

knowing that if anything had happened, we would have been able to deal with it sooner than they would have known if we weren't there. And that's the reason we are there in the first place.

So why the long story for a small event where there were no real safety incidents? Back to our report to the ARRL. For this event we invested 7 man-hours of volunteer time, which eventually gets translated into a dollar amount as well, and we utilized \$800 of personal equipment and \$12,000 worth of our repeater system to provide safety communications for a public event, using the amateur radio service and amateur radio spectrum frequencies.

Counting Big Bend Ultra Run (making a return in January), Mas-o-Menos (we hope to return in February), we are supporting 6 events annually. Most of them involve far more man-hours, personal equipment dollars and repeater dollars investment than the Blackwell School Reunion Marathon. But this example shows how quickly the numbers add up.

These numbers count every time some commercial communication interest lobby, such as Broad Band over Power Lines, or cell phone, or data transfer communications decides they want the FCC to open up more spectrum for their operation. The bigger the numbers we can report that we are using to support the welfare and safety of our local communities, the stronger our stand against infringement on our spectrum by commercial interests.

This is not to say you should participate in every single event that comes along, but if you can spare the time, please support them as often as you can. Each time you do, you are sending your voice to Washington in defense of your right to maintain the RF spectrum you use and enjoy as an amateur radio operator.



COWBOYS FINISH WITH A BANG

By Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB

This past Saturday (July 31st) at 4:48 PM Sean Kramer of the Las Cruces Vaqueros hit a Reed Alfieri (Cowboys) pitch to James Kono (Cowboys) shortstop who stepped on second base and fired the ball to first base to complete the double play and end the Championship Game by a score of 14-1, in favor of the Cowboys.

Despite the score the game was a nail-biter until the bottom of the 7th inning when we sent 16 players to the plate and scored 12 runs on 6 hits. Prior to this inning the game was a 2-1 "pitchers duel"! In the inning the Vaqueros sent out 6 pitchers trying to stem the tide of runs by the Cowboys.

This was a "best of three series" and the Cowboys won the first game 6-4 but lost the second game 4-3 (we came up short in the 9th inning) and then won the 3rd game 14-1 over a very good and determined Vaqueros team that gave a very good accounting of themselves during the entire season.

Final standings were:

Cowboys 33 wins 15 losses .687 average

Vaqueros 33 wins 16 losses .673 average

Lions 25 wins 27 losses .480 average

Kingfish 11 wins 40 losses .215 average

This year the Cowboys used 28 position players and 18 Pitchers with notable performances:

Pitching -

Jimmy Dale 62 2/3 innings pitched, 42 strikeouts and a 5-2 win/loss record.

Reed Alfieri 22 1/3 innings pitched had a 1.90 ERA in relief work.

Greg Denton 4 1/3 innings pitched with a 0.00 ERA

Hitting -

Nick Ochoa - 11 Home runs hit

Corey O'Neill - 161 at bats with 55 RBI's, .404 batting average and collected 65 hits.

Darryl Stanfield had 18 stolen bases.

Mike Dobre had a batting average of .536 but on only 69 at bats

At the conclusion of this Championship Series the Continental Baseball League folded, BUT out of the ashes of the now defunct Continental League will rise the Pecos League of Professional Baseball Clubs (based in Houston, Texas) and could have 8 teams in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The league will observe the National League rules (no designated hitter). Possible new teams could be Abilene Blue Sox, Bisbee Copper Kings, Roswell Invaders, Pueblo Wranglers Del Rio Gunslingers as well as the Las Cruces Vaqueros, Desert Mountain Lions (based in El Paso) and Coastal Kingfish (also based in El Paso) AND OF COURSE OUR OWN ALPINE COWBOYS (the Big Bend Cowboys team died with the old league).

If you like baseball and didn't come out to Kokernot Field this year shame on you, you missed some great baseball.

Keep tuned to the new Pecos League on their website at www.pecosleague.com.

Before I close this report out I have to give a very big salute to our own Bob Ward the President of the Big Bend Cowboys who invested a lot of his own money in the team and got very little compensation in return (hope the Championship and season highlights helped make the financial shortcomings a little more palatable for him!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)



NEXT YEAR WILL SEE A LOT OF COMPETITION HERE AT KOKERNOT FIELD AND THE ALPINE COWBOYS WILL HAVE A VERY COMPETITIVE TEAM AGAIN! SEE YOU THERE

Thanks,
Chuck Dobbins