

SANDUSKY VALLEY

Amateur Radio Club Notes and News

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2 Meter Repeater

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Notes from the President

Fellow Hams and Friends,

A new era has quietly snuck into my vocabulary. LiFePO4 batteries, and associated accessories like solar panels and chargers. The club seems to be moving in that direction. It will reduce my load when going to a portable event. The generator may be a thing of the past. It is almost beyond my lifting capabilities. Watch your emails for a pdf with information on LiFePO4 batteries and solar setups. Field Day and other events dot the calendar this Summer and Fall. Bring your gear or at least yourself and see technology in action.

Jay K8VCE

Repeater Operations

Should any one have any trouble accessing the repeater, please just drop me a note at rondyke2000@yahoo.com or text me at 423-231-6315 and I will be glad to see what can be done to make things better.

The “QRN” Column

Contributed by Joe Hoffman, W8JH

I'm going to cover a topic this month that I had planned to do much later in this series of columns. It just seems more timely now as I will explain later. The topic is what we used to call Contesting, however, the current moniker used is Radiosport. Radiosport is a term that has become more popular as younger hams have “gamified” making contacts on the air. Regardless of what you choose to call it, the activity has continued to gain popularity, especially amongst younger hams.

Now, many hams have ZERO interest in contesting, and that is alright. There is often some carping about how it ruins the bands for the 24 or 48 hours of the contest. Please allow me to make two comments regarding this. Firstly, making the bands come alive with literally millions of QSO's is a good thing regarding fending off many commercial interests who would like to take our spectrum away. This is very much a use it or lose it situation. One could use the readily available impressive statistics of contest activity to end any argument about whether hams use this valuable spectrum or not. Secondly, there are places for non-contesting hams to hang out for the 24-48 hours a contest lasts. Specifically, the WARC bands (12, 17 and 30m), which we gained in 1979 and the 60m band which US hams were awarded in 2002. Now nearly 80 countries have permission to use this band. With that brief history about these 4 ham bands explained I can get to my point. The 12, 17, 30 and 60m have NEVER had a contest held on them and most likely never will. This is in deference to hams who don't like contesting and I would hope this special, voluntary arrangement will assuage those who don't like contesting.

With all that said, let me continue the contesting discussion for anyone who remains curious about contesting and please allow me to correct some common misconceptions. First, any contest is whatever YOU want it to be, provided you follow the contest rules. If it's a 48 hour contest and you choose

to participate in only 48 minutes of it, that's fine. Second, let me tell you how I happily used contests for decades. I have built well over 100 different antennas (mostly wire ones) over the years and testing them out was always difficult before the days of WSPR, FT8 and RBN. Perhaps I can explain how those modes are used for antenna testing in a future column if there is interest.

How did I test antennas in a contest? Let me provide one simple example of the many ways I have used contests for this purpose. Often, I have built a 10m antenna since this band is the easiest HF band to build an antenna for due to simple physics (the higher the frequency, the smaller the antenna). 10m is also a very finicky band, extremely dependent on good propagation to the point where you cannot tell if your new antenna is working or not. Trust me on this point, if you get on the air during a 10m only contest, you will be certain if your antenna works. There is simply at least 1,000X the number of hams on during that contest period. So, using contests for antenna testing is fun!

Second, I have been a DX chaser since I was a child. I'm not sure whether antenna experimentation or DX chasing is more important to me, they are impossible to separate. The first DX chasing goal is to achieve DXCC (100 countries worked and confirmed). DX contests (yes, there are different areas of emphasis in contesting) provide an excellent way to increase your country totals. Many have achieved DXCC in a contest weekend alone! Contests can be an immense help, should you choose to use them in this way. As a general rule, it is common courtesy to submit a log to the contest sponsoring entity to help out the hams who are seriously contesting. Although that is trivial to do in this age of ham radio (using computer logging), it is not required.

Now I am finally ready to explain why I chose to write this column this month (and I apologize to our hard-working editor Ron for going long this month). There is a contest coming up this month that I believe every member of SVARC is able to participate in (should they choose to do so). This contest is the ARRL June VHF contest. The ARRL holds these contests in January, June and September. The June VHF contest is coming up on June 13-15 this year. You can find the rules here: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/JanJunSep-VHF-Rules.pdf>

This contest allows contacts on the 50 MHz and up bands. I believe most, if not all, SVARC members at least have a 2m HT. Not only is that a sufficient amount of equipment to get on the air and have fun, I will tell you how you can use that HT to set a new, all-time record for one of the categories in the contest. Remember, the ONLY reasons to participate in a contest is to

have fun, and accomplish whatever goals you set for yourself, some of mine were described above.

