



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

FIELD DAY

June 23 – 24, 2001

Always the fourth full weekend in June

For Information Contact:

Field Day Information
ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111

Dan Henderson, N1ND
(860) 594-0232
n1nd@arrl.org

Field Day 2001

Dear Field Day Participants:

Tempus Fugit. It is hard to fathom that Latin proverb. But when you look at the calendar and see the year 2001, you start to realize the truth behind it. To many it will only seem like last week that we were participating in the annual summertime Amateur Radio phenomenon known as **Field Day**. Something that seemed far away when we saw Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* those many years ago now is here. The imaginative ideas behind the Hal 9000 Super Computer of the movie or reaching out deep into the heavens are reality.

The strength in Field Day does not lay in the score that you post or the number of transmitters you put on the air: it lies in the number of operators who actually participate and gain valuable operating experience. You should complete a contact with any transmitter you claim. Don't add transmitters just so your group can be in a class to "set a record." Add operators first, then add transmitter opportunities for those learning the hobby can be successful in completing QSOs for Field Day.

One frequently asked Field Day question since December 1999 is "what is the ARRL going to do about the Novice / Tech station." **For Field Day 2001, there is no change in the rules applicable to the Novice / Tech Plus station.** We are looking at ways to achieve the purposes of this station within the new license structures. Several ideas are being considered in this respect. If you have a unique idea, let us know. This will be the last year the Novice / Tech Plus station operates under the current guidelines.

The Demonstration Mode Bonus Category proved itself to be very popular and a successful addition to Field Day. This year, the bonus has been expanded to allow up to **3 demonstration modes, each for a 100 point Bonus Credit.** Remember that this "non-traditional" bonus category may not include modes for which regular QSO credit is already given, with one exception. Many groups have expressed a desire to include packet into this category. **Your group may use packet as a demonstration mode for the bonus if you set-up and demonstrate a portable packet network. You must set up a portable digipeater to claim this credit. You may not use an already existing packet network and claim this bonus credit.**

Traffic handling is an important part of Field Day. We have amended the Traffic Handling Bonus for 2001. You may now **claim 10 points per message, up to 100 points maximum for every message originated, relayed or received and delivered.** In the past, this bonus was only available for messages received and relayed. **You may not include the message your group originates to the Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator in this total, since it already receives a separate bonus.**

One of the biggest motivations behind Field Day is to show the public and public officials what we can do. **Make certain that you contact your elected governmental officials and representatives of agencies that Amateur Radio can serve in times of emergency in your area. If one of your special invited guests visits your set-up, you earn an additional 100-point bonus.**

While the ARRL has adopted a new standard log file submission format for its contests, keep in mind that for Field Day, you submit dupe sheets only, not log files. **You do not have to submit Cabrillo log files for your Field Day entry.** Do make certain, however that you use the new 2001 Field Day Submission Summary Sheet (found in this information packet and on line at www.arrl.org/contests/forms). When you send in your submission, remember to include a completely filled out summary sheet, dupe sheets by band and mode, and documentation to support your claims for bonus points. And please include photographs. As we expand our presence on the ARRL Web, we hope to begin using more Field Day group photographs on-line. Please remember that we are unable to return any photographs that we can not use.

Field Day 2001 kicks off at 1800 UTC on June 23 and runs until 2100 UTC June 24. With apologies to the author Arthur C. Clarke and movie maker Stanley Kubrick, **Good Luck in making Field Day 2001: your first great Ham Radio Odyssey of the Third Millennium! 73...**

Dan Henderson, N1ND
ARRL Contest Branch Manager

Field Day 2001 Rules

1. **Eligibility:** Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations. DX stations may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to compete.

2. **Object:** To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

3. **Date and Time Period:** Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2001 will be held June 23-24, 2001.**

3.1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire Field Day period.

3.2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.

3.3. No Class A or B station may begin their set-up earlier than 1800 UTC on the Friday preceding the contest period.

4. **Entry Categories:** Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of simultaneously transmitted signals, followed by a designator of the nature of their individual or group participation. Below 30 MHz, once a transmitter is used for a contact on a band, it must remain on that band for at least 15 minutes. During the period, the transmitter is considered to be transmitting, whether it is or not, for the purpose of determining transmitter classification. Switching devices are prohibited.

4.1. **(Class A) Club / non-club portable:** Club groups (or a non-club group with three or more licensed amateurs) set up specifically for Field Day. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must not use facilities installed for permanent station use, or use any structure installed permanently for Field Day use. Stations must operate under one callsign (except if a dedicated Novice / Technician Plus+ station is allowed, it must be operated under a callsign as provided later in these rules), and under the control of a single licensee or trustee for the entry. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of commercial power mains. Entrants whom for any reason operate a transmitter or receiver from a commercial main for one or more contacts will be listed separately.

4.1.1. Any Class A group whose entry classification is two or more transmitters may also operate one dedicated Novice / Technician Plus operating position without changing its basic entry category. This station must be operated under a callsign issued to a Novice / Technician Plus operator and may only make contacts within the Novice / Technician Plus H.F. sub-bands. It must abide by Novice / Technician Plus power and mode restrictions. This station may only be operated by Novice / Technician Plus licensees. For Field Day purposes only, any Canadian Amateur HF licensee who has been licensed for six months or less prior to Field Day, shall be considered a "Novice" to provide a means for Canadian Field Day Class A stations to employ this rule. This station does not qualify for a 100-point bonus as an additional transmitter.

4.1.2. Any Class A group whose entry category is two or more transmitters may also operate one additional transmitter if it operates exclusively on any bands or combination of bands above 50 MHz (VHF/UHF) without changing its basic entry classification. This station does not qualify for a 100-point bonus as an additional transmitter. This station may be operated for the entire Field Day period for the club and all contacts count for QSO credit.

4.2. **(Class A - Battery) Club / non-club portable:** Club groups (or non-club groups with three or more licensed amateurs) set up specifically for Field Day, all contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less and the power source must be something other than commercial power mains or motor-driven generator (e.g.: batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator). Other provisions are the same for regular Class A.

4.3. **(Class B) One or two person portable:** Non-club stations set up and operated for Field Day purposes by no more than two licensed amateurs. Other provisions are the same for Class A. One and two person Class B entries will be listed separately.

4.4. **(Class B - Battery) One or two person portable:** Non-club stations set up and operated by no more than two licensed amateurs. All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less and the power source must be something other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator. Other provisions are the same as Class A. One and two person Class B - Battery entries will be listed separately.

