VCARC Field Day

June 21 - 23, 2024
Oxnard College

What is Field Day?

Objective:

- To work as many stations as possible on the HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, while learning to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

- Develop skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness, and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

- Set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation.

- It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills - and of course FUN! - all in a single event.

Goals

- Have fun!
- Practice emergency communication procedures
- Test equipment
- Improve operating skills
- Community Outreach

Location

Oxnard College Lot B

Corner of South Rose Avenue and East Bard Road

34°09'45.2"N 119°09'27.4"W

Timeline

- Friday - Setup
  - 12pm - Position antennas, stations, generator, meal prep area, PIO and GOTA locations
  - Set up WiFi and N3FJP logging server

- Saturday - Additional Setup, Start of Contest
  - 9 am - Breakfast, set up laptop computers for network
  - 10 am - Count number of operating stations (#) to determine Class, set up N3FJP software to reflect this (Class #A) on each individual laptop
  - 11 am - Contest begins
  - 12 pm - Start Lunch/Club Picnic (headcount)
  - 5 pm - Dinner (headcount)

- Sunday - Contest Ends, Tear Down
  - 11 am - Contest Ends
  - Collect PC logs
  - Tear Down
  - Group photos

**** Take lots of photos for our website ****

Bands and Modes

- HF
  - 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m
  - Club supplied bandpass filters for 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 (1 per band)
  - KN6VQ will bring additional filters for 40, 20, and 15 for use by members
- VHF/UHF
  - All bands above 50 Mhz
  - Contacts through repeaters do not count
- Modes
  - Any mode that supports the Field Day exchange
    - SSB/Voice - **1 point per QSO**
    - CW, Digital (FT8, FT4, PSK31, etc.) - **2 points per QSO**
    - Satellite, etc.

HF Bands

- 160m - During the day propagation is limited to local contacts, but long distance contacts are possible at night, especially around sunrise and sunset

- 80m - Daytime Near Vertical Incidence Skywave Propagation (NVIS), long distance at night as DX paths must be largely, although not entirely, in darkness

- 40m - Local to medium distance NVIS communication during most daylight hours, long distance communications between late afternoon and a few hours after sunrise

HF Bands

- 20m - Most popular and consistent daytime band, good potential for daytime and nighttime operation even in unfavorable conditions

- 15m - Frequently considered a daytime band, nighttime operations are possible under the proper conditions

- 10m - Generally speaking, good during local daylight hours. During periods of increased sunspot activity, band openings may begin well before sunrise and continue into the night

VHF / UHF Bands

- 6m - Capable of good medium and intermediate distance communication, and when conditions are right, distances of 2,000 miles are possible.

- 2m - Repeater contacts are not allowed in Field Day, so good for short-range or satellite contacts

- 1.25m - Same as 2m

- 70cm - Same as 2m

Field Day Exchange

K6MEP Kilo – Six – Mike – Echo – Papa

[Class #] Alpha, Santa Barbara (Sierra Bravo)

Grid DM04KD Delta – Mike – Zero – Four – Kilo – Delta

34° 9’ 45.88” N / 119° 9’ 30.97” W

Equipment and Setup

- Antenna deployment
  - Spacing
  - Coax routing
  - Guy ropes, caution stakes and tape
- Tables and Chairs
  - If you are bringing a rig, please bring a table and chair
- Equipment connections
  - Ground all radios
- Power sources
  - If planning to use AC power, bring a suitable extension cord (sufficient gauge, for outdoor use) to connect to generator “backbone”
  - If you bring a ‘battery generator’ (battery powered AC power source), test it for RF noise prior to bringing it to FD
  - If you bring a solar setup, and it proves to be noisy, you may only use battery power

Operating Time Slots

To ensure all operators get a chance to operate, especially on the popular (workable) bands, we will be scheduling 1-2 hour operating time slots.

- If you have the ‘Bathroom Key’, you get to operate on the band and mode listed on the ‘Key’. Please do not operate if you do not possess the key.
- A whiteboard will show each band and mode, who is currently operating, when their time ends, and who the next person is.