The discussion of which category to enter, and strategy to do well, is best done on the air IF there is sufficient interest. Just getting on the air and having fun is enough, without any strategy etc. Although I am recovering from serious back surgery, I will be certain (Lord willing) to be on the June 8th SVARC net to answer any questions you may have.

Here are what I think will be the most common entry classes for our members. I often use the SO3B (single op, 3 band) category. For this category you use any mode on each of the 6m, 2m and 70cm bands. There is a 100W power limit on 6m and 2m, with a 50W power limit on 70cm. CW, SSB, FM and all the data modes are permitted. It's not too hard to build up a "contest station" that is capable of these power limits, on these bands. Also note that a few hams could get together to put on what is called a MultiOp entry and that can be a lot of fun.

Another category which I believe is within reach of every SVARC member is the SOFM. This is single op, FM only. The only restrictions here are to operate FM mode only, simplex only (no repeaters allowed) 100W maximum output, on the 50, 144, 222, 432, 902 MHz, and 1.2 GHz bands. Here is the kicker: no one in Ohio has ever entered the SOFM category. What this means is that conceivably a ham could make ONE FM contact, submit a log, and be the record holder in this category for the state of Ohio. I hope that some SVARC ham's callsign holds this Ohio record after the contest!

Once again, if contests don't pique your interest, then ignore them. Hopefully I have provided some ideas on how to use them in some way to satisfy YOUR needs and wants. And, I do sincerely hope one of our members is the new record holder for the SOFM category after the contest.

73,
Joe, W8JH

Monthly Contests: June 2026

Three Big Contest or Events

ARRL June VHF Contest, June 13-15, CW, Ph, Dig

ARRL Kids Day June 20 PH

ARRL Field Day. June 27-28, CW, PH,Dig

(Reprinted From Great Lakes Newsletter, June QST)

Please Check the ARRL, QST and Great Lakes Contest pages for a complete list of the June times, dates, frequencies, etc.

Special Events: June 2026

June 1 - June 14, 1300Z - 2200Z, K3NEM, Middle River, MD. Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum. W2W D-Day Commemoration. 7.044 7.244 14.044 14.244. Certificate & QSL. ARC NEM, c/o Fred Heath, 202 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, MD 21146-1368. Primary operation will be June 1 - 6 with additional operation possible during June

7 - 14 as operator availability permits. Operation on 80 meters (3.544, 3.844), additional bands, and digital modes possible during event. Frequencies $\pm$ according to ORM. <https://ww-2.us>

June 6, 1400Z - 1900Z, W6J, Christiansburg, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. D-Day. 14.262. QSL. Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Dr. Southeast, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3848. Operating from the National D-Day Memorial. dannywylam@gmail.com

June 6 - June 7, 0000Z - 2359Z, N1S, Groton, CT. Generations Amateur Radio Club. Historic Ship USS Nautilus SSN-571 Museum Ships Weekend. 3.950 7.250 14.270 21.075. QSL. N1S Generations ARC, 110 Vinegar Hill Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335. Nautilus information: www.ussnautilus.org. www.qrz.com/db/n1s or www.qrz.com/db/k31bd

June 6 - June 7, 0001Z - 2359Z, W4BSF, Oneida, TN. Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club. USS Tennessee Museum Ships Weekend. 3.900 7.200 14.750

**28.400. QSL. Buddy McCartt. 275 Hunter Hill Rd., Oneida, TN 37841-3578.
<https://bsfarc.org>**

June 6 - June 7, 14002 -18302, KSE, Toledo, OH. Toledo Mobile Radio Association. National Museum of the Great Lakes Museum Ships Weekend. 7.039 7.260 14.239 14.260. QSL. TMRA James M. Schoonmaker, P.O. Box 9673, Toledo, OH 43697. www.qrz.com/db/k8e or www.w8hhf.org

June 6 - June 7, 14002 - 20202, NB9QV, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club. NB9QV USS Cobia Museum Ships Weekend. 7.240 14.240. e-Certificate. Send contact information to kc9y1@arrrl.net to receive PDF certificate. www.qrz.com/db/nb9qv