4.5. **(Class C) Mobile:** Stations in vehicles capable of operating while in motion and normally operated in this manner. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile.

4.6. **(Class D) Home stations:** Stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C and E Field Day stations.

4.7. **(Class E) Home stations - Emergency power:** Same as class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. May work stations in Class A, B, C, D, and E.

5. **Exchange:** Stations in ARRL / RAC sections will exchange their Field Day operating Class and ARRL / RAC section. Example: a three transmitter class A station in Connecticut which also has a Novice/Tech station and one VHF station would send "3A CT" on CW or "3 Alpha Connecticut" on phone. Foreign stations send RS(T) and QTH.

6. Miscellaneous Rules

6.1. A person who participates by making a QSO from a Field Day operation using one call sign may not subsequently work that station from which he participated for QSO credit using a different callsign.

6.2. A station used to contact one or more Field Day stations may not subsequently be used under any other callsign to participate in Field Day. Family stations are exempt provided the subsequent callsign used is issued to and used by a different family member.

6.3. Each Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) segment is considered a separate band. A station may only be worked once per band.

6.4. All voice contacts are equivalent.

6.5. All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

6.6. Cross-band contacts are not permitted.

6.7. The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited.

Exception: a dedicated Novice/Technician Plus station may operate in any Novice / Technician Plus sub-band.

6.8. No repeater contacts are allowed.

6.9. Batteries may be charged while in use. Except for class D stations the batteries must be charged from a power source other than commercial power mains.

7. **Scoring:** Scores are based on the total number of QSO points times the power multiplier corresponding to the highest power level under which any contact was made during the Field Day period plus the bonus points.

7.1. QSO Points

7.1.1. Phone contacts count one point each.

7.1.2. CW contacts count two points each.

7.1.3. Digital contacts count two points each.

7.2. **Power multipliers:** The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the Field Day operation.

7.2.1. If all contacts are made using a power of 5 Watts or less and if a power source other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator is used (batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator) the power multiplier is 5.

7.2.2. If all contacts are made using a power of 5 Watts or less, but the power source is from a commercial main or from a motor-driven generator, the power multiplier is 2.

7.2.3. If any or all contacts are made using an output power up to 150 Watts or less, the power multiplier is 2.

7.2.4. If any or all contacts are made using an output power greater than 150 Watts, the power multiplier is one.

7.2.5. Only one power multiplier may be applied to the score of any entry.

7.3. Bonus Points: The following bonus points will be added to the score, after the multiplier is applied, to determine the final Field Day score. Only Class A and B stations are eligible for bonus points. Bonus points will only be applied if the claim is made on the summary sheet and any proof required is enclosed with the entry.

7.3.1. 100% Emergency Power: 100 points per transmitter classification if all contacts are made only using an emergency power source. Free transmitters that do not count towards the group's total do not qualify for bonus point credit. All transmitting equipment at the site must operate from a power source completely independent of the commercial power mains to qualify. (Example: a club operating 3 transmitters plus a Novice station and using 100% emergency power receives 300 bonus points.)

7.3.2. Media Publicity: 100 bonus points may be earned for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media. A copy of the press release, or a copy of the actual media publicity received (newspaper article, etc) must be submitted to claim the points.

7.3.3. Public Location: 100 bonus points for physically locating the Field Day operation in a public place (shopping center, community park, school campus). The intent is for amateur radio to be on display to the public.

7.3.4. Public Information Table: 100 bonus points for a Public Information Table at the Field Day site. The purpose is to make appropriate handouts and information available to the visiting public at the site. Submission of a visitor's log, copies of club handouts or photos are sufficient evidence for claiming this bonus.

7.3.5. Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a National Traffic System (NTS) style formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. You should include the club name, number of participants, Field Day location, and number of ARES operators involved with your station. The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period and a fully serviced copy of it must be included in your submission, in standard ARRL NTS format, or no credit will be given.

7.3.6. Message Handling: 10 points for each formal NTS style **originated**, relayed or **received and delivered** during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Properly serviced copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report.

7.3.7. Satellite QSO: 100 bonus points for successfully completing at least one QSO via an amateur radio satellite during the Field Day period. Under the "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" (rule 3.7.2.), the no-repeater QSO stipulation is waived for satellite QSOs. Groups are allowed one dedicated satellite transmitter station without increasing their entry category. Satellite QSOs also count for regular QSO credit. Show them listed separately on the summary sheet as a separate "band."

7.3.8. Alternate Power: 100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or a petroleum driven generator. This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or water. This includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells). The natural power transmitter counts as an additional transmitter. If you do not wish to increase your operating category, you should take one of your other transmitters off the air while the natural power transmitter is in operation. A separate list of natural power QSOs should be submitted with your entry.

7.3.9. W1AW Bulletin: 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW during its operating schedule during the Field Day weekend (listed in this rules announcement). An accurate copy of the message is required to be included in your Field Day submission. (Note: The Field Day bulletin must be copied via amateur radio. It will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.)

7.3.10. Non-Traditional Mode Demonstrations: A maximum of 300 bonus points (100 points for each demonstration up to three) for setting up a demonstration of a non-traditional mode of amateur radio communications. This includes modes such as APRS, ATV, and SSTV. This bonus is not available for demonstration of a mode for which regular QSO credit is available.

7.3.10.1. A portable packet system may be included as one of the demonstration modes. This system must include a temporary, portable node separate from the existing packet infrastructure of your area.

7.3.11. Site Visitation. A 100 point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day sight is visited by an elected government official or representative of an agency served by ARES in your local community (Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc) as the result of an invitation issued by your group.

8. Reporting:

8.1. Entries must be postmarked or emailed by **July 24, 2001**. No late entries can be accepted. A complete entry consists of:

8.1.1. An official ARRL summary sheet (or reasonable facsimile) which is completely and accurately filled out;

8.1.2. A list of stations worked by band/mode during the Field Day period (dupe sheet or an alpha/numeric list sorted by band and mode);

8.1.3. Proofs of bonus points claimed.

8.2. Complete station logs are not required for submission. The club should maintain log files for one year in case they are requested by ARRL HQ.

8.2.1. Cabrillo format log files are not required for Field Day entries.

8.3. Electronic submissions should be emailed to: FieldDay@arrl.org and should include, as attachments to the email, the required summary sheet and dupe files as well as document files and/or jpg/gif files of any bonus points claimed.

8.4. Paper submissions should be mailed to: Field Day Entry, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111

9. Miscellaneous

9.1. The list of bulletin times for W1AW is included in this announcement. While W1AW does not have regular bulletins on weekends, the Field Day message will be sent according to the schedule included with this announcement.

