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SPECIAL PRE-FIELD DAY 2001 EDITION ON THE INTERNET AT: www.qsl.net/k4wrc

Field Day 2001 - June 22nd thru 24th 2001 **A Nationwide Emergency Preparedness Exercise**

CONDUCTED IN THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON

by The
 Wellington
 Radio Club
 and EOC
 Volunteers



Endorsed and Supported
 by the Emergency
 Operations Center,
 The Village of
 Wellington

Wellington's Radio Club Joins National Emergency Exercise... FIELD DAY 2001

The key element of a national Field Day is to test emergency preparedness. As a result, each year tens of thousands of radio amateurs across the country, from thousands of radio clubs, descend on parks, malls, schools, and other venues... just as they would at shelters, hospitals and other sites in need of emergency communications during a real crisis. In doing so, they learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions.

Wellington Radio Club members and their colleagues will bring personal equipment from their home radio stations, as well as radios from Wellington's Emergency Operations Center, to set up a field emergency communi-

cations center at Village Park. While all the equipment is put through its paces, the emergency communicators gain a training opportunity... to use the EOC's equipment which would be pressed into service during a real emergency!

A premium is placed on the skills and equipment that meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and the demands created by Y2K-like panics, hurricanes, large scale wildfires, aircraft crashes, widespread hazardous material spills, search & rescue operations, civil disorders, etc. They will communicate by voice, Morse code, digital "packets" or radioteletype utilizing emergency power sources for a 24 hour period. Even satellite and amateur television operations are at some field day sites.

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Why Field Day Is Important...

"It's one thing to be a volunteer communicator in a well equipped, cozy, dry EOC with most of the conveniences of home. It's quite another to build up an emergency communications center from scratch, in a hot empty field, with emergency power and to work intensely on improving or learning the communications skills needed by your community. In the worse-case-scenario, our area will be without power and telephones, cellphone and city radio towers would be knocked out of commission and roads flooded or filled with debris!

That's why we salute the Wellington Radio Club and other volunteer groups that are trying to make our community as prepared as it can be!"

Ken Roundtree, Emergency Services Manager, VOW

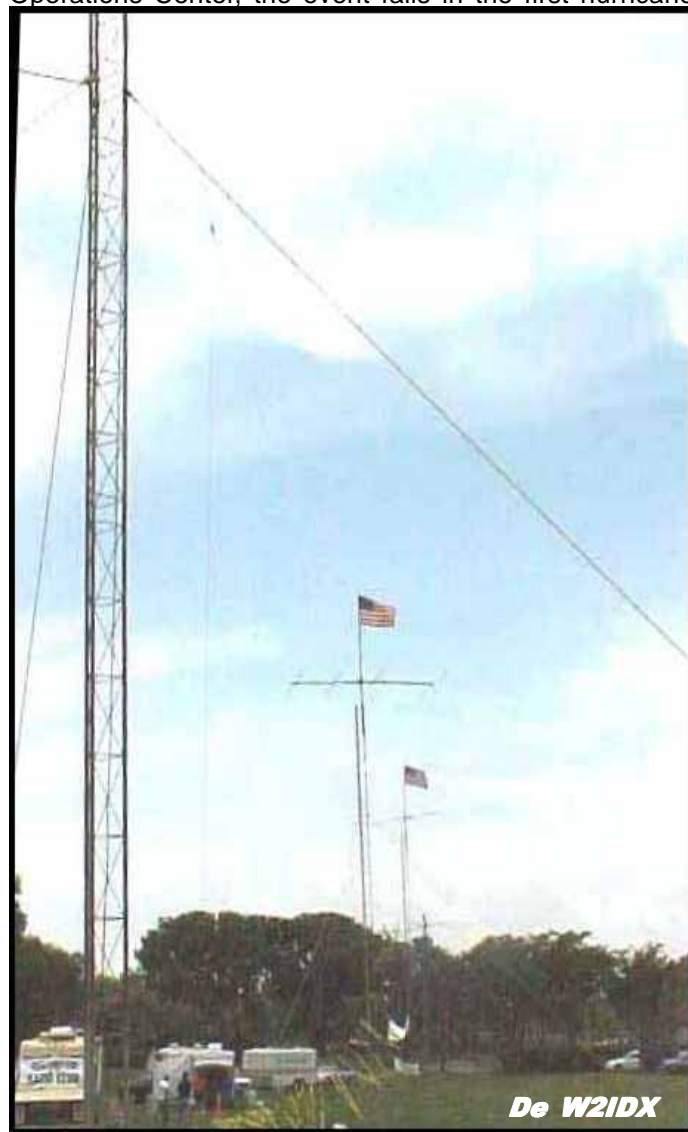
An Educational Experience

Field Day is considered a national educational exercise too. Conducted annually, under the sponsorship of the American Radio Relay League, it is designed to teach emergency operating skills to new hams and fine tune those of the experienced. It brings together the amateur community, the general public and government public safety agencies so they can learn about one another's resources. Those agencies and private industry often contribute loaner equipment for the event to supplement equipment brought by hams from their homes. It also serves as a once-a-year focal point to highlight the tremendous amount of time, efforts, and talents which hams contribute to their communities during emergencies and community special events.

