



The Amateur in You, Part 1

What have you been pondering?



Exactly what is Field Day?

Throughout the year, ham radio enthusiasts participate in a variety of activities, such as club meetings, nets, contesting, elmering, antenna-building, exams, and just plain chatting on the radio. But one of the largest annual amateur events, and the one many of us look forward to with eager anticipation, is *Field Day*.

On the fourth full weekend in June, those who participate descend on an agreed-upon location, set up their HF radio stations, and get on the air for 24 hours, attempting to make as many contacts with other participating hams as possible. They log (record) their contacts in software during that time, then submit their logs to the ARRL afterwards. A person can participate in Field Day alone, by using his or her own call sign, or with a club, using the club's call sign. And each participant can get on the air for a short time, or for the entire 24 hours.

The original purpose of Field Day was to demonstrate emergency deployment readiness, and many of today's rules governing

ARRL FIELD DAY

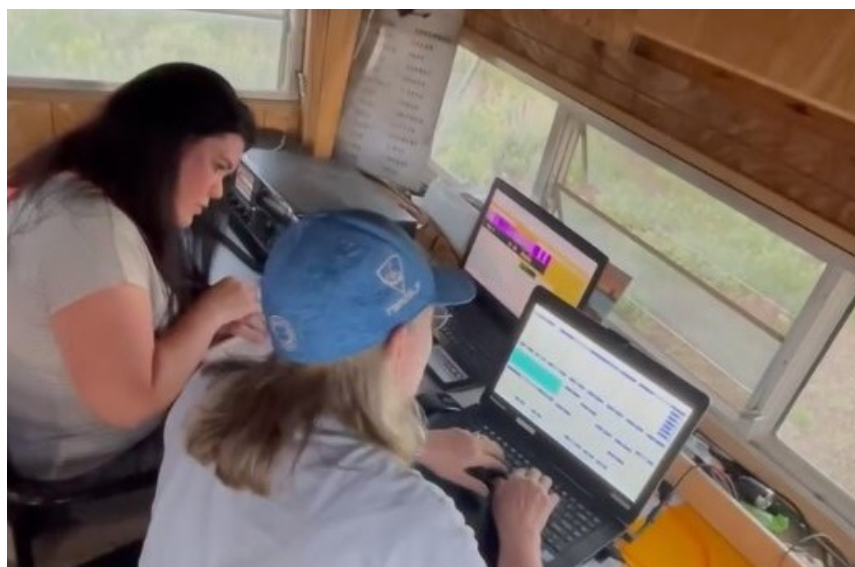


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Field Day reflect that. Eventually, a system of points was developed, as an incentive to keep the station as primitive as possible. For example, extra points can be earned by working completely on emergency power, which means battery, generator, or solar. A Field Day location can be distant, in a nearby park, or right at home, with greater points awarded for setting up away from home. Also, part of the readiness demonstration is the requirement that the operators must not set up their stations until a few hours before the official start time.

Operating an HF station is not the only activity available at Field Day, especially when people get involved as a club. There are many supporting tasks that need to be considered, such as securing permits, transportation of equipment, setting up the stations, testing, logging contacts, mentoring new hams or unlicensed folks, repairing antennas and coax, safety, publicity, tearing down, and food preparation, as applicable.



The Amateur in You, Part 1

Continued



Admittedly, Field Day is not everybody's cup of tea, but it's one more fun activity that can stretch and test our amateur radio abilities, and another way to get together with other hams and geek out. It's also a time many operators use as a goal to create and then test a new antenna, try out a new radio, or take advantage of the opportunity to get out of town and hear what hundreds of voices sound like, without all that city noise. It challenges many of us to go just a little above and beyond what we normally do, in the name of readiness, and have fun in the process.

And speaking of fun, ***Field Day is a family activity*** that can also be done alone if you

really want to. It's a time for ham families to get with others and enjoy a potluck dinner, a game of T-ball, or just sit and catch up, and doesn't have to be a serious emergency communication exercise. But if you're still bent on being a serious amateur, that's alright too; it's also a time to ask questions of elmers, learn how to set up and operate by watching or helping, and maybe even pick up a new skill such as digital, CW, solar, portable, and much more. Finally, it's a time when you can share your wealth of knowledge and experience, and maybe even show off a gadget or two of your own.



The Amateur in You, Part 1 Continued



Bands and Modes: Participants may only operate on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, and may use all bands 50 MHz and above using phone, CW, and/or digital modes.

Setup: Class A and B stations that wish to operate for only 24 hours may begin their setup at 0000 UTC on the Friday (Thursday afternoon or evening local time) preceding the ARRL Field Day period. Cumulative setup time for those stations may not exceed a total of 24 hours. Class A and B stations that wish to operate the full 27-hour Field Day period may not begin setup until 1800 UTC on Saturday.

Stations operating from home or portable stations using their own call sign may continue to attribute their score to a club aggregate score, as has been done the past several years. Clubs with three or more entries will have their score published in the results.

Reporting Your Score: All entries must be received at ARRL Headquarters no later than Tuesday, July 29, 2025. Participants are strongly encouraged to use the online ARRL Field Day score reporting system at field-day.arrl.org. Online entrants will receive an email confirmation that their entry was accepted, as well as 50 bonus points for submitting their score electronically.

arrl.org/field-day-locator

Let everyone know where you will be operating for Field Day by using the Field Day Locator. It can also be used to find a nearby Field Day site, or an operation to join if you're traveling out of town.

#ARRLFD

Groups that actively promote their Field Day event on Facebook, Instagram, or X can earn 100 bonus points. Use the hashtag to share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day. See the full ARRL Field Day packet for more information on all the bonus points available.

arrl.org/field-day

Participants should download and review the material found in the 2025 Field Day packet. Email any questions to fdinfo@arrl.org.

arrl.org/shop/FieldDay

Order your Field Day gear.

Above: John Sager, WJ7S, operated along the Strawberry Reservoir in Utah during the 2024 Field Day. (John Mitton, KK7L, photo)

ARRL liked our CW station setup so much that they included a photo snapped by John Mitton KK7L in the May/June 2025 issue of *On the Air*. UVARC has received numerous questions about how we operate such a successful Field Day, and we're more than happy to explain, or better yet, show them.

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Page 15 of the May/June 2025 issue of On the Air magazine, featuring the CW setup of John Sagers WJ7S, John Mitton KK7L, and Daylon Dean WB6KIT at UVARC's 2024 Field Day