

2023-06-06 Hamlet Net - Field Day - Overview and Exchange

Announcements:

- Test Session Info
 - Next VE session is Saturday, June 24th in the Clover Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, and starts at 10am. It is an ARRL VEC exam session, so there will be a \$15 fee to take the test. For more info, see the Licensing/Testing page on the club web site, <https://w0eno.org/>, under the Education menu.
- The June 2023 Splatter newsletter is out, so check your inbox if you're a member, or find it on the club web page (<https://w0eno.org/>) Bob Smith editor
- Chuck is putting together a special event to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Peak-to-Peak involving multiple area radio clubs on September 30th. They're currently looking for volunteers to work this special event. They will be operating HF SSB voice, CW, and FT8 stations from 8am to 4pm with three operators at each station. There is a signup link on the club web page at <https://w0eno.org/>, or contact him for more information!
- Field Day is coming up in June, and the club is starting to work on planning for this event. See the Club website for more information.
- I've seen reports that astronauts on the International Space Station have been using the amateur station on the ISS to make voice contacts. This doesn't happen all that often, so if you are looking to make such a contact, be sure to monitor the ISS output frequency of 437.800 MHz, and if you want to transmit, use 145.990 MHz with a 67 Hz CTCSS tone, which also corresponds to the voice repeater on the ISS. You may not get an astronaut, but you could make a voice contact with another Earth-based ham! (for more info, see: <https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>)
- Our sister club up in Nederland is looking for some help with events they are running. They have a weekly Monday night net with no predetermined agenda, so you can lead it however you want. They are also planning a Field Day site at Golden Gate State Park and are welcoming anyone who wants to participate. Finally, they are looking for operators for the Ned Gravel run on July 8th. They have signup links for all these events, so head over to their web site <https://w0ned.org/> for more information!
- You can start earning your 2023 membership or future renewal by acting as NCS for at least 5 nets this year. You can run either this Tuesday night net or the Thursday night net (or both). We have scripts available for both, so all you need is a good connection into the repeater, and somewhere to keep track of names and call signs as people check in. If you're going to be on the net anyway, why not save some dough at the same time! There are four free memberships available for 2023, so don't wait to get started!

- Chuck has set a goal for the Club of running at least one activity a month. This can be a hands-on construction activity, an operating activity like Field Day, a fox hunt, or a special event station. The goal is to get people together to have fun with amateur radio! We have multiple locations at our disposal, as well as lots of Club equipment, so if you have an idea for something you think others hams would like to do, please let us know, and if you're willing to run it, even better!
- The Club is also looking for presentation topics for 2023. If you have any ideas, or better yet, would like to present, please let Chuck know and we'll get you on the schedule!
- All club activities are open to anyone - members and non-members. ~~If you have questions, ask them on a net or~~ **send email to elmer@w0eno.org**

Presenter: Bryan, AF0W

Topic: Field Day - Overview and Exchange

- The 4th weekend of June sees one of the largest activities in US amateur radio - ARRL's Field Day - that falls on June 24 and 25th this year.
- Field Day is ham radio's open house in which hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio to their communities
- In 2022, there were a total of 4,929 entries submitted by a reported total of 29,679 participants.
- Over half the entries were from stations operating from home, likely still an artifact of the Covid pandemic
- The entries consisted of over 1.3 million individual QSOs during the 24-hour event - most of which were actually CW contacts
- The ARRL's website states "It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event."
 - a. It has been described as "a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest - but most of all, fun!"
- There are many things going on where you can get involved - planning the event, finding a site, organizing and preparing equipment, setting up and tearing down the site, including antennas, operating, handling refreshments, interacting with visitors, mentoring new operators, taking pictures and video, and more. There's something for everyone!
- LARC has traditionally run a club Field Day site with multiple radios operating on different bands

- a. All amateurs and non-licensed individuals are welcome to participate - we will have multiple Extra Class control operators present, which will allow everyone, whether licensed or not, to operate a radio and make contacts
- If you're a new ham, Field Day is a great opportunity to quickly gain experience with radio operation, contesting, logging, and setting up and operating a temporary operating location.
 - If you are a long-time ham, it gives you an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with those who are eager to learn.
 - The original Field Day was in 1933, and has been held annually ever since
 - The original purpose of Field Day was to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations, so many of the rules of the event reflect that.
 - A system of points developed with the intent of rewarding operators for keeping their stations simple - rewarding those who operate from non-commercial power, or who make contacts using low power, for example.
 - While Field Day is officially an "operating event," there is a contesting aspect to it in that points are awarded for contacts made during the event.
 - The goal of the contest portion is to contact as many stations as possible on the HF contest bands as well as 6 meters and above.
 - It is also to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions
 - One thing you will encounter are packed bands - this will give you a chance to experiment with the filtering available on your radio as you try to pick out that one signal from the wall of noise
 - You are able to use any mode which can convey the Field Day exchange - this includes voice, CW, and data modes such as FT-8 and FT-4, PSK31, RTTY, and packet.
 - There are also bonus points awarded for things such as getting local media exposure of your site, sending a Winlink message to your ARRL Section Manager, and making a contact using a satellite
 - You can also operate from your home station. In the pre-Covid days, home stations could not gain points for contacting other home stations, but currently, this rule has been changed.

