip door-to-door! But the adventure doesn't end there....

OHV-Dave tried to buy a Ten Tec Omni 7 (from someone representing a private individual). There was only one "7" on the whole property! OHV-Dave, PVN-Jay, and Beth all tried to make a deal with the executor of SK but no resolve. (lesson learned, bring CASH) Dave, still smiling, left the rally empty-handed, but with lots of ideas. He also reports that 5:00 a.m. Sunday came way too early and was "stinkin' cold with frost", but 'duty' called for both Dave and Bella (their pup)---with her outside duties and Dave getting back on time for an early Monday morning flight. Not to mention that Beth had to bribe someone to take her students so they could leave NC a day early to be there with us at check-in on Thursday. The following is per OHV-Dave....

"We left the gate about 0630 for QTH of NC. At the "WELCOME TO GA" rest stop I had enough. NEVER FORGET U ONLY LIVE ONCE. (at least as we know). I called Stan, the Ten Tec rep who was still working the show. I bought the whole station, except the AMP. If u happened to be at Pigeon Forge, Stan was the one that gave our particular group the tour. Great guy! As I write this I have yet 2 boxes to open, and then start

reading. Yes I am now a Ten Tec dude! 73 to all. Many thanks to the few gents that pick up the net each day! de WB4OHV Dave.”

And Shirley gets the “endurance and stamina award”, putting up with all our chatter and comings and goings while ‘battling the bug’. She’s a real trooper and we are glad she was able to join us for the cook-out!

And with that, I will close this report, but I see a large tower and beam antenna in the future for N7LWD...

Respectfully submitted...
Karla, et al