

Field Day Report 2022 – GOTA station

The GOTA station again used a 40m long endfed wire antenna with transformer, and thanks to having the light tower available this time, it was raised much higher than last year. Unfortunately propagation conditions were so poor for much of the time that even with the added height we did not make any of the planned contacts from the GOTA station.

We had set up 6 daytime skeds on 40m with 2 clubs in southwestern BC and tried to join several regular nets, such as the Aurora Net (40m) in the afternoon as well as the Alberta Public Service Net, the BC Public Service Net, and the BC and Yukon Northern Traffic System Net in the early evening (the latter 3 nets on 80m). None of the skeds were successful, and we only heard two faint signals on the Aurora Net and nothing on the three 80m nets.

A check of all antenna resonances confirmed that the antenna was working according to its specs, and consistent noise reception with somewhat varying levels over the course of the event, suggests that the receiver was working, as well. I think in the future we may want to enlist club members to contact us from their home stations at the start of the event to confirm reception and transmission is working on various bands. We did not operate the GOTA station at night (as little nighttime as we had) but only until about 10pm on Saturday and from about 10am on Sunday, so it is possible that propagation may have been better during the long dusk/dawn period that counts for night at the end of June – in fact, I think that it may be worth trying to operate next time specifically between 11pm (shortly before sunset) to 5am (shortly after sunrise).

Submitted by Yuuri VY1YU