

Field Day June 2018

The club call sign for Field Day is N5BVA and will be used on all stations with the exception of a GOTA station if equipped. A call sign for a GOTA station has to be separate from the club station. Volunteer for the GOTA station callsign?

ARRL Field Day 2018 Rules

1. Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region, DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, and may submit entries as check-logs.
2. Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 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 2018 will be held June 23-24. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 1800 UTC Sunday (or 27 hours for Class A and B if conditions in 3.1. are met).
 - 3.1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire 27-hour 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 its set-up earlier than 0000 UTC on the Friday (Thursday afternoon or evening local time) preceding the Field Day period. Cumulative set-up time shall not exceed a total of 24 hours.
4. Entry Categories: Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of simultaneously transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation. The minimum number of transmitters that must be claimed is one (1). Twenty (20) transmitters maximum are eligible for the purpose of calculating bonus points (2,000 points maximum). However, additional transmitters which may legitimately be used simultaneously will determine your entry category classification, but will not earn additional bonus points (i.e. 22 transmitters = 22A). The use of switching systems that allow for lock-outs in order to use multiple transmitters (i.e., an "octopus") in an attempt to enter a lower-number-of-transmitters class are prohibited (i.e. using 2 transmitters that can transmit

simultaneously, with two operators, and a lock-out system and entering class 1A). The use of simulcasting devices which allow a single operator to key and transmit on more than one transmitter at a time, is prohibited. Bonus stations, such as the GOTA station and satellite station do not count towards determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.

4.1. (Class A) Club / non-club portable: Club or a non-club group of three or more persons 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. A single licensee or trustee for the entry is responsible for the group entry. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). To be listed as Class A, 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 as Class A-Commercial.

4.1.1. Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station. Any Class A (or F) entry whose transmitter classification is two or more transmitters may also operate one additional station without changing its base entry category, known as the GET-ON-THE-AIR (GOTA) station. This GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band, HF or VHF, but is limited to one GOTA station transmitted signal at any time.

4.1.1.1. This station must use a different callsign from the primary Field Day station. The GOTA station must use the same callsign for the duration of the event regardless if operators change. The GOTA station uses the same exchange as its parent.

4.1.1.2. The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator. A list of operators and participants must be included on the required summary sheet to ARRL HQ.

4.1.1.3. As per FCC rules, this station must have a valid control operator present at the control point if operating beyond the license privileges of the participant using the station.

4.1.1.4. The maximum transmitter output power for the GOTA station shall be 150 watts. If the primary Field Day group is claiming the QRP multiplier level of 5, the maximum transmitter output power of the GOTA station may not exceed 5 watts.

4.1.1.5. A maximum of 500 QSOs made by this station may be claimed for credit by its primary Field Day operation. In addition, bonus points may be earned by this station under rule 7.3.13.

4.1.1.6. The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band. Only one transmitted signal is allowed from the GOTA station at any time.

4.1.1.7. The GOTA station does not affect the additional VHF/UHF station provided for under Field Day Rule 4.1.2. for Class A stations.

4.1.1.8. Participants are reminded that non-licensed participants working under the

direction of a valid control operator may only communicate with other W/VE stations or with stations in countries with which the US has entered a third-party agreement.

4.1.1.9. The GOTA station does not qualify as an additional transmitter when determining the number of transmitters eligible for the 100-point emergency power bonus under Rule 7.3.1.

4.1.2. Free VHF Station: All Class A entries may also operate one additional transmitter if it operates exclusively on any band 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 clubs Field Day period and all contacts count for QSO credit. It is operated using the primary callsign and exchange of the main Field Day group and is separate and distinct from the GOTA station.

4.2. (Class A - Battery) Club / non-club portable: Club or non-club group of three or more persons 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. Class AB is eligible for a GOTA station if GOTA requirements are met; however if a GOTA station is used in this class it must meet the 5-Watt or less power requirement of this category.

4.3. (Class B) One or two person portable: A Field Day station set up and operated by no more than two persons. Other provisions are the same for Class A except it is not eligible for a GOTA or free VHF station. One and two person Class B entries will be listed separately.

4.4. (Class B - Battery) One or two person portable: A Field Day station set up and operated by no more than two persons. 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 for Class A except it is not eligible for a GOTA or free VHF station. 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. If the Class C station is being powered from a car battery or alternator, it qualifies for emergency power but does not qualify for the multiplier of 5, as the alternator/battery system constitutes a motor-driven generating system.

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, E and F Field Day stations.

4.7. (Class E) Home stations - Emergency power: Same as Class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. Class E may work all Field Day stations.

4.8. (Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC for the event. Entries will be reported according to number of transmitters in simultaneous operation. Class F stations are eligible for a free VHF station. At Class 2F they are also eligible for a GOTA station.