June 6 - June 7, 14002 - 22002, K3SAV, Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club . Museum Ships Weekend. 7000. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113. Check spotting networks for frequencies on all bands. www.qrz.com/db/k3sav

June 6 - June 21, 00002 - 23592, W7AIA, various cities and states. Clark County Amateur Radio Club. Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air. 14.240. Certificate & QSL. Clark County

Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1424, Vancouver, WA 98661. SSB, FM, CW, and FT8 on 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters across 16 states. See website for information on receiving certificates, time slots, and operating frequencies. www.lctota.org or info@lctota.org

June 10 - July 15, 00002 - 23592, KSA, Springdale, AR. Bella Vista Radio Club. 190th Anniversary of Arkansas Statehood. 7.040 7.260 14.040 14.260. QSL. Don Banta, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. www.qrz.com/db/k5a or <https://bellavistaradioclub.org>

June 11 - July 19, 00002 - 23592, W5C, Dallas, TX. Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society. 2026 World Soccer Tournament. 14.074. Certificate & individual host city QSL. Ron Franklin, 120 PR 22223, Whitney, TX 76692. W5C will join

16 special event stations located in host cities in Mexico, Canada, and the US. Days and times will vary. Check out www.wc2026ses.org for each city's schedule. info@wc2026ses.org

June 12 - July 19, 00002 - 23002, WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. 2026 World Soccer Tournament. 7.276 14.276. QSL. Bob Josuweit, 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136. WM3PEN will join 16 special event stations located in host cities in Mexico, Canada, and the US. Days and times will vary. Check out www.wc2026ses.org for each city's schedule. QSL card available for SASE and donation to offset printing costs. www.qrz.com/db/wm3pen or info@wc2026ses.org

June 20, 14002 - 2100Z, W2ECR, Orchard Park, NY. East Coast Reflector. East Coast Reflector Meet and Greet. 7.217 14.317. Certificate. Steven Fook, 351 Regal Dr., Abingdon, MD 21009. www_eastcoastreflector.com

June 21, 12002 - 2200Z, W3G, Trexlertown, PA. East Penn Amateur Radio Club/Education Alliance for Amateur Radio. World Giraffe Day. 7.266. QSL. Walter J. Skavinsky, 1574 Layfield Rd., Pennsburg, PA 18073-1702. Operating from the giraffe exhibit at Lehigh Valley Zoo. kb3sbc@arri.net or waiter.skavinsky@radiostemalliance.org

June 24 - Jan. 1, 00002 - 0000Z, N6R, Thousand Oaks, CA. Ventura County Amateur Radio Station. Field Day 2026. 14.255. QSL. Peter Heins, 1559 Norwich Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Celebrating the lives of President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan. www.vcars.org

June 25 - July 8, 00002 - 2359Z, KM0DRC, Doniphan, MO. Doniphan Amateur Radio Club. America250. 28.500. QSL. Kent Wilfong, 209 Locust St., Doniphan, MO 63935. doniphanarc@outlook.com

June 27 - June 28, 1800Z - 1800Z, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club. Field Day. 7.275 14.245 21.325 28.500. QSL. GSBARC Field Day, 200 E. Sunrise Hwy., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. www.gsbarc.org

Collected from June QST 2026

Working special event stations is an enjoyable way to help commemorate history. Many provide a special QSL card or certificate!

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9 x 12-

inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (3 units of postage) to the address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.



Lewis and Clark

Trail on the Air

June 6th - June 21st 2026

The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event is an on air activity that commemorates the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. The trail covers 4900 miles through 16 states. This includes the disembarkation from Camp Dubois and what is referred to as the Eastern Legacy. The event is sponsored by the Clark County Amateur Radio Club with support and participation from clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail.

Date: June 6th, 2026 to June 21st, 2026 (June 5th, 5pm Pacific - June 21st, 5pm Pacific)

Time Start: 0000 UTC

Time Ends: 2359 UTC

Operating Hours: 24 hrs/day for duration of the event

Simple Rules: Contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. There are 2 bonus stations that may each be substituted for a missing state to get to a 16 state total. Operating modes include SSB Phone, FM Phone, CW and FT8/FT4. Any combination of modes towards working all 16 states and bonus

stations is allowed. A schedule for planned operations for each activating station on the trail will be posted on this web site.

