

Field Day at Cypress River 2025

We have all heard of short-wave radio and ham radio and we have used CBs and VHF radios. Of course in farming operations and trucking businesses cel phones are the method of communicating now, but what if cell service isn't available? The Brandon Amateur Radio Club would have the answer!

The club meets annually for a Field Day event, which allows time to practice the use of their radios as well as have a fun contest to see how many contacts can be made. The first Field Day took place in 1933... think phones operated by operators with ring numbers! Makes you remember names like Marconi, Edison, Bell and Tesla doesn't it! This equipment can run on car batteries, so wired-in electricity isn't necessary, but the radio waves can connect around the world. The farthest contacts made this weekend were Hawaii, Australia and Puerto Rico, overnight when signals get through better.

Calls are made with a CQ (think "seek you") system. Incoming calls are recorded using their contact signs and compiled, as the other clubs around the province would be submitted also. The group attending was about 10 members including the newest to join at 16 years. The course and testing required would be a challenge but interesting! There are the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and the American Radio Relay League should you be curious to learn more and maybe want to get involved. Stan Penner would be one to give you more info.

Stay tuned for another gathering next year and come out to see the team in action!