9.2. See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests," "General Rules for All ARRL Contests on Bands Below 30 MHz," and "General Rules for All ARRL Contests on Bands Above 50 MHz" (November 2000 issue of QST) for additional rules.

9.3. Remember that the national simplex FM calling frequency of 146.52 MHz should not be used for making Field Day contacts.

9.4. The complete Field Day information package may be obtained by:

9.4.1. Sending a SASE with 4 units of postage to: Field Day Information Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111;

9.4.2. By downloading from the Contest Branch home page at:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>

9.5. For additional Field Day information or questions contact: n1nd@arrl.org or phone (860) 594-0232.

W1AW FIELD DAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

Day	Mode	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
FRIDAY	CW	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
	Teleprinter	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM
	Phone	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM
	CW	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
SATURDAY	CW	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM
	Phone	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM
	CW	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
	Teleprinter	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM
	Phone	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM
SUNDAY	CW	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM
	Phone	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM
	PSK31	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 Noon

Field Day 2001 Shirts and Pins

The Field Day Pins program has proven to be an outstanding success. The ARRL sold out of over 8000 of the FD2000 pins.

Order early for your **Field Day 2001 pins**. At \$5 each (postage included) they are a great way to show your participation in the most popular Amateur Radio on-the-air event. **Clubs and groups:** collect money from your members, and submit a single order with the quantity needed. Pin measures 3/4" x 1".

Pin Order number #FDP1 -- \$5.00

Also available for the first time in 2001 are **attractive Field Day 2001 T-Shirts**. Here is a great way for your club members to show off their involvement in this popular, annual operating event! The T-Shirts are a colorful way of dressing-up your group for all the fun! They are made of soft, heavy weight cotton, and imprinted with this year's attractive, official logo.

T-Shirt Order Available in sizes M-XXL Only \$9.95 each

Medium #FDS1-M
Large #FDS1-L
X-Large #FDS1-XL
XX-Large #FDS1-2XL

Clubs and groups: **SAVE SHIPPING** when you collect money from your members, and submit a single order with the quantity needed (US customers pay only \$10 shipping for orders over \$75).

The Contest Branch is not handling pin orders this year.

To order Shirts and Pins contact:

**ARRL Publication and Sales Department
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111**

860-594-0355



FIELD DAY

Please write legibly. Make certain you have filled out this form completely. Enclose required dupe sheets, photos, bonus claims.

Entries must be postmarked within 30 days of the contest and mailed to:

Field Day Entries
ARRL
225 Main St,
Newington CT 06111

1. Field Day Call Used _____ Novice Call Used _____
(if applicable)

2. Club or Group name (if class A) _____

3. Number of Participants _____ 4. Number of Transmitters in simultaneous operation: _____

5. Entry Class (check only one)

- ☐ A. Club or non-club group portable
- ☐ B. 1 or 2 Person non-club portable
List Operators _____
- ☐ C. Mobile
- ☐ D. Home station commercial power
- ☐ E. Home station emergency power

6. Check all power sources used

- ☐ Generator
- ☐ Commercial mains
- ☐ Battery
- ☐ Other (list) _____

7. ARRL / RAC Section _____

8. Total CW QSOs _____ x 2 = Total CW QSO Points _____

9. Total Digital QSOs _____ x 2 = Total Digital QSO Points _____

10. Total Phone QSOs _____ x 1 = Total Phone QSO Points _____

12. Power Multiplier (select only one)

- ☐ 5 Watts or less and Battery = 5
- ☐ 150 Watts or less = 2
- ☐ Over 150 Watts = 1
(transfer to line 13)

11. Total QSO Points _____

13. Power Multiplier _____

14. Claimed Score _____
(Line 11 x Line 13) (excluding bonus points)

15. Bonus Points claimed: Please check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points in your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

- ☐ 100% Emergency Power
- ☐ Media Publicity
- ☐ Set-up in Public Place
- ☐ Information Booth
- ☐ Message to ARRL SM/SEC
- ☐ W1AW Field Day Message
- ☐ Formal Messages Handled (# _____)
- ☐ Satellite QSO Completed
- ☐ Natural Power QSOs completed
- ☐ Site visited by invited officials
- ☐ Non-traditional Demonstrations (list each):
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

Total Bonus Points Claimed: _____

16. "I/We have observed all competition rules as well as all regulars for Amateur Radio in my/our country. My/Our report is correct and true to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

Date: _____ Call _____

Signature: _____
(signature / call of Club President or Authorized Club Representative)

Address _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address: _____

You must complete the Band/Mode QSO breakdown box on the second page or reverse side of this form.

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160 M						
80 M						
40 M						
20 M						
15 M						
10 M						
6 M						
2 M						
1.25						
Other						
Other						
Satellite						
Novice						
Totals		CW		Digital		Phone
	Enter on Line 8 of Summary		Enter on Line 9 of Summary		Enter on Line 10 of Summary	

Field Day Entry Submission Instructions:

Please make certain that your required summary sheet is complete with the following fields filled in:

1. **Field Day Call Used:** The callsign used by your club/group/entry. If your group used a Novice / Tech-Plus station please list that callsign in the space provided.
2. **Club or Group Name:** If your group entered as a Class A entry, please give us the name of the Club or Group. Only Class A entries will have group names listed in QST.
3. **Number of Participants:** Give the number of persons who participated in your Field Day operation. Include operators, loggers, set-up crew, and visitors.
4. **Number of Transmitters in Simultaneous Operation:** List how many transmitters were active during any 15-minute period of the Field Day event.
5. **Entry Class:** Refer to the Field Day rules for definitions.
6. **Check all power sources used:** If you used more than one source, check all that apply.
7. **Your ARRL / RAC section:** This is usually your State or Province, but if you live in one of the 8 US states that have multiple ARRL sections (California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington) refer to the ARRL section list.
8. **Total number of CW QSOs:** In the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe CW QSOs. Multiply the CW QSO total by 2 and enter the CW QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this field.
9. **Total number of Digital QSOs:** On the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe Digital QSOs. Multiply the Digital QSO total by 2 and enter the QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this field.
10. **Total number of Phone QSOs:** In the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe Phone QSOs. Multiply the Phone QSO total by 1 and enter the CW QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this Field.
11. **Total QSO Points:** Add the CW, Digital and Phone QSO points and enter here.
12. **Power Multiplier:** Select the category that corresponds with your power multiplier. (Remember that to use the multiplier of 5, you must be running 5 watts or less and running battery power.)
13. **Enter the power multiplier** from Item 12 onto this line.
14. **Multiply line 11 times line 13 to calculate your claimed score**, exclusive of bonus points.
15. **Bonus Points Claimed:** Check each box for which you are claiming the earned Field Day bonus points. You must submit proof of each bonus points claimed or they will be disallowed. Proof for each may be in the form of photographs, copies of visitor logs, copies of press releases issued or newspaper articles printed, marked log excerpts showing Satellite and Natural power QSOs. A written statement signed by a club or group official will suffice for the Emergency Power, Public Place, Information Booth, and Site Visit bonuses. You must provide serviced copies of any messages claimed for bonus credit. A copy of the W1AW must be included with the entry submission
16. **A club officer, authorized club representative or individual must date, and sign the Summary Sheet.** Please provide a mailing address and E-Mail address (if available) in case questions arise with the entry.