Certificate: Certificates can be requested for two classes of participation:

- Expedition Partner certificate: Any station working all 16 states or substituting 1 or 2 of the bonus stations is eligible for the Expedition Partner certificate. [Example](#)
- Trail Companion certificate: Any station working 1-15 states counting the optional bonus stations is eligible for the Trail Companion certificate. [Example](#)

Participants making contact with activating stations from one or more states will be able to purchase a certificate after the event. Certificates can be delivered either as an emailed PDF, or printed on high-quality paper and shipped. If you purchase a paper certificate, we will also send you the PDF version. Certificates will be available for purchase via the [Certificates page](#) through July 31, 2026. PDF's will be emailed starting July 7. Printed certificates will be mailed on August 24.

On the Air Exchange: The on-air exchange will include call sign and state for CW and Phone. FT8/FT4 will be the standard exchange: call-sign, signal report, and grid square.

Logs: Only the activating stations in each of the 16 states along the trail will submit logs. Logs are not required from hunting stations. However, it is courteous to submit your personal log to Logbook of the World or other logging entity. Please submit your request for a certificate by the deadline posted on the Certificates page.

History: 2022 was the inaugural event for this activity.

Information: For more information, please send us a message at info@lctota.org.

Monthly DX Information:

This weeks Bulletin is made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from QST, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM websites. Thanks to all.

BOLIVIA, CP. A group of operators will be QRV as LU1FM, LU1HF, LU2JCW, LU3FR, LU3VED, LU6FOV, LU7HN, LU8VCC, and LU9FHF is active as CP7DX from Tarija until June 6. Operations span 160 to 2 meters, including the 60-meter band, utilizing CW, SSB, and FT8.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Vasily, R7AL and Slav, OK8AU will be QRV as C91RU over the next few days. This is a limited, holiday-style operation. They plan to be active on 80 to 10 meters using CW and FT8.

MOROCCO, CN. Pascal, F8NQV will be QRV as CN2NQV from Sidi Rahal Chatai until July 11. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. FK/F4MER is currently QRV from Oceania. Operations are scheduled to continue long-term across the HF bands until August 1.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. F6BCW is on the air holiday-style as **FO/F6BCW** from Tikehau Atoll, Tuamotu Archipelago, IOTA OC-040, **until July 20**. Activity is focused on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. **V7/KC8CPK** is QRV from this Pacific island chain. Operations are scheduled to remain active **until June 13**.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. A team of operators are QRV as **VJ2L** from Lord Howe Island **until June 14**. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, with possible 80-meter operation, using CW, SSB, and FT8.

MACAO, XX9. VR2XAN is QRV as **XX9TXN** **until June 9**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL Inter. Digital Contest, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, NCCC Sprint, HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, VK Shires Contest, PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest, Tisza Cup CW Contest, Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, UKSMG Summer Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, IARU Region 1 Field Day CW, RSGB National Field Day, Atlantic Canada QSO Party,

K1USN Slow Speed Test, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial (MWC), Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, DARC CW-Training Contest, Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test (CWT), VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, RSGB 80m Club Championship CW, PVRC Reunion are on tap for June 8 to 10.

Hamfests: (Fun places to go to!)

(from ARRL Website)

June 21. Monroe Michigan Hamfest

Father's Day - June 21, 2026

7:30am to 1:00pm - Set-up 6:30am Presented by:

*The Monroe County Radio Communications Association
and Computer Show*

Monroe County Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)

Swap and Shop:

For Sale:

DX Engineering OMNI-Tilt Vertical Antenna Tilt Base, Brand new never set up, List price at DX Engineering is \$163.97. Would like to get \$100.00.

Icom 7300. Asking \$950.00

Yaesu FT-891 Asking \$500.

Please contact Dan Whitt, W8DJW at 419-366-3256

From a recent Silent Key the following items are available:

SPE Expert Amp 2K. List \$6,995.00. Asking \$5,000.00

Kenwood TS 890S Transceiver. List \$4,329.95 Asking \$3000.00

Kenwood SP 890S Speaker. List \$ 285.99 Asking \$200.00

**Kenwood TS480HX. 200 Watt Unit no Automatic Antenna Tuner List \$1499
Asking \$800.00**

MFJ Deluxe RF Preselector II. Asking \$75.00

**MFJ. HF/SWR Analyzer Asking \$175.00 each
2 Available**

**Max 2000 Antenna. HF Base Station 24 FT (New, still in Box). List \$319.00
Asking \$250.00**

If interested in any of the above items, please contact Ron Dyke, KZ4CW at 423-231-6315 or email address. rondyke2000@yahoo.com

Topic for the Month

ARRL Field Day 2026

IARRL Field Day Overview – The Big Picture

Question: What is the most popular amateur radio event in the US and Canada?