- This initially had the effect of allowing high-power home stations to dominate the rankings, but there is a change to the rules that now limits home stations to 100 W PEP transmitter output which should serve to level the playing field somewhat.
- There is also the continuation of a rule that allows individual stations to contribute their scores to an aggregate score for their club - if you operate from home, please consider doing this when submitting your entry forms
- Dick Paige, KE0VT, has volunteered to organize the LARC Field Day event this year
- Field Day takes more than single person to run, so if you are available and planning to attend, get in touch with him to see what you can do to help
- There is also a social aspect to many Field Day operations, and the LARC gathering is no different
 - a. Drop by and hang out with other local operators and talk about radio or any other topic under the sun
- While the event runs for 24 hours, you do not have to be present the entire time - please drop in to see what is going on and join in on the fun!
- I'll be covering different aspects of Field Day in upcoming Hamlet Net presentations
- For rules and more information, check out the ARRL's Field Day site at arrl.org/field-day
- This site also has a Field Day locator, in case you want to go check out the operations of other nearby clubs.

Exchange

- While Field Day is advertised as an "operating event" and not a contest, two things it has in common with contests are that points are assigned for valid contacts, and for a contact to be valid, it must include exchanging information between both parties on the QSO
 - a. This information is typically included on the log sheet submitted to the organization running the contest, and is cross checked to ensure contacts were actually made
- Stations in North America send their operating class and ARRL or Radio Amateurs of Canada section
- DX stations send their operating class and "DX"
 - a. Our ARRL Section is "CO" (charlie-oscar) for Colorado

- Many contests include a signal report, but this is not required for Field Day contacts

Operating Class

- The operating class has two parts. The first is the number of simultaneously-operating transmitters at the site, and the second represents the nature of their participation
- There are six major categories, represented by the letters A through F.
- Class A are club or non-club portable stations with three or more persons
 - a. They must be located in places that are not their normal station location and must not use any permanent equipment installed for Field Day
- Class B stations are portable stations operated by one or two operators
- Class C stations are mobile stations operating in vehicles capable of operating while moving. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile stations.
- Class D stations are home stations operating on commercial power.
- Class E stations are home stations operating on emergency power.
- Finally, Class F designates a station permanently located in an Emergency Operations Center, or EOC.
- Additionally, there are battery categories for Class A and B stations which require QRP power of no more than 5 watts output power, and the power source must be something other than commercial or motor-driven generator power.
 - a. These battery classes are AB and BB.
- In the LARC Field Days I've attended, the site has operated as Class A. I don't recall the number of simultaneous transmitters they used - probably 4 or 5.

Questions:

- **The question for the week is:** If you have not participated in Field Day, does this sound like something that interests you, and if you have participated in Field Day, tell us about your experience - what you liked and disliked.
- **In my case,** I've participated in every Field Day since I was licensed. For most of them, I was at the LARC Field Day event, but I also operated from home for many of them. The thing I liked most about Field Day was getting to use the many different radios at the LARC event, and the opportunity to socialize and operate with other operators. It was also great to see the excitement on the faces of operators making their very first HF

contacts at the event.

More Info:

- ARRL Field Day: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>
- ARRL 2022 Field Day Results:
<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2022/Field-Day-2022-FinalFullResults.pdf>
- ARRL Field Day Locator: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>
- If you have ideas for net topics or general meeting topics / presenters, please let us know! Tell us on a net, or send email to k0itp@w0eno.org

Email to elmer@w0eno.org

1. N0ZFV - Bob Smith - Broomfield
2. KN6CFI - John - Longmont
3. WA7EM - Ed - Erie
4. KF0MXH - Art - Longmont
5. KF0FVI - Robert - Mead
6. AE0DO - John - N of Longmont
7. KM6SJA - Steve - Longmont
8. NA0A - John - Boulder
9. KE0EE - Don - N Longmont
10. AF0W - Bryan - Longmont

Clarifications:

- Club call sign (W0ENO) **cannot be used** by club members (or anyone else) from home - only while at official LARC Field Day site
- The LARC club license for the N3FJP Field Day logging software does not permit it to be used by individual club members outside of official club events (see <https://www.n3fjp.com/faq.html#q70>).

Individual members can register the Field Day software for just \$8.99 at <https://www.n3fjp.com/purchasepackage.html> - this allows them to use it "forever," not just this year.

They can also purchase a license for all the N3FJP logging programs for a one-time fee of \$59.99

- When submitting a Field Day entry to the ARRL, the second line of the form is titled "Club of Group Name." All entries having exact matching info here will be aggregated together as a "club."

In the past, we've used "Longmont Amateur Radio Club" (all spelled out). I have seen web sites for other clubs named "LARC," so probably not a good idea to use that. Doesn't matter what we use, but need to make sure everyone is on the same page and uses the exact same text.

Ed - WA7EM - Saw you were featured on QRZ. Do they just randomly pick people, and did you get any notice that you were up there? No notice - figures it's random.