After completing the Summary Sheet, please enclose it, copies of Dupe Sheets (by band and mode), all proofs of bonus points claimed and mail to:

**Field Day Entry
ARRL
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111**

All Field Day entries must be postmarked or E-mailed within 30 days after the contest or they will be ineligible for inclusion in the Field Day report.

Question: What is the most popular amateur radio event in the US and Canada?
Answer: The 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 2000, contest logs were submitted by almost 2,100 clubs, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by over 31,000 individuals. Over 1.4 million QSOs were reported during the brief 24-hours of the contest.

Field Day is officially an operating event rather than 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 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. Officially, Field Day is not a contest. But it is the thrill of the "non-contest contest" that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs who under most circumstances do not choose to participate in the various contests held by various organizations.

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. I would offer a few basic ideas to keep in mind as you contemplate a Field Day operation.

First, and foremost, is **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 the 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 better interest and participation than one which is run like a hard-core contest.

This doesn't mean you don'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 having a wide-range of activities and "jobs" which will encourage participation. Yes, 15 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. 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 common sense 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 no-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 yourself. After all, the success in Field Day is not found in placing first in your category or finishing with "bragging rights" over your cross-town rival. Success in Field Day is measured in attaining the goals you set for your group (or yourself if you operate as an individual.)

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 Chairman. This person needs to be a good organizer with the ability to delegate responsibility. Their responsibilities are many: site selection, securing “band captains” for each transmitters, how to best utilize the operating site, helping solicit operators, equipment, computers, generators, assisting in public relations, safety issues, and much more. The Field Day Chairman 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 Chairman along with an assistant Chairman who is in “training” to assume the job the following year.

As you plan Field Day, don't overlook the wide range of bonus points that are available. If your operating category is 3 A – meaning you have three regular stations operating completely under emergency power, you receive 300 bonus points (**100 per transmitter class.**) 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 general ham radio informational handouts, and some volunteers and you have another 100 points for an **Information Booth**.

Sometimes there is some confusion as to the bonus for media publicity. Prepare a press release about your event and send it to the various local media outlets (television, radio, and newspapers). At that point you qualify for the **100 point media bonus**. While we hope the press will attend your event, their resources may not allow them to cover your event. The bonus points come from the **attempt to secure media publicity**.

Educating the state and local government officials and representatives of agencies that ARES may work with is part of the Field Day goal. **You may claim a 100-point bonus if an elected or appointed local or state governmental official or a representative of one of the agencies which we serve (such as 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 invite officials to visit the operation and one (or more) of them must visit. Maximum bonus is 100 points in this category (not 100 points per official).

Part of any real emergency will be handling formal traffic for the agencies we serve as part of our public service efforts. Field Day incorporates this into the exercise in two ways. First, an easy 100 points are earned by **originating a message from the club to your ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator**. The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period, so your best bet is to have some of your club's experienced traffic handlers involved in this part of Field Day.

When you do this, also be ready to garner points **for originating, relaying, and receiving and delivering formal NTS style messages** during the Field Day operation. You can gain **up to 100 points (10 points each for 10 messages)** as well as incorporating another segment of your club into the operation. You may not 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 available **for copying the special W1AW Field Day bulletin during the course of the event**. You must copy this special bulletin on the air during the Field Day operation. 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.

Many groups for many years have used alternative power sources other 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 a no-no).

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 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.

Many new modes of communication are being introduced into the amateur's “bag of tricks.” To encourage this experimentation, you may earn up to an additional **300 bonus points by setting up demonstrations of a “non-traditional” mode of amateur communication. You may earn 100 points each for up to three demonstration stations.** This would include such things as APRS, ATV or one of the modes that is not covered by the three categories of QSOs – CW, digital and Phone. Be careful when you choose this mode. The digital category already includes such things as RTTY, and PSK31, so they don't qualify for the bonus. **If you wish to claim packet for this special bonus credit, you must set-up a completely portable packet system, including a portable node. You may not use existing packet networks to qualify for packet credit under this bonus, and any contacts made do not count for QSO credit.**

If your Field Day group is operating in the Class A category, and are at least reporting as a two-transmitter, you have two more ways of adding operating excitement to your event. Groups **at 2A or higher** may add a **dedicated Novice-Tech Plus station**. This station, which must be operated only by those holding Novice/Tech Plus licenses must use a separate Novice/Tech Plus callsign from the main club's effort (so you need to find a responsible licensee who will serve as the control operator.) This station may only operate in the novice sub-bands, using appropriate power restrictions. The QSOs which this station completes are added into the club totals. It does not count as an additional transmitter under the 100 points per transmitter bonus.

For those in your club which are more VHF/UHF oriented, any group operating as a **Class 2A or higher** may also include one **dedicated VHF/UHF station**. This will allow those participants 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. Those additional transmitters do count towards your club's transmitter total.

After your successful Field Day operation, what happens next? Submitting the required paperwork on time is an absolute must. **Submit your entry** to the ARRL Contest Branch within **30 days of the end of the event**. Your entry begins with a **completely and accurately filled out Summary Sheet** which shows all of the 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. **Make certain you use the most current Summary Sheet from the ARRL, since there are changes that will affect how you claim bonus points. Make certain you complete all parts of the summary sheet.** Without your supplying us complete, accurate information, we can't print the results accurately.

The logging requirements for Field Day are different from other 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 to clarify. **You do not have to use the Cabrillo format for Field Day, since it is a log format and only Dupe sheets are required to be submitted.**

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 those. 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 a copy of your Press Release, or a copy of any newspaper or media coverage you actually receive. And send in **photographs**. 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 are more likely to catch the eyes of *QST*.

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.