Answer: ARRL Field Day

During the **fourth full weekend in June**, the eyes of the amateur radio community turn towards the annual Field Day operating event. From its beginning back in the 1930's as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year. In 2025, entries were submitted by over **4,373** clubs, groups and individuals from across the US and Canada. These entries showed participation by nearly 32,000 individuals and over 1.2 million contacts were reported during the brief 24-hours of the event.

Field Day is officially an 'operating event,' not a contest. The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: **to demonstrate the communications ability of the**

amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations. Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal “show and tell” exhibition. At sites from the tundra of Alaska to the sandy beaches of Puerto Rico, amateur radio brings together its resources to show officials in government and various agencies what “amateur radio can do.”

Many clubs use ARRL Field Day as the focus of their annual calendar. Many hams that are not otherwise interested in contesting or DXing find themselves meeting various challenges to help their club run a successful Field Day operation. It is the thrill of the **“non-contest contest”** that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs who under most circumstances choose not to otherwise participate in the various sponsored contests throughout the year.

What makes a good Field Day? Ask that question at any hamfest and you will probably receive a different answer from each person you interview. We offer a few basic ideas to keep in mind as you contemplate a Field Day operation. First, and foremost, **Field Day should be a fun activity**. Field Day serves as one of the biggest introductory “drawing cards” we offer in trying to expand interest in our hobby. A Field Day that is technical in set-up may well produce a good score. But remember that a Field Day that practices the **“KISS” principle (Keep It Simple, Silly)** is more likely to attract interest and participation than one which is run like a hard-core contest operation.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't do the technical planning and preparation to ensure the operation is a good demonstration of what hams can do. It does mean that you should consider incorporating a wide-range of activities and “jobs” which will encourage participation. Yes, 40-meter CW will probably be a great way to rack up points. But make certain that there are things for the non-CW inclined members of your group to do. Standing around watching one or two operators make all the contacts is a sure-fire way to kill enthusiasm among your group.

For example, several years ago our local club put up its highest Field Day score ever. We had first-class stations and used outstanding operators on the “prime bands.” They put in 18-20 hours of hard-core contest-style activity. The next year our club score fell approximately in half. But the number of people who actually made a contact using the club call went from eight to thirty-six. Both years described above offered a successful result (one on points, the other on participation). Is success measured as **The Journey**, or **The Destination**? Only your group knows for sure.

This brings us to the second major point: **a successful Field Day is well planned.**

Planning entails a wide range of things when it comes to Field Day. But they all start at a commonsense point: **set realistic goals for your group.** Plan your operation to bring out the best in your club members. If your club is primarily comprised of non-code operators, then set goals which allow their interests to be highlighted. If your club has lots of experience in various modes and operating conditions, plan a more challenging test for your group. For example, the latest digital modes (including FT8) are allowing beginner **operators and small stations the ability to enjoy the hobby in ways never before envisioned.**

While many people will be important to your Field Day operation, the key person during the entire experience – from selection of the site to the submission of the score – will be **the Field Day Chairperson or Coordinator.** This person needs to be a good organizer with the ability to delegate responsibility. The responsibilities are many: site selection, securing “band captains” for each transmitter/station, how to best utilize the operating site, helping solicit operators, equipment, computers, generators, assisting in public relations/outreach, safety issues, training operator, education and much more. The Field Day Chairperson needs a good working relationship with the club membership and officers. It’s also helpful if they have some previous Field Day experience. Many clubs use an experienced Field Day Chairperson along with an assistant chairperson who is in “training” to assume the job down the road. Cross training leaders from year to year is essential to maintain continuity when the “regular chairpersons” have other commitments.

How you organize your group for Field Day will depend on the number of participants and size of the operation you plan. One helpful hint is to appoint an individual to head up each station /mode/ band. These “band captains” should be responsible for planning their individual station, working in conjunction with the Field Day Chairperson and the other stations planned. Band captains shouldn’t be expected to do it all, so make certain each has plenty of help for set-up, operating and taking down the site.