Field Day 2001 In Wellington

- A Community Undertaking -

Under the umbrella of Wellington's Emergency Operations Center, the event falls in the first hurricane



*Field Day 2000 in Wellington was unusual... a consortium of seven Palm Beach County radio clubs. This partial view clearly shows three of the seven "communications vehicles" with their associated temporary towers. While the Wellington Radio Club's **Field Day 2001** will be more modest, only two stations running for 24 hours, it will count on volunteers from all over the County.*

month, and serves as the "kickoff" for hurricane season preparedness and a stimulant for public awareness.



Nonstop teamwork! Jaimie KD4LXB (center) holding the business end of a tower along with Larry KF4TSQ. Foreground: Rob KS4EC, Georg KR4WD and Larry KS4NB ready to jump in during setup early Saturday morning.

A successful Field Day helps establish the EOC volunteers' level of preparedness for the rest of the hurricane season. If not successful, it will at least divulge the weaknesses in our preparations and operations... invaluable when facing five more months of hurricane threats. A win-win situation for anyone concerned with emergency management.



Checking the equipment aboard Field Day 2000's FHP van station. L-R: Charlie N4JZK, Ken W9KEN and Larry KS4NB.

Putting The Pressure On

The frenzy of a crisis-filled atmosphere is simulated by pitting the thousands of participating clubs against one another in a time-limited competition. Setup and operator teams are under pressure for twenty-four continuous hours. They try to earn "points" by quickly and accurately sending & receiving messages, contacting as many other Field Day stations as possible, using different frequency bands, and so on. Teams are rotated in and out during this exhaustive period.

Experienced old-timers and fledgling newcomers to the hobby share their knowledge and technical skills while learning to work as teams. Very frequently, the hams' families are on hand to help out feeding the teams, operating the computers for "logging" required information and as support teams to tend the generators, maintain safe conditions and greet the public.

The Public is Welcome!

Public awareness is a major Field Day objective. Radio amateurs and public officials alike want their neighbors and constituents to know hams are a resource to their communities and the country. That, during worst case scenarios, when commercial or public safety communications systems are overloaded or cease to function, hams can step in to help fill the void... as they have time and again.



Radio Amateurs also want the public to know that ham radio can be fun, is multifaceted, offers technical skills, builds camaraderie, and can be a great, healthy hobby for them and their families. A public information table and non-intrusive tours are always part of Field Day.

You're Invited!

Setup starts Friday and continues Saturday morning. Actual communications activities will run round-the-clock for 24 hours followed by radio station breakdown and cleanup. Committees have already been formed and preparations begun.

If you're a ham or just interested in this great hobby, give us a few hours during Field Day. If you're just curious about the event, drop by and see what it's all about!

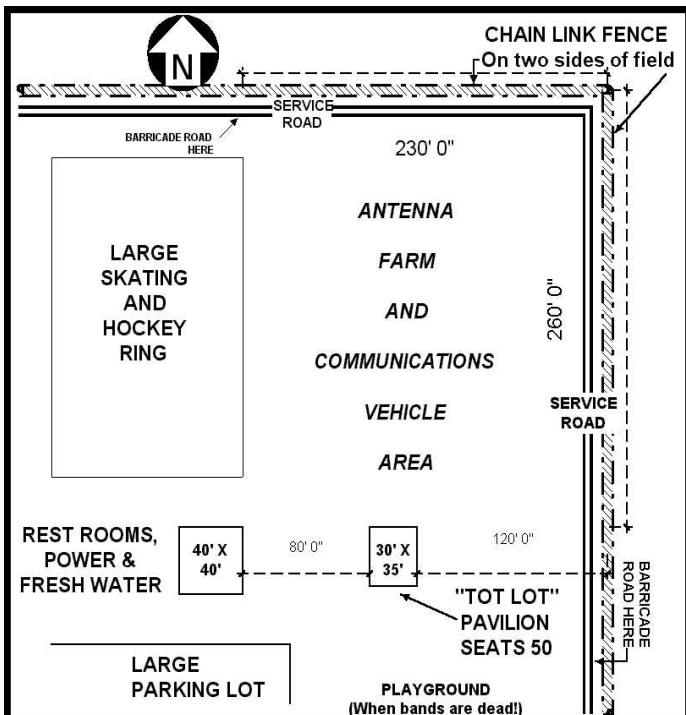
For Further Information Contact:

THE WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB

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THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Ken Roundtree, Emergency Services Manager
c/o Public Works 791-4003



The selected site is in the northeast corner of Village Park. Ample space for two widely spaced towers. Bring the family... there are recreational facilities for all ages. Note playground and skating ring less than 100 feet from our pavilion. Is it a coincidence that we are in the TOT LOT area???