A couple of hints that might help you make your event even more successful 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. Make certain antennas are safely away from power lines. Generators should be grounded properly and operated carefully. Guy wires for temporary structures or towers need to be well marked. The safety officer needs to work closely with the Field Day Chairman to ensure everyone has a safe, as well as fun time.

Make certain everyone is familiar with the Field Day rules. Some people show up and mean well, but their activities on behalf of the club may not be within the spirit of the rules. The complete Field Day rules always appear in **the May issue of *QST***. They are also found at the Contest Department’s Web Page on line at: www.arrl.org/contests Also from that page you can **download the complete Field Day packet**. This packet includes copies of the official summary sheet, several other useful forms, as well as some simple information material on several aspects of Field Day. You can also receive this packet by sending an SASE with at least 3 units of postage to: Field Day Packet, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

How you organize your group for Field Day will depend on the numbers of participants and size of the operation you plan. One helpful hint is 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 Chairman 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.

If you have questions about Field Day after reviewing the rules and packet, drop an email to n1nd@arrl.org or phone (860) 594-0295 and someone in the Contest Branch 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 Branch if we can assist you in some way to help ensure your Field Day operation this year is the best ever!

Field Day Tips

Here are some helpful hints that ought to help you plan and set up for your Field Day operation. Although every Field Day setup is different, and everyone has a different way of doing things, these tips should at least point you in the right direction.

Safety Tips

Safety First! Follow the ARRL safety code as you set up. Appoint one person "safety officer" and charge him with making sure no accidents happen.

More people are killed by contact with regular 120-V line service than by any other voltage. The voltages in many power supplies can be lethal! Don't take any chances! Ground anything and everything. Never use "three-prong" adapters to connect your equipment to your power source.

Try to have someone always on hand that is qualified in First Aid and CPR. This is a good idea for a club project to train all your members in these valuable skills before they are needed. Contact your local Red Cross chapter for more information in your area.

Always kill all power circuits completely before opening up a piece of equipment and trying to troubleshoot it. Never allow anyone else to switch the power on and off for you while you're working on something. Never try to fix something while you're tired or sleepy. If you're working on older tube-type gear, or an amplifier, always unplug the unit from the AC mains and wait at least 5 minutes before you begin. When troubleshooting this kind of equipment, always keep one hand in your pocket, as a precaution against accidental shock. Never wear watches or jewelry when you're working on gear.

Do not climb any tower without the proper equipment: a hard hat and a climbing belt. NEVER climb an unguyed tower. NEVER work on a tower alone. Always have someone on the ground to watch you. Always make certain that all mechanical connections are tight and secure before erecting a tower or an antenna. What may be easy to fix on the ground could be dangerous in the air. When erecting a tower, take your time and be safe! It's far too easy for someone to get caught on something, or have fingers or toes in the wrong place at the wrong time. Make certain any "spectators" are a safe distance away should anything untoward happen.

Alcohol and towers do not mix! If you drink, don't climb! If you climb, don't drink!

Always make sure your guys are securely anchored, and that the guys themselves are sufficiently taut. Tying flags to guy wires in strategic spots will help prevent people from walking into them (especially visitors!). Make certain that the tower bases are secure and unlikely to shift in high winds.

Watch out for overhead power lines! Make certain they are at least twice the height of any antenna's height in distance away: an antenna 50' high should be at least 100' from any overhead line, for example.

Make certain that your group has enough fire extinguishers, and that everyone knows where they are. **Always** keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher by the generator. Never fuel a running generator. Never smoke around a generator. Keep the fuel in a separate place. Charge one or two people with the responsibility of monitoring the generators.

As a rule, generators should always be kept outdoors in an area with good air circulation. This will prevent the possibility of exhaust and gas fumes building up.

Check all your extension cords prior to setup for signs of wear or fraying. Discard any that show even the slightest wear. Guard all outlets from any water. Make sure the wire sizes are adequate enough to handle the load.

Watch out for lightning! Storms can arise and move quickly. At the first sign of a storm, disconnect all antennas from the rigs, shut down the generators, and head for shelter. You don't have to take a direct hit in order to sustain damage, or electrical shock. Summer thunderstorms are accompanied by high winds and rain. Play it safe!

Setup

Check out your operating site ahead of time. Avoid confusion on Field Day by preparing a work plan. You'll want to determine where antenna, power sources, and operating positions should be placed. Coordinate in advance the order for each task. Make sure that all essential items will be on hand when they are needed. Don't forget the essential creature comforts, such as toilet paper, flashlights, bug spray, first aid kit, etc.

Always try to have someone designated as "tour guide"; that is to say, someone to guide around any visitors who might happen by and show an interest in ham radio. This is also a good way to drum up interest in a license class. Besides, not only is this a chance to show off your hobby in a favorable light, but it is also worth some bonus points! Set up a table with some handouts about ham radio, your club, Field Day, whatever. Type up a sheet that describes

your club, the operation, and include a person to contact for more information. When giving a tour, make sure not to lapse into "ham speak": try to explain what people are looking at in as easy-to-understand language as you can.

If media comes by, make certain that something is going on. TV, radio and print journalists will be much more impressed to see antennas going up and people making contacts than they will by a group of guys sitting around drinking beer.

Many clubs "turn out the operators" by combining Field Day with family activities, such as a picnic. Others send a mailing to all their area hams with a map to the FD site along with some information. Be creative! There are likely a number of hams in your community who'd love the chance to come and help out.

Give everyone something to do. Newer hams can do 2-meter talk-ins, or help setup a Novice/Technician station, or help assemble antennas. The more people are involved, the better time you'll have. This is also a great chance to give some of your newer hams some practical experience.

Keep a handy list of ARRL section abbreviations at every operating position. This will eliminate possible confusion later on. If everyone uses the same abbreviations, you'll save yourself some headaches when it comes time to check the logs over. Make sure everyone keeps up the dupe sheets. More than one club has lost contacts by not keeping the dupe sheet up to date with the log at all times. If you have operators who have never used one, sit them down with someone beforehand to show them how it's done.

Operating

Keep an ever-constant eye on 10 meters. If 10 opens up, you should have lots of Novice/Technician stations to work. If the band is quiet, don't assume that it's dead-give a call or two. Everyone else could be listening, too!

Try to listen around on the bands the week before. This could give you a good idea of what to expect in the way of propagation during Field Day. Check your logs from previous years and see if you can spot any trends, ie hours when certain bands were open, or had a high level of activity. Certain bands in certain areas can be extremely important in working up a good score. For example, 40 meters on the East Coast is a bread and butter band for Field Day. Decide which bands are going to be the most important to your score and try to maximize your effort on them by using the best antennas possible combined with your best gear and best operators.