There are two criteria that determine your Transmitter class. First, you must be able to transmit a signal on the total number of band/modes that you claim **simultaneously.** For example, if you claim 10A, you must be able to transmit 10 different signals at the same time (remember that a band/mode counts as a separate band). Changing the band-switch to another band does not count as a “different signal.” If you are claiming 10 transmitters, you need 10 stations capable of operating at the same time – remember operating means sending AND receiving.

Second, you must actually have them on the air **simultaneously** at least once during the event. Many Field Day participants post their location on the **Field Day Station Locator** application on the web. To add your station to the map, have someone from your club or group log on to the ARRL web at www.arrl.org/field-day-locator and click on the “Add A Station” link to input the required data. You can also visit the same site to search for Field Day locations in your area. **There is no individual preregistration** required to participate, and clubs are not required to register their information, but the locator tool is an excellent way to help new or visiting amateurs in your area to find where they can come join in on the Field Day fun!

As you plan Field Day, don’t overlook the wide range of bonus points that are available. **Since 2005, all** entry classes are eligible for some type of bonus points. Check the rules to see which bonus points you can earn! If you are operating in a category that requires emergency power, you may receive a **100-point per transmitter (up to 20 transmitters)** bonus if your entire operation is emergency powered. If you use commercial power for some of the equipment, sorry, you don’t qualify for the emergency power bonus. **GOTA and the free VHF station are not eligible for this bonus.** And all entries must operate at least one transmitter **to be classified in the event (no zero-A entries).**

Are you operating in a public place (mall parking lot, a local park, in front of the fire department)? Don’t forget the 100-point bonus. Add in a table, some amateur radio informational handouts, and some volunteers answering questions for visitors, and you have another 100 points for an Information Booth.

Sometimes there is confusion as to the bonus for media publicity. Invite the local media outlets (television, radio, and newspapers) to your event. Your group can qualify for the 100-point media bonus **if the media actually covers your Field Day event.** This is a change from previous years rules. **And don’t overlook** the 100-point Social Media bonus for actively engaging on at least one of the standard social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter (#ARRLFD), Instagram (for example). It’s another way to reach the community at large in today’s media age.

Educating the state and local government officials, and representatives of agencies, with which you may work in an emergency is part of the Field Day goal. **You may claim a 100-point bonus if an elected or** appointed local or state governmental official visits your site as a direct result of your invitation. A second 100-point bonus may be earned if a representative of one of the agencies which we serve (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) visits your site as a result of a direct invitation from your group.

Two things are required to earn this bonus: you must **formally invite** officials to visit the operation **and one (or more) of them must visit.** Maximum bonus is 100 points per category

(100 for an elected official and 100 for an agency official – not 100 points per official). ARRL/ARES officials do not qualify your group for this bonus.

Part of any real emergency will be handling formal traffic for the agencies we serve. Field Day incorporates this into the exercise in two ways. First, 100 points are earned by **sending a formal message from** the club to your ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator. The message must be originated during the Field Day period. Why not have one of your club's experienced traffic-handlers work with someone just learning how to handle traffic involved in this part of Field Day? You should also be ready to garner points for originating, relaying, or receiving and delivering **formal messages** during the Field Day operation. You can gain **up to 100 points (10 points each for up to 10 messages)** as well as incorporating another segment of your club into the operation.

You can't double dip – so don't include the ARRL SM/SEC message as one of these messages, since it already receives a separate bonus.

During any actual wide-scale emergency, W1AW will broadcast situation bulletins during the duration of the event. To allow groups to practice using this source of information, a 100-point bonus is awarded for copying the special W1AW Field Day bulletin. You must copy this special bulletin over the air during the **Field Day period**. It won't be sent out as an email or posted to an ARRL web page. It takes some planning on how to accomplish this at your Field Day site, but it is another available bonus category. The W1AW schedule is found in this packet with the rules. The same Field Day bulletin will be transmitted on the West Coast **from K6KPH** (schedule included with the W1AW schedule).

Groups for many years have used alternative power sources rather than commercial or petroleum- derivative powered generators to run part of their Field Day operation. To encourage this, an easy **100-point** bonus may be earned by making at least five QSOs using a "natural power" source. Solar, wind, water power, methane or grain alcohol all qualify here. (Sorry, dry cell batteries are not considered alternative power).