Band captain(s) will survey the site to ensure folks are not operating out of turn.

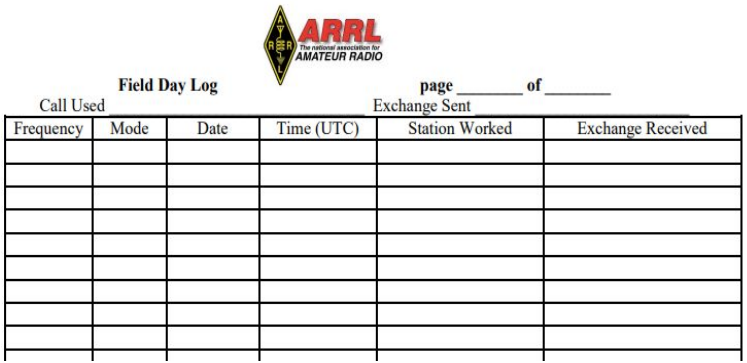
Example of Time Slots

		11-12 PM	12 - 1 PM	1-2 PM	2-3 PM	3-4 PM	4-5 PM	5-6 PM
160	SSB					Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson
	DIGITAL							
	CW					Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson
80	SSB					Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson
	DIGITAL							
	CW					Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson	Mark Thompson
40	SSB			Mark Swaney				
	DIGITAL	Burt Auerbach	Burt Auerbach			Burt Auerbach		Burt Auerbach
	CW	Tom Stough	Geoffrey Dan	Tom Stough				Ben Holmes
20	SSB	Richard Hinson	Diana DeCoste	Geoffrey Dan	Mark Swaney	Diana DeCoste	Burt Auerbach	
	DIGITAL	Burt Auerbach	Burt Auerbach			Burt Auerbach		Burt Auerbach
	CW	Geoffrey Dan	Tom Stough	Ben Homes	Geoffrey Dan	Tom Stough	Jacques Behar	Tom Stough
15	SSB	Mark Swaney	Mark Swaney	Burt Auerbach	Burt Auerbach	Jacques Behar	Mark Swaney	
	DIGITAL	Burt Auerbach	Burt Auerbach			Burt Auerbach		Burt Auerbach
	CW	Jacques Behar	Ben Holmes	Jacques Behar	Ben Holmes	Ben Holmes		Jacques Behar
10	SSB	Lloyd Oleson	Lloyd Oleson	Diana DeCoste	Lloyd Oleson	Mark Swaney	Diana DeCoste	Llyod Oleson
	DIGITAL							
	CW	Ben Holmes	Jacques Behar		Jacques Behar		Ben Holmes	

Paper Logs

Please use supplied log sheets

- Bring a clipboard and pen or pencil
- Write legibly
- Turn in log sheets at end of your stay or event
- If hard to read, please sit with someone and transcribe into N3FJP

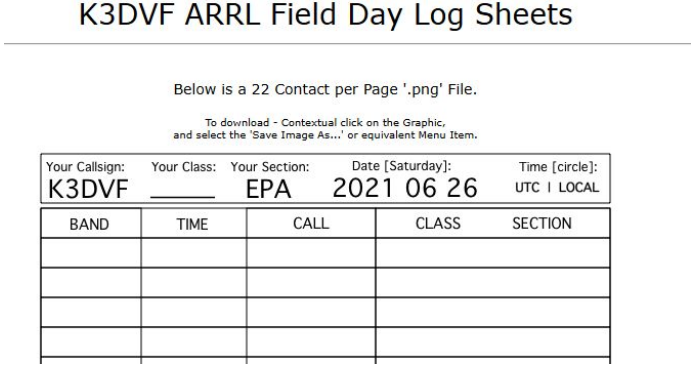


ARRL
The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

Field Day Log page _____ of _____

Call Used _____ Exchange Sent _____

Frequency	Mode	Date	Time (UTC)	Station Worked	Exchange Received



K3DVF ARRL Field Day Log Sheets

Below is a 22 Contact per Page '.png' File.