Don't ignore one mode for another. Many groups have concentrated on CW only to miss out on some easy phone contacts, and vice versa. Always keep in mind that every contact counts, no matter what the mode.

Read the rules very carefully. Look over the bonus points available. A number of these could be relatively easy to earn. If your club has any traffic handlers, they could easily help you earn the message origination and relay bonuses. Copy the W1AW bulletin! This is an easy 100 points. W1AW even comes on the air twice each day to give you an extra chance to copy the message. Remember! Every 100 bonus points you earn are that many QSOs you wouldn't need to make to have the same score.

On Using Computers

On-line computer logging has become the reality of contesting. Computer logging, when it works, can make operating much more enjoyable and shrink your after-contest paperwork to virtually nothing. When it doesn't work, you can have a lynch mob out for blood. Here's some handy suggestions for making everything run smoother.

Check out your software ahead of time. Make certain that it works on all the computers you'll be using. If you're using a software package that allows linking stations (ie, more than one computer tied together) make sure that they can communicate with each other before Field Day starts. Have a handy sheet available with the most commonly used commands. Some clubs even hold a meeting where everyone can sit down and familiarize themselves with the computer.

Whatever software you use should have an "autosave" feature. This allows the computer to save every QSO to disk as it happens, so that nothing is lost should the power fail. Others allow you to keep a printer on-line to provide you with a running paper tally of your contacts.

Computer logging also allows you to send your log in on disk. All you need to send in is your paper summary sheet, your proof of bonus points, and a disk with your dupe sheets on it. The disk must be MS-DOS formatted, with the information in ASCII format. This can save you hours of work, as well as postal expenses.

Field Day Tips for 30 MHz and Above

By Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Managing Editor, QST

When most hams think of Field Day, they automatically envision a stampede of activity on the HF bands. While this may be true, there is a potential gold mine of contact points on the bands above 30 MHz.

CW/SSB

You will find the greatest amount of CW and SSB activity on the 6 and 2 meter bands. On 6 meters, CW/SSB stations tend to gather around 50.125 MHz and above. The popular hangout on 2 meters is centered around 144.200 MHz.

If propagation is especially good, 6 meters can burst wide open and yield contacts spanning several thousand miles. During Field Day weekend, you can usually count on average conditions with a range of up to 200 miles on 2 meters and 400 to 500 miles on the 6-meter band. However, be on the lookout for propagation enhancements such as sporadic E. During a good sporadic E opening, you'll work stations 1500 miles away, if not farther. You'll also find some CW and SSB activity on the higher bands such as 222 and 420 MHz. If you are strapped for equipment, however, concentrate your resources on 6 and 2 meters. For CW/SSB operating, beam antennas are your best bet—the more elements the better. Make sure your antennas are horizontally polarized (the antenna elements must be parallel to the ground.) Horizontal polarization is the CW/SSB custom. The penalty for using the wrong polarization is a tremendous loss of received signal strength.

FM

For Field Day operating, FM is probably the easiest VHF mode to implement. You'll have little trouble finding FM rigs to use; even an H-T can make a fine Field Day rig. FM doesn't have the range of CW or SSB, but it is the most popular communications mode on the VHF and UHF bands. You'll find the greatest amount of FM simplex activity on the 2-meter band, although 6 meter FM may be worth a try as well. Remember that Field Day rules prohibit the use of repeaters. This means you'll have to hunt for contacts on the recognized simplex frequencies.

Unlike CW and SSB, most FM operators use vertically polarized antennas. To maximize your signal coverage, you'll want to use vertical polarization, too. A small beam antenna mounted in the vertical-polarity position (elements perpendicular to the ground) is one suggestion. An alternative is a simple omni-directional antenna such as a ground plane. Since most of your contacts will be local, an omni-directional antenna may be nearly as effective as a beam.

SATELLITES

Among the most active satellites during Field Day—and among the easiest to use—are the Radio Sputnik birds: RS-13, RS-15 and if it is available AO-10. To make contacts through RS-13 and RS-15 you will need a 2 meter CW/SSB transceiver with 20 to 30 watts output and a 10 meter receiver. You can use a small beam antenna for the 2 meter uplink and a wire dipole for the 10 meter downlink. All of these satellites should make several good passes near your location during Field Day weekend. Each pass lasts about 15 minutes. You can determine the best times in advance by using a satellite tracking software program. Just write down the schedule times and you are all set.

Radio Sputnik Frequencies:	Uplink Passband	Downlink Passband
RS-13	145.960 -- 146.000	29.460 -- 29.500
RS-15	145.858 -- 145.898	29.354 -- 29.394

Have a dual band VHF/UHF FM rig that can receive below 437 MHz? Try AO-27, UO-14 & SO-35, FM repeater satellites.

Satellite	AO-27	UO-14	SO-35
Time	Transmit	Receive	Transmit Receive
AOS (start)	145.850 436.805	145.975 435.080	436.280 145.830
AOS+3 Minutes	145.850 436.800	145.975 435.075	436.285 145.830
Zenith (maximum)	145.850 436.795	145.975 435.070	436.290 145.825
Zenith+1 Minute	145.855 436.790	145.980 435.065	436.295 145.825
LOS (end)	145.855 436.785	145.980 435.060	436.300 145.825

If you can transmit SSB on 2 meters and receive on 70 cm, try OSCARs 20 and 29. Neither satellite is particularly active, even on Field Day, but they have excellent range and solid signals.

Fuji-OSCAR 20	145.900 -- 146.000	435.800 -- 435.900
Fuji-OSCAR 29	145.900 -- 146.000	435.800 -- 435.900

Some Final Considerations

When it comes to VHF/UHF operating, antenna height is everything (the only exception is satellite operation). To make the most of your VHF/UHF capability, you'll need to mount your antennas on portable supports or select a hill or mountain for your Field Day site. Feed line loss is substantial at VHF and UHF, so use the best coaxial cable you can find. If you exploit the VHF/UHF bands to their full potential, you'll be surprised at how many points you'll add to your score. And if the HF bands are dear, VHF and UHF may save the day!

The Four Steps Toward Successful Field Day Press Releases

By Jim Mulvey, KS1A, EMA Public Information Officer

When last year's local club's Field Day publicity didn't make it into the newspaper, the Publicity Chairman couldn't understand why! After all, he wrote a press release and mailed it with plenty of time to spare. Still, it was passed by. Why? Because there are very specific steps you must follow to ensure that:

- 1.The right person actually reads your release. (Most are thrown out after a quick look.)
- 2.They print it.