Field Day is a time of experimentation and demonstration for many hams. Two rules encourage groups and individuals to broaden their scope during the weekend. If you **complete at least one QSO via one of the** amateur satellites, you earn a 100-point bonus. The contact must be directly through the satellite between the two earth bound amateur stations, not relayed through a system that uses a satellite uplink system. A dedicated satellite station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group's total. **The total bonus is 100 points** – not 100 points for each satellite that you contact. **You are allowed only one QSO on any single channel FM satellite.** A QSO with the ISS does not qualify for the bonus since it is not an Earth-to- Earth contact. However, if the astronauts on the ISS participate in Field

Day (as they have during the past few years) I bet the excitement of that contact energizes your whole Field Day operation, and this QSO (groups are lucky to contact them once, if at all) can be counted in your total QSOs for the mode used.

An easy bonus to earn is the **Educational Activity Bonus**. Eligible groups will receive a 100-point bonus for having a **formal educational component** associated with Field Day. It doesn't have to be a formal "classroom" session per se, but it must be a **structured activity** to broaden the knowledge base of participants. Some groups may decide to have a hands-on activity of teaching people the proper way to solder coax connectors while another group may decide to teach about proper grounding techniques and electrical safety. Other groups have had a visiting agency, like the American Red Cross, offer abbreviated First Aid or AED Training. This activity can be broad enough to allow people to learn how to do something new but should have active involvement of participants. It must be more than a simple demonstration of an activity. Standing around watching someone send CW won't qualify. But teaching people how to make digital QSOs, and then letting them try their hand at it would. Maybe bring along some supplies to build a 2-meter J-pole or 15-meter dipole that participants can take home with them! Be creative but keep in mind, this must be more than a **passive activity to watch or a static display to read. See the FAQ on this bonus in the FD packet.**

If your Field Day group is operating in the **Class A or F** category, and are at least a two-transmitter entry, you have two more ways of adding operating excitement to your event. Groups at **2A or 2F** (or higher) may add a dedicated GET ON THE AIR station (GOTA) that uses a call sign that is different from the primary station call. This station may be operated by newly licensed amateurs and other generally **inactive licensees**. Non-licensed individuals may participate in this station, but only under the direct supervision of a properly licensed control operator. It may be operated on any Field Day band (HF or VHF) or mode, provided it is under the direct supervision of a control operator that has license privileges that includes that band and mode. The complete guidelines are found in Field Day Rule 4.1.1. as well as in two FAQs in this packet.

There is no limit to the number of QSOs made from the GOTA station. Each QSO made by an operator at the GOTA station is worth 5 GOTA Bonus Points, regardless of the mode (CW, Digital or Phone) used. The GOTA QSOs also count toward QSO totals made by the primary Field Day station. The calculation for the GOTA Coach bonus has also been simplified as detailed below. If there is an experienced mentor/coach supervising at least 10 contacts made at the GOTA station, a single 100-point bonus will be earned. There are a couple of guidelines. The coach must supervise at least 10 contacts to earn the bonus points. Also, the mentor/coach may only advise GOTA operators, but is not allowed to make the QSOs or perform functions such as logging. They can talk the operator through the contacts but can't

make the QSOs for them. Remember that the GOTA station does not count as an additional transmitter when calculating your operating class for Field Day and is not used in determining the number of transmitters for that bonus. It also does not affect your dedicated VHF/UHF station if operating at class 2A or higher. The GOTA station gives out the same exchange as its parent station but **MUST** use a unique call sign.

For those in your club who are more VHF/UHF-oriented, any group operating as a Class A (regardless of the number of transmitters) may also include one dedicated VHF/UHF station. This will allow those licensees to participate fully on their favorite amateur bands above 50 MHz. This dedicated VHF/UHF station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group's total and does not qualify for the 100 points per transmitter bonus. Your group may operate more than one VHF/UHF station during the event. If you do, the first VHF/UHF transmitter does not count towards your transmitter total, but the rest do count to increase your operating classification.

Getting youth involved in amateur radio is always important. Beginning in 2005, we added a new 100- point maximum bonus known as the Youth Element bonus. For all Classes except B, you earn 20-points for each person (age 18 or younger) who completes at least one QSO. Class B may earn either a 20 (one person operation) or 40-point bonus (2-person operation) if their operators are age 18 or younger.