To download - Contextual click on the Graphic,
and select the 'Save Image As...' or equivalent Menu Item.

Your Callsign:	Your Class:	Your Section:	Date [Saturday]:	Time [circle]:
K3DVF	_____	EPA	2021 06 26	UTC | LOCAL

BAND	TIME	CALL	CLASS	SECTION

Logging Software

N3FJP is our preferred logging software

We will be running N3FJP in networked mode to help gather scores and automatically prevent duplicate entries.

Internet access and N3FJP explanation:

- Download and register N3FJP software for Field Day. Use **K6MEP** as the call sign and **35855** as the password
- Add you own name and call sign as the operator
- Set the exchange information to reflect the correct number of operators (to be determined on Saturday morning prior to 11 AM)
- Set up the Network parameters as follows:
  -
- Set up the Band and Mode you are using (e.g. 40m PH or 15m CW)
- Data to be entered includes the Call sign, the Class, and Location of the contact
- If you are using the club software, only use this software while operating on site at Field Day with the club

File Settings Band Mode View Network Operator Help
Current Band & Mode
Freq
Recent Contacts
Last 20
All
Rec Call Class Sec Date / Time Bnd Mode Country Initials Operator
Score Statistics
Total CW Contacts 0
Total Phone Contacts 0
Total DIG Contacts 0
Total QSO Points 0
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min) 0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min) 0
Call
Class
Section
Ready to begin! Please select your band and mode from the menu!
Clear
Spot Last
Possible Duplicates
Any Portion
New Hampshire Total = 0
DX
DX
1
CT RI
EMA VT
ME WMA
NH
2
ENY NNY
NLI SNJ
NNJ WNY
3
DE MDC
EPA WPA
4
AL SC
GA SFL
KY TN
NC VA
NFL VI
PR WCF
5
AR NTX
LA OK
MS STX
NM WTX
6
EB SCV
LAX SDG
ORG SF
PAC SJV
SB SV
7
AK NV
AZ OR
EWA UT
ID WWA
MT WY
8
MI WV
OH
9
IL WI
IN
0
CO MO
IA ND
KS NE
MN SD
Canada
AB ONE
BC ONN
GH ONS
MB PE
NB QC
NL SK
NS TER
Bearing:
Miles:
Band: 40
Mode: PH
7.24200
K6MEP
7A
SB
4:12:41 PM
23:12:41 UTC

File Settings Band Mode View Network Operator Help

Current Band & Mode | Find | **Recent Contacts** | Last 20 | All

Rec	Call	Class	Sec	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Country	Initials	Operator
1	KA6BJA	1E	SB	06/14 23:16	40	SSB	USA	BJA	KA6BJA

Score Statistics

Total CW Contacts	0
Total Phone Contacts	1
Total DIG Contacts	0
Total QSO Points	1
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	3
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	1

Call | **Class** | **Section**

Clear | Spot Last

Possible Duplicates Any Portion

Delaware Total = 0

DX

DX

1

CT RI
EMA VT
ME WMA
NH

2

ENY NNY
NLI SNJ
NNJ WNY

3

DE MDC
EPA WPA

4

AL SC
GA SFL
KY TN
NC VA
NFL VI
PR WCF

5

AR NTX
LA OK
MS STX
NM WTX

6

EB SCV
LAX SDG
ORG SF
PAC SJV
SB SV

7

AK NV
AZ OR
EWA UT
ID WWA
MT WY

8

MI WV
OH

9

IL WI
IN

0

CO MO
IA ND
KS NE
MN SD

Canada

AB ONE
BC ONN
GH ONS
MB PE
NB QC
NL SK
NS TER

Bearing:
Miles:

Band: 40 **Mode:** PH | 7.24200 | K6MEP | 7A | SB

4:18:53 PM
23:18:53 UTC

Operating Tips

- Tips for operating in a congested environment:
  - Use a bandpass filter for the band you are on… if one is available
    - * Do Not switch bands if using a bandpass filter * **(Damage can occur)**
  - Turn off your radio's receive preamp
  - Turn on your radio's attenuator
  - Narrow your receive bandwidth to help with adjacent in-band signals
  - Adjust your RF gain as needed, don't run it wide open
  - Experiment with your radio's Noise Reduction, Noise Blanker and Notch Filter functions, if available

Safety

- Antennas
  - Spacing
  - Flagging driven elements, guy wires, and radials with tall wooden stakes and caution tape
  - FCC exposure limit calculation
- Hard hats
  - Club has some or bring your own
  - Use when erecting antennas
- Coax routing
  - Try to mark coax runs with caution tape
  - Try to neatly connect coax to your station (so people don’t trip over coax when visiting you)
- Fire Extinguishers
  - Located at generator, food prep area, and GOTA station

Food

Club will be providing main course dishes

Field Day Food Committee will meet this week to plan menu

- Friday
  - Light lunch for setup crew
- Saturday
  - Breakfast - likely pancakes, eggs, sausage, hash browns
  - Lunch - burgers and hot dogs
  - Dinner - fajitas, spaghetti, ???
- Sunday
  - Breakfast/Brunch - ???

Opportunities to Help/Volunteer

- Antenna setup
  - Come on Friday or early Saturday and help members erect their antennas, run guy wires and radials, etc.
- Volunteer at the GOTA station
  - Help new hams and visitors experience HF operation for the first time
- Be a logger assistant
  - Sit with an operator and help with call sign and exchange recognition and computer logging
- Speak with visitors
  - Show members of the public your station, how you operate, and explain to them why you ***love*** ham radio
- Be a Band Captain or Safety Officer
- Help with the Bonus Points

Field Day Bonus Points

Bonus Points		
7.3.1	100% Emergency Power (100 pts per transmitter, max 2000 pts)	Ask Phil for Gen Use
7.3.2	Media Publicity (100 pts)	
7.3.3	Public Location (100 pts)	Jacques
7.3.4	Public Information Table (100 pts)	
7.3.5	Message Origination to Section Manager (100 pts)	Robert KM6RSS
7.3.6	Message Handling (10 pts/msg 100 pts max)	Robert KM6RSS
7.3.7	Satellite QSO (100 pts)	
7.3.8	Alternative Power (100 pts)	
7.3.9	W1AW Special Message Receipt (100 pts)	Dave + someone else
7.3.10	Educational Activity (100 pts)	
7.3.11	Site visit by an elected gov't official (100 pts)	
7.3.12	Site visit by a representative of an agency served by ARES (100 pts)	
7.3.13.1	GOTA Operator (5 pts/QSO)	
7.3.13.2	GOTA Coach (100 pts)	
7.3.14	Web submission (50 pts)	
7.3.15.1	Youth Participation (20 pts/per 18 year old and under completing at least 1 QSO, Max 100 pts)	
7.3.16	Social Media Post (100 pts)	
7.3.17	Safety Officer (100 pts)	
7.3.18	Field Day Responsibilities (50 pts)	

Public Relations and Outreach

- Radio station appearance
- Invitees
  - Government officials
  - Rep of an agency served by ARES
- Take time to help new operators or visitors
  - Show them your station and how to make a QSO
  - Spend time coaching at the GOTA station

Second Half of Meeting

Logistics

Signups

Band Captains by blocks of time

Safety Officers

PIO

GOTA

Equipment - Non Radio

Canopies

Tables/chairs

Coolers

ICE

Trash Cans

Propane griddles/grills

Coffee urn

Food

Plates

Napkins

Utensils

Condiments

Snacks

Side dishes

Water/soda/juice/coffee

Ice

Meal Survey

Friday Setup - light lunch _____

Saturday AM Breakfast _____

Saturday PM Lunch/Picnic _____

Saturday PM Dinner _____

Sunday AM Breakfast _____