Step 1. Know what you're up against.

First, the old days of the spartan "just the facts" press release are over. At one time, all you needed to do was a straightforward "who, what, where, when and why" in the first paragraph with no editorializing. It's still being taught that way in journalism school, but it's not the way it's done in the real world!

Step 2. Understand that the biggest problem is having your release tossed in the trash.

At every media outlet (newspapers, television, and radio stations) there is one person who opens the press release mail. They can get a ton of releases every week; they are gathered up and opened by hand one by one, and unfortunately, they are almost all fluff from companies announcing the upgrade of a new improved food container, (yawn). The person must make a quick decision as to the importance of each one. He only reads the first paragraph, and he's usually standing over a wastebasket. Get the picture?

You must make sure the release is of interest to the readers. If you're town paper is the Billerica News, then make sure that "Billerica Radio Amateurs" are mentioned prominently! You must catch the person's attention with the first couple of lines in your release or out it goes! Worse, the person who opens the release may make a decision based upon what your envelope looks like. If it's very amateurish-looking, you may not even get a serious first glance. When writing the release, walk the fine line between making it exciting and keeping it factual. See the examples provided.

Step 3. Delivering your release to its target.

We've included a sample news release for you to "customize" for local consumption. We've also included a "media advisory." We recommend sending both. A good way to get them thrown away is to just drop them in an envelope and mail to your media outlet. That's not enough! Call the station or newspaper and ask for the city editor or assignment editor (for radio and TV). Get a name. Then, ask for the fax number.

Fax it to them! The fax is the fastest way to cut through the protective layers a company uses against their telephone and mail. A fax will get right through. Send your release a week in advance.

BINGO! The right person now has your release. It's separated from the usual pack; now you have a very good chance of getting the publicity you want and need. Resend everything the day before the event.

Step 4. The Closer.

Include a contact telephone number. We've actually had newspapers call us back and ask to do a full story on the club! Getting publicity is more of an art than a science. It's important to remember that just writing and sending it isn't enough. Follow the steps, sound friendly but confident, don't try to come off as if you're promoting something as important as a medical breakthrough, and be sure to mention that the site looks great for cameras and photographers. Follow through, and you just may score with every release you send.

- 1) **Modify this media advisory to suit your local event**
- 2) **Submit to local newspapers, radio and television news rooms one week in advance of Field Day.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe Dokes
Anytown Amateur Radio Society
123 Common Place
Anytown, State
Phone: 555-555-5555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS SUMMARY: (Community name) Hams Gear Up to Set Long Distance Contact Records and Practice Emergency Communication Skills
(ANYTOWN, June xx, 1998) — Hundreds of (Anytown) Amateur Radio operators will work 'round the clock this weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the US and Canada as part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day.

According to (name), President of the (Anytown) Amateur Radio Society, Field Day is the annual "shakedown run" for the ARRL's National Field Organization.

"Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions," (name) says. "But it's also a chance to fine-tune emergency communication skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working station quickly and begin making contacts."

The ARRL Field Organization has been effective in establishing emergency communications nets during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and other major disasters. Members of formal emergency organizations such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES) regularly participate. The League estimates that more than 35,000 hams participate in Field Day every year.

(Anytown's) Field Day operations will be at (site). Set up begins at (time and date). The public is invited. For more information, contact (name and telephone number).

SUMMARY: (Town) Amateur Radio operators to contact thousands of other hams throughout North America in the nation's largest ham radio on-air event.

WHO: Licensed Amateur Radio Operators in (town).

WHAT: Hams will set up and operate field radio stations to contact other hams throughout the US and Canada over 24 hours. Objective is to see who can make the highest number of contacts during the contest period.

WHERE: (Site)

WHEN: (Date)

WHY: Participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day. Amateur Radio operators practice communication skills under primitive conditions, with generator and battery-powered equipment and portable antennas. Special awards are given for "alternative" power sources such as solar, wind and methane. Field Day is a competition as well as a "trial run" for emergency communication skills used during disaster situations.

Photo opportunities, interviews, activities of local participants in important national Amateur Radio event. See all Amateur Radio communication modes in action, including voice, code, packet radio, teletype, and satellite.

CONTACT: (Name and phone number of local contact)

Field Day Traffic Handling

By Dan Henderson, N1ND ARRL Contest Branch Manager

There is an easy way to garner up to 100 bonus points in Field Day. It is also an excellent method of demonstrating Amateur Radio's formal communication ability. All you have to do is have your Field Day team handle 10 formal National Traffic System (NTS) messages during the Field Day period.

NTS messages are among the most important means of communication that Amateur Radio handles during emergencies. Every ham operator, especially ARES members should know how to properly format and pass formal traffic. Whether they are formal requests for supplies from a served agency to emergency management officials, or situation updates between branches of the same agency, in an emergency these formal messages are at the heart of performing our role of support communications to local, state and national officials and agencies. They are emphasized during Field Day, so that we will all know the standard format and style in which they are exchanged.

Your group will earn its 100-bonus points by Originating, Relaying or Delivering ten different messages during the Field Day period (ten points per message, up to ten messages handled.) These messages must be handled during the Field Day period. You may pass them on local, state or regional HF or VHF traffic nets, via the packet network, or when in contact with other amateurs willing to assist you in handling the traffic. Many local groups assign one of their HF stations to check-in to the state or local traffic or emergency net at the appropriate time during the Field Day period, as that provides a central clearing house for routing messages, just as would occur during an actual emergency.

The messages generated during the Field Day for bonus credit do not have to be addressed to a state or local official (though in doing so you may help them become more aware of our message-handling network.) Some groups will address formal traffic to other clubs or have visitors prepare messages to their friends and families. The key to remember is that all of the Field Day messages must be in standard ARRL NTS format. A sample NTS message is found in this packet. Also you can download a wide variety of NTS forms and information material from <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/>

You say you have never handled formal traffic before? Ask around your club. We bet it won't take too long to locate a member with traffic handling experience. Or contact Steve Ewald, Emergency Communications Specialist at the ARRL at vv1x@arrl.org if you need specific questions answered.

Formal NTS style traffic plays a big role during an actual emergency. Use this bonus to help your club achieve additional points for the Field Day efforts as well as to hone your skills for this key part of emergency communications.

