

The two-day, ARRL state convention and hamfest was not as well attended as I would have thought for an ARRL Arizona State Convention, but about a dozen of our West Valley group were there to bolster the attendance.

Naturally, the Thompson boys, Jimmy, K6RRS and home-boy Ray, WOIVB, had <u>THE</u> corner on the tailgater's swap-market area for shade, and they were within 5 steps of the porta-potty. It pays to come early on Friday! A large ice chest provided food and libation within fingertips of the avid father-son horse traders! "Did I tell you about when I was in Colorado...?" And the stories for father Ray abound!

Afternoon seminars ran the gamut of discussions from HOA ham antennas, Dxpeditions, and Emergency Go Kits, to Raspberry Pi, meteor back-scatter and Mesh Networks. Even a beginning Baofeng programming seminar attracted a small crowd!

Only a handful of vendors were present, including the DX Store, a local solar panel company and some arts and crafts people. The usual suspects filled out the small conference area including ARRL, ARA, ARCC and Army/Air Force MARS. The VE Testing produced over three dozen new hams and upgraders!

It was a fun time for all who made the two-hour journey!

Frosty NQ18