

# Field Day 2021 Report

de Skip, K1NKR



Wow, Field Day is over, and it was a great success!

Field Day is the “it’s-not-a-contest-but-maybe-it-really-is” highlight of the Radio Amateur year. It’s traditionally held on the last bad-weather weekend in June, but we fared better this year than last year’s deluge.

We had great support from:

- Equipment – Colin Sradio, N0RIG
- Antennas – Kurt N. Sterba, EL3ANT
- Power – Jenny Rader, N0PWR
- Inventory Control – Larsen E. Rapp, W10U
- Logbooks – Ernest Scribbler, K1PEN
- Safety Officer – Justin Case, 0UCH
- Food – Al Fresco, PL4TE
- Planning – Edsel Murphy, XE3ZIX

All kidding aside, AARC’s annual Field Day was held in conjunction with the Waltham Amateur Radio Association (WARA). For the second year in a row for us—and for WARA’s first “away-and-overnight” foray in many years—we assembled at Rob Albright’s Crow Island Airport in Stow MA. Crow Island is a private facility, and we thank our own Ron, N1CNG, for arranging for us all to use it.

Ron (CNG) also arranged for a special event callsign—W1M. Our FD entry category was 4A, one full-time fixed station and a mobile-at-rest from members Gene, K1NR, and Nels, K1UR, from AARC and a variety of set-ups from WARA.

There were also a designated GOTA (Get On The Air, for non-licensed and/or “stale licensed” operators)



station. AARC had a little VHF/UHF operating time and also set up a Hi-Def digital Amateur TV station for a quick demo.

As a novel effort, during the planning some of us had doubts about how joining the two clubs' activities would work out. Fortunately, no conflicts in leadership evolved so we pretty much had two semi-independent, but congenial operations joined on the same turf, callsign, and logbook. Socializing centered on the barbeque, which was ably manned by Ron, KG1T, and Gene, K1NR.



**WARA Pres., KG1T,  
at their station**



**Dennis, W1UE,  
"heavy contesting"**



**AARC Pres., W1KU,  
at our station**



**The K1NR-K1UR  
"Supermobile"**

WARA centered its operating on 40 meters with a drone-launched dipole and AARC used its 3-element 20 meter beam to use that band. Scoring was modest, 351 contacts in all (109 of which were the AARC contribution). Dennis, W1UE, burned both bands using both clubs' stations with what seem to be the majority of the 251 CW QSOs. AARC's Mike, W1KU, amassed a whopping 67 digital contacts as well. The totals were: CW-251, phone-32, JT-64, PSK-3, and FM-1.

Still, this "not-a-contest" is always a rousing success for participation, Elmering, and socializing. We were visited by Fred, K1VR, the ARRL New England Division Director; Ed, K1EP, Eastern Massachusetts' peripatetic HF-VHF tester; and Mister Mike, W1RC, "Benevolent Dictator" of the New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEARfest). John, KC1OYG, and Bethany, KC1OYH, brought along three "FD mascots," Elizabeth (13), Rebecca (10), and Olivia (10). The latter three became well-indoctrinated to our hobby and made a number of QSOs themselves. Later (maybe the highlight of the weekend for them and the rest of us), they were invited by the co-located Revolution Flying Trapeze School to try flying high at 30 feet. Gee, girls, did you realize that you were about twice as high as our antennas?



**Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Olivia, the Flying Shoucairs, take to the skies!**

The entire event made a great impression regarding our communications skills and public service capacity on the airpark owner, cementing an already good relationship. Tear-down and cleanup went quickly on Sunday. And as everyone says at the end of every Field Day, "Well, there's always next year."

FYI:

Waltham ARA: <https://www.grz.com/db/W1MHL> <https://walthamara.org/>

Ron Albright: <https://www.fiftyplusadvocate.com/2020/07/02/ultralight-pioneer-finds-his-muse-at-crow-island-airpark-in-stow/>

Crow Island Airpark: <http://www.crowislandairpark.com/> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crow\\_Island\\_Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crow_Island_Airport)

Revolution Flying Trapeze School: [www.revtapeze.com](http://www.revtapeze.com)