Sample Field Day National Traffic System Message

Number	Precedence	HX	Stn of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
1	R	E	WIAW	24	Newington CT	2300 UTC	June 23

TO: Jane Q Public W1IINF
ARRL CT Section Manager
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111
Telephone: (860) 594-0200

ARRL Headquarters amateur operators are
participating in 2001 Field Day
from W1AW x 25 amateurs
and 34 others have visited
the site x 73

Signature: John Q. Ham W1AW Field Day Chairman

A. Sequential Message Number

B. Handling Precedence

C. Handling Instructions (HX)

D. Call Sign of Originating Station

E. Check

F. Place of Origin

G. Time Originated

H. Date

I. Full Name and Address or Recipient with phone number

J. Text of message (total number of words and breaks (X-rays) are included in Check)

K. Signature

Who's in Control of Your Field Day Station?

By John Hennessee, N1KB, ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist

About a month or so before Field Day, ARRL is inundated with questions about FCC rules as they apply to Field Day. Of course, every station must have a control operator (97.103). You normally operate your own station, but on Field Day, you often operate using someone else's station. You, the licensee, are responsible for all transmissions from your station. During Field Day, many amateurs often use a single call sign, so the station licensee must designate a control operator(s). Both the station licensee and the control operator are equally responsible for all transmissions (97.103(a) and (b)). When you, the station licensee, designate others as control operators, you should make a note in the log. You are no longer required to carry a photocopy of your license whenever you are the control operator of a station, but it's still a good idea. For a detailed look at this topic, see The FCC Rule Book (available from HQ).

Q. My call is being used for Field Day, but I can't be at the station for the duration of the contest. (I like sleeping in my air-conditioned house, even during Field Day.) Do we have to take the transmitter off the air when I am not present?

A. No, because your appointed control operator should fulfill your duties as the station licensee. In fact, you don't have to be there at all, but you must make sure that your appointed control operator is capable of carrying out your wishes (97.103(b) and 97.105).

Q. Can KA1UFZ, a Novice, operate the station of NUØX, an Extra Class operator, during Field Day and can she operate in the Extra class segment even though she holds a Novice class license?

A. The answer is "yes" to both of these questions, but a control operator must be on duty whenever she operates outside of her Novice class privileges using the call of NUØX. FCC rules state that "A control operator must ensure the immediate proper operation of the station..." (97.105(a)). The rules go on to say, "A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator" (97.105(b)).

Q. I am an Extra class licensee, but I am going to use a Novice class operator's station and call sign during Field Day. Can I legally operate her station and use her call outside the Novice subbands?

A. You, the Extra, can be designated as the control operator. If you are authorized by the licensee, you may use the call sign of the Novice class licensee and operate only within the Novice class privileges. However, if an Extra Class control operator wants to operate outside the Novice class operator privileges, he may do so, but he must identify by appending his call to that of the Novice, such as signing "KA1UFZ/NUØX" on CW or separating the calls by the word "stroke" on phone (97.105(a) and (b), 97.119(d)). True, this is a long identification procedure, but it is the only way to identify in this case. Why would an Extra want to use a Novice call, you ask. Well, that may not always be the case, but it clearly illustrates the point.

Q. What about a club station call sign that has a General class trustee? There are lots of Extra Class amateurs in our club. Can we go outside the General class subbands using the club call?

A. Yes, but only if you append your Extra Class call to that of the club call as stated in the previous question, and provide a duly licensed control operator who is willing to provide the control operator functions. Remember that the club station trustee and the control operator share responsibility. If the club station trustee doesn't have Extra Class privileges, he can't assume responsibility outside his General class operator privileges.

Q. Are there any exceptions to the FCC rules for Field Day?

A. No, all FCC rules apply 365 days a year. Of course, Field Day participants must also observe additional Field Day rules as set forth by the ARRL.

Q. During Field Day, members of the public wander through as we operate. Many times, these unlicensed individuals want to operate. Can they legally operate our Field Day station?

A. Yes, but only a licensed amateur is eligible to be the control operator, and obviously an unlicensed person can't be the control operator of an amateur station, but they may participate. In cases when a third party is participating, the control operator must be present at the control point and must be continuously monitoring and supervising the third party's participation. Third parties may only communicate directly with countries with which the US has signed third-party agreements (97.115(a) and (b)). The FCC doesn't expect us to carry The FCC Rule Book along on Field Day, but they do expect us all to abide by the rules at all times. It is the hope of the ARRL that everyone will do lots of operating during Field Day, demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public, practice our emergency communications capabilities, eat lots of good Field Day cooking and most of all, have a good time doing it.

ARRL / RAC Contest Section Abbreviation List

1

Connecticut	CT	Rhode Island	RI
Eastern Massachusetts	EMA	Vermont	VT
Maine	ME	Western Massachusetts	WMA
New Hampshire	NH		

2

Eastern New York	ENY	Northern New York	NNY
NYC / Long Island	NLI	Southern New Jersey	SNJ
Northern New Jersey	NNJ	Western New York	WNY

3

Delaware	DE	Maryland – DC	MDC
Eastern Pennsylvania	EPA	Western Pennsylvania	WPA

4

Alabama	AL	Southern Florida	SFL
Georgia	GA	Tennessee	TN
Kentucky	KY	Virginia	VA
North Carolina	NC	West Central Florida	WCF
Northern Florida	NFL	Puerto Rico	PR
South Carolina	SC	Virgin Islands	VI

5

Arkansas	AR	North Texas	NTX
Louisiana	LA	Oklahoma	OK
Mississippi	MS	South Texas	STX
New Mexico	NM	West Texas	WTX

6

East Bay	EB	San Diego	SDG
Los Angeles	LAX	San Francisco	SF
Orange	ORG	San Joaquin Valley	SJV
Santa Barbara	SB	Sacramento Valley	SV
Santa Clara Valley	SCV	Pacific	PAC

7

Alaska	AK	Nevada	NV
Arizona	AZ	Oregon	OR
Eastern Washington	EWA	Utah	UT
Idaho	ID	Western Washington	WWA
Montana	MT	Wyoming	WY

8

Michigan	MI	West Virginia	WV
Ohio	OH		

9

Illinois	IL	Wisconsin	WI
Indiana	IN		

0

Colorado	CO	Missouri	MO
Iowa	IA	Nebraska	NE
Kansas	KS	North Dakota	ND
Minnesota	MN	South Dakota	SD

Canada

Maritime	MAR	Saskatchewan	SK
Newfoundland/Labrador	NL	Alberta	AB
Quebec	QC	British Columbia	BC
Ontario	ON	Northwest Territories/ Yukon/Nunavut	NWT
Manitoba	MB		

FIELD DAY

Log Sheet _____ of _____

Call Used _____ Band/Mode _____

[illegible]