4.8.1. For Field Day purposes, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is defined as a facility established by: a) a Federal, State, County, City or other Civil Government, agency or administrative entity; or, b) a Chapter of a national or international served agency (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) with which your local group has an established operating arrangement;

4.8.1.1. A private company EOC does not qualify for Class F status unless approved by the ARRL Field Day Manager.

4.8.2. Planning of a Class F operation must take place in conjunction and cooperation with the staff of the EOC being activated.

4.8.3. Other provisions not covered are the same as Class A.

4.8.4. A Class F station may claim the emergency power bonus if emergency power is available at the EOC site.

4.8.4.1. The emergency power source must be tested during the Field Day period but you are not required to run the Class F operation under emergency power.

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 GOTA station and the extra VHF station would send "3A CT" on CW or "3 Alpha Connecticut" on Phone. DX stations send operating class and the term DX (i.e. 2A DX).

6. Miscellaneous Rules:

6.1. A person may not contact for QSO credit any station from which they also participate.

6.2. A transmitter/receiver/transceiver 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. Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) modes on a band are considered as separate bands. A station may be worked only once per band under this rule.

6.4. All voice contacts are equivalent.

6.5. All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

6.6. Cross-band contacts are not permitted (Satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).

6.7. The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited. Exception: a dedicated GOTA station may operate as prescribed in Rule 4.1.

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. To claim the power multiplier of five, the batteries must be charged from something other than a motor driven generator or commercial mains.

6.10. All stations for a single entry must be operated under one callsign, except when a dedicated GOTA station is operated as provided under Field Day Rule 4.1.1. it uses a single, separate callsign.

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 (five).

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. If batteries are charged during the Field Day period using commercial mains or a motor-driven generator the

power multiplier is 2 (two).

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 (two).

7.2.4. If any or all contacts are made using an output power greater than 150 Watts, the power multiplier is 1 (one).

7.2.5. The power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event. (Example: a group has one QRP station running 3 Watts and a second station running 100 Watts, the power multiplier of 2 applies to all contacts made by the entire operation).

This year our Field Day will be focused on regional communications as well as making contacts to all parts of CONUS. That being said, most of our antennas will be close to ground and will, for the most part, function as NVIS antennas. There will be, if all goes according to plan, several different types of antennas deployed. They will range from a vertical with elevated radials, to a linked dipole for 40-20 meters, a vertical dipole, an NVIS antenna, possibly some other experimental antennas, and any others brought to the field day site than can be put up in the 0900-1300 UTC time frame.

At this point, the plan is to have 3 stations operating simultaneously; digital, phone, and CW with power being provided by generator. This will put our field day station in the 3A classification. All stations will be running 100 watts or less with the exception of the digital station which will run 30-40 watts. This will simulate as close to disaster style communications as possible. Band pass filters will be utilized to minimize inter-station interference. Tuners will be utilized on all stations as this will allow maximum power to be transmitted to the antenna without harming the finals of the radio. All tuning will be done in the 5-20 watt range as to prevent damage to the band pass filters.

Transmitting will begin when permitted by the ARRL with 4 hours shifts around the clock. The transmitting time frame is from 1800 UTC (1 p.m. local time) Saturday to 1800 UTC (1 p.m. local) Sunday. Please schedule yourself where you feel you can be effective as well as what mode you prefer to operate. These shifts would also include the logging personnel and logistical support personnel as well. Somebody needs to keep the operators/loggers awake!

Also, logging will be done with ACLog's Field Day Log which is straight forward and can be used without cost to the club. It is capable of exporting the logs to the ARRL, to other websites, or to other logging programs. Hopefully we will have enough operators/loggers to staff all stations for 24 hours as this will increase contact count appreciably.

The logistics for field day are not that complicated: i.e. radios, antennas, band pass filters, coax, generators, operators, food, and security. Setup and take down will require approximately 6 people and a lot of patience. Please sign up for what you're sure you can contribute.

The field day site will be Metfield Park in Bella Vista. The talk in frequency will be the Bella Vista repeater operating on 147.255 + .6 mc with a 162.2 PL tone. It has a large pavillion, new restrooms, water, and paved parking. There is commercial electricity available as well as wi-fi access according to the POA representative the club I spoke with. There are other

recreational facilities available for those that are members of the POA or that are sponsored by a POA member.

There are plans at this time are for a supper meal for those participating in the field day effort. It will consist of grilled burgers, chicken, and appropriate side dishes to the style of field day. Currently, the plan is to serve supper in the 6-7 p.m. time frame and hopefully there will be coffee and water available most hours of the day, evening, and night.

All this so far sounds formal and business like, but in reality all the club hopes for is that all involved have fun and to demonstrate to the public what a viable communications asset ham radio is. You can't have fun at Field Day unless you participate, so please sign up.