Finally, groups participating as Class A may earn an additional 100-point bonus by having an active Safety Officer as part of their operation. The Safety Officer must certify that a series of safety concerns were addressed and maintained during the Field Day operation. Information on this is found elsewhere in this packet.

After your successful Field Day operation, what happens next? Submitting the required paperwork on time is an absolute must. Submit your entry to ARRL within 30 days of the end of the event. For 2025 the submission deadline is midnight Tuesday July 29. Your entry begins with a completely and accurately filled out Summary Sheet which shows all the required information. Be careful: many of the commercial logging programs provide some basic information on your summary sheet but leave some important things out. Your best bet is to use an official Summary Sheet. All paper entries are required to use a completed Summary Sheet. Make certain you use the most current Summary Sheet from the ARRL, since there may have been changes that affect scoring. Make certain you complete all parts of the Summary Sheet. Without your supplying us complete, accurate information, we can't print the results accurately.

Consider making your submission via the **ARRL Field Day web app** that is found at field-day.arrl.org At this site you can submit your summary sheet information and bonus evidence

documents directly to the ARRL and it will show receipt of the information within about 24 hours on the ARRL Web. There it is a 50- point bonus to submit using this web app. Also, we cannot accept only a Cabrillo format file as your Field Day entry. While it contains the QSO data, the header does not include everything necessary to completely and accurately report your entry. *A Cabrillo-file must either include a completed official Summary Sheet by mail or the entrant must submit the required Summary data at the field-day.arrl.org website required attachments uploaded to the web app*

The logging requirements for Field Day are different from ARRL contests. Instead of standard log files, you are only required to submit a Dupe Sheet, separated by band and mode. For Field Day, paper copies of the dupe sheets are acceptable. Keep your logs available, however, in case we need to request you to submit them at a later time for clarification.

The final part of your submission includes the various “proofs” of your bonus points claimed. Some of these are easy. Log sheets noted with the specific QSOs made using natural power or your satellite contacts are sufficient for that bonus. A written statement verifying your location in a public place and a copy of your visitor’s log will be fine for claiming those points. Send in copies of any newspaper or media coverage you actually receive. This is a change from previous years, where only an attempt to receive media coverage was required. And send in your photographs (include a [Photo Release](#) if youth aged 18 or younger are in the photos). Be creative with your photography. Sending in a picture of someone in a baseball cap pouring gas into a generator may be proof of use of emergency power, but probably won’t be used in the *QST* write-up. Creative photos of operators, interesting station set-ups, participation by young people ([with release](#)) and such are more likely to catch the eyes of *QST* editors.

An excellent way to share your group’s Field Day story is via the Online Soapbox on the ARRL Web. Log on to <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdsoapbox.php>. From that site, you may upload a narrative of your group’s Field Day operation as well as photographs. Once these are proofed at ARRL Headquarters, they are posted to the web for thousands to share. In 2024 we had hundreds of Field Day Soapbox entries!

The rules require a couple of specific proofs for some of the bonus points. You need to submit a copy of the fully serviced National Traffic System message sent to your Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator as well as any messages relayed from your site. You also need to submit a complete copy of the special Field Day message in your submission. If you submit electronically you must upload these proofs as attachments to your web app submission (pdf scans or jpg photos preferred).

Here’s a couple of hints that might help you make your event even more successful and might come in handy. Remember: that while one of the purposes of the event is to have fun, you need to practice safety as well. Having a safety officer for the site is a good idea (and give

you bonus points). Make certain antennas are away from power lines. Generators should be **grounded properly** and operated carefully (for more information on grounding see <http://www.arrl.org/electrical-safety>). Guy wires for temporary structures or towers need to be well marked. The safety officer needs to work closely with the Field Day Chairperson to ensure everyone has a safe, as well as fun time.

After reviewing the rules and this packet, if you have questions about Field Day, drop an email to fieldday@arrl.org or phone (860) 594-0232 and we will be happy to help you. Field Day is the most popular amateur radio operating event in the US and Canada. Please contact the ARRL Contest Program if we can assist you in some way to help ensure your Field Day operation this year is the best ever! 4/2026

Attention Everyone

Next meet is August 1, 2026 Breakfast at Denny's at 7:00 AM and social hour starting around 8:30 AM at Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce Building, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, Ohio. Meeting starts at 9:00 AM. D. Ron Dyke, KZ4CW