

2024-06-04 Hamlet Net - Field Day - Overview and Exchange

Announcements:

- Test Session Info
 - Next VE session is June 22nd in the Clover Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, and starts at 10 am. It is an ARRL session, so there is a \$15 fee to test. ~~It is a PVET session, so there is no fee to test.~~ For more info, and to pre-register, see the Licensing/Testing page on the club web site, <https://w0eno.org/>, under the Education menu.
- The ARRL posted an update on their ongoing service disruptions. It states that on or around May 12th, the ARRL was a victim of a sophisticated network attack by a malicious international cyber group. They involved the FBI, who categorized the incident as "unique," as it compromised network devices, servers, cloud-based systems, and PCs.

The ARRL established an incident response team that has been working to contain and remediate the networks and servers and are beginning to test the applications and interfaces to ensure proper operation.

Currently, their phone system has been restored, the Contest Portal is available with limited functionality, their magazines are available online, and online membership renewal is functioning. The Logbook of the World remains down, although the ARRL has stated that there was no data loss on that system.

I've read that ARRL test results are finally posting to the FCC, but someone online mentioned that this is being done through another VEC and not the ARRL, although on May 29th, the ARRL posted that the ARRL VEC has resumed processing license applications. I came across a Reddit posting from yesterday where a test candidate shared part of an email they received from the ARRL test session manager stating that the ARRL VEC has processed all mail-in exam sessions, but that the backlog of uploaded sessions has not been processed yet. They had no timeline for when those results would be handled, although they did say it would be in chronological order by test date from earliest to most recent.

One thing this should underscore for anyone using a computer is to make sure you have working backups of your information, whether it be on a local machine or in the cloud. The "cloud" is not magic - it's simply someone else's computer, and can still suffer data loss and corruption.

- If you are considering upgrading to Extra Class, the new question pool takes effect on July 1, so you still have a bit of time to upgrade using the current question pool.

The differences between the two pools have been posted on the HamStudy web site at: https://hamstudy.org/diff/E4_2020/E4_2024/

According to their statistics, there were 117 removed questions, 100 new questions, and 135 updated questions. The 2020 test question pool had 619 total questions, while the 2024 pool has 602.

- LARC had a POTA activation last Saturday at the Pawnee Grasslands. I haven't heard anything about the event and was unable to attend myself, but if anyone on the net was there, please let us know later on during the net.
- Chuck is running a LARC booth at 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast and Swap Meet Fly-In at the Longmont airport this Saturday. The swap meet portion is aviation-related, not amateur radio related, but the hope is that the table will expose aviation enthusiasts to the amateur radio hobby. The event runs from 8am to 2pm. There are sign up sheets on the club website for two time slots - 7am to 11am and 11am to 3pm. If you are looking for something to do this weekend, we could use your help at the event.

You can sign up on the web by going to w0eno.org and clicking on the "Club Events signup" link. Then the "1st Annual Pancake breakfast and Swap Meet Fly-In" event. While you're there, see if there are any other events where you can assist.

- We have some volunteer opportunities available where you can help out LARC:
 - Photographer / videographer - record team activities and upload to web site / YouTube
 - Newsletter Editor - put together the monthly Splatter newsletter
 - Social media manager
- There are several Board positions that will be available in October. Currently, the Treasurer and Secretary are planning to make this their last year of service. If you are interested in serving on the board of a 501(c)3 non-profit, please consider running for one of these positions. The current members would be more than happy to "show you the ropes" during the year, so you wouldn't start with zero experience.
- 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 2024 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 2024. 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 22 and 23rd 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 2023, there were just over 4,400 entries submitted by a reported total of 30,000 participants.
- Over half the entries were from stations operating from home, likely still an artifact of the Covid pandemic
- The entries consisted of over 1.24 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.
 - a. 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, so our outgoing exchange would be something like "4A CO" (or "4 alpha, charlie oscar").

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, except for the last two years, when I was out of town. 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 2023 Field Day Results: <https://web.archive.org/web/20240301030840/https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2023/Field-Day-2023-FinalFullResults.pdf>
- ARRL Field Day Locator: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

Backup Questions:

1. What hobbies do you have other than ham radio? Do you (or could you) use ham radio in these hobbies?
 2. Share an "a-ha" moment you had with amateur radio?
- 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. AF0W - Bryan - Echolink
2. W7PGF - Philip in Frederick
3. KM6SJA - Steve - Longmont
4. KF0MXH - Art - Longmont
5. KF0QFO - Rachel - Boulder
6. KF0FVI - Robert - Mead
7. KF0QMN - Liam - Boulder

Have Tram 1477 antenna and GMRS antenna. Never grounded the antennas.

End: 7:50pm