

2025-05-27 Hamlet Net - Field Day

Announcements:

- Test Session Info
 - Had a large test session this weekend. We had 12 candidates who ended up earning 8 Technician licenses, one new General license, and an upgrade to Extra Class and one gentleman with an expired Advanced license passed the Tech exam and received a General license.
 - Next VE session is June 28th 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. For more info, see the Licensing/Testing page on the club web site, <https://w0eno.org/>, under the Education menu.
- We had a great presentation on biking and APRS by Donald, WØDPC, at our May General club meeting. If you were not able to attend, the recording should be up on Youtube in a few days.
- If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to fill out the survey on the club web page at w0eno.org - click on the "LARC Survey" link on the right-hand side of the grey menu bar.
- There won't be a club meeting in June - this is to encourage people to attend Field Day on June 28th and 29th.
- We are looking for presenters or presentations for September, October and November. We'd love to have club members present something they're interested in or working on, and there's plenty of time to get your presentation ready!

We're also interested in hearing any ideas for presentations that we could find someone to do.

- Chuck said he's probably going to plan another outdoor meeting for August - the "Movie in the Park" event last year was great - even though we got a bit of rain. The plan is to provide food as well, so be on the lookout for more info!
- As he mentioned last week, Chuck has a challenge - and that is to have people other than myself do the Hamlet net presentations for the month of June. He's putting his money where his mouth is and taking the first week, so we still need three hams to step up and fill out the month.

It doesn't have to be anything fancy or super in-depth. Maybe you've been learning

some new options in JS8Call or tweaking your antenna system to improve performance. If so, we'd love to hear about it! Please get in touch with Chuck to sign up for a slot!

- If you are interested in find out more about the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (or ARES) in the local area, check out the Boulder County ARES web site at <https://bouldercountyares.org/>

They have a VHF net on Monday nights at 8:00pm, as well as a DMR net on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays at 8:30pm.

- The ARRL has published an 8-video series about the Next Generation of DXing. The all-day seminar was captured at the 76th International DX Convention, held in April.

It featured expert panelists with deep knowledge of the current state of the art in the DXpedition world.

The group of panelists covered everything from financing and planning of a DXpedition to getting permits, arranging logistics, planning out equipment, managing both remote and local operators, dealing with problems, and much more. The latest technology being used in DXpeditions was explained in detail, including the Radio in a Box (RIB), Starlink, software-defined radios, and the latest digital modes such as FT-8 SuperFox.

The content is available on the [ARRLHQ YouTube channel](#) as a [playlist](#)

- Upcoming Club Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Summer Field Day is our next large Club event and is June 28-29 this year. As with other events, the more help we get, the easier it is on everyone. We will need help with things like setup, teardown, food, running the GOTA station, completing activities needed for bonus points, etc., so please help out in any way you can.

Planning meetings for Summer Field Day are held via Zoom on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. If you can help out with any activities, or would like to get in on the planning, please plan to attend. Meeting information can be found on the club event calendar on the club web page.

Sign up sheets are available online - looks like we currently have 37 open timeslots encompassing various activities. If you would like to do something different at the event, just let Chuck know and we can probably get it added. You can find out more information about the Field Day on the ARRL's web site at: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

- HAMCON Colorado 2025 for Rocky Mountain Division is October 23-26, 2025 in Grand Junction. For more information and to register, see their web site at: hamconcolorado.com They are also looking for presenters.
- Breakfast Saturday at 7:30 - 8:00 am at the Hidden Cafe.
- The Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club is having an HF in the Park event on Saturday, May 31, starting at 1:00pm

The event is open to new and experienced hams alike. You can expect Instruction for new HF operators, demonstrations of different HF modes, hands-on experience with various HF equipment and a chance to connect with fellow radio enthusiasts

Bring your questions and your enthusiasm! This is an excellent opportunity to learn, share knowledge, and enjoy amateur radio in a relaxed park setting.

The event will take place at the Centennial Park Pavilion at 977 West 1st Street, Loveland, Colorado

They also need some people to demonstrate their portable HF equipment at the show. If you'd like to help, please send me a note at president@ncarc.co and I'll get you signed up.

For more information, see: <https://ncarc.co/hf-in-the-park-2/>

- Mark - RMHAM is taking over the summer swapfest this year from the Denver Radio Club, Sunday August 24th. Sunday, August 24th at the Adams County Fairgrounds from 9am to 1pm. Admission is just \$6, so plan on dropping by! Tables are also available for \$13 in advance, and \$20 at the door.
- If you are an ARRL member, remember that you have digital access to four magazines - QST, On the Air, QEX, and National Contest Journal.
- We have a new net on the LARC repeaters. It's run by Timothy Moss, KFØLAR, on the 22nd of every month at 6pm. The 22nd was chosen to highlight the average of 22 vets who commit suicide each day. While the purpose of the net is to connect veterans, non-vets are welcome to participate as most all of us have friends or family who are or have served.
- The ARRL Colorado Section Net occurs on the second Monday of the month from 7 to 8pm. The net is run by Amanda Alden, K1DDN, our Colorado ARRL section manager, and is open to hams and non-hams alike. This net is a place where Colorado hams can ask questions of ARRL leadership and request help, guidance, club support, and technical support. This net meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm Mountain time. The net is on the Colorado Connection, Rocky Mountain Ham Radio

DMR Talk Group 700, The Fun Machine, WE0FUN, and the NCARC Buckhorn Repeater 447.700 – with 100 Hz tone.

- 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
 - Event Coordinator
- Time's up for this year, but you can earn your 2026 membership or future renewal by acting as NCS for at least 5 nets next 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!
- 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 2025. If you have any ideas, or better yet, would like to present, please let Chuck know and we'll get you on the schedule! We would like to get some presentations from club members on stuff they've been doing, projects they're working on, or just things that interest them.
- 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

- The 4th weekend of June sees one of the largest activities in US amateur radio - ARRL's Field Day - that falls on June 28th and 29th this year.
- 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, a radio "open house" - 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 purpose of Field Day, which began in 1933, 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.
- 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. Home stations are restricted to 100 watts.

- 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
- Field Day takes more than single person to run, so if you are available and planning to attend, get in touch with Chuck 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!
- 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.

- The ones you'll likely hear the most are Class A and Class E.
- 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 D stations are home stations.
- LARC will be operating as Class A. Not sure how many simultaneous transmitters we will have, but if we have 4, our outgoing exchange would be "4A CO" (or "4 alpha, charlie oscar").

QSO Points

- I mentioned that Field Day is an "operating event" and not a "contest," but many argue that the ARRL really blurs the lines between the two as points are awarded for contacts during Field Day, contributing to a "total score" for each Field Day submission
- This total score is determined by multiplying the total number of QSO points by the power multiplier and adding in any bonus points that were earned
 - a. Voice contacts earn 1 point, while CW and digital contacts earn 2 points

Power Multiplier

- The power multiplier is determined by the highest power output of any transmitter at the Field Day site
 - a. This multiplier ranges from 1 to 5
 - b. if any contacts are made using an output power up to 100W, then power multiplier is 2 - this will be the multiplier applying to the LARC Field Day entry

Bonus Points

- Another way to boost your score is to perform activities that result in bonus points being added to your total score.
- Some examples of bonus activities are:
 - a. Operating from a public location
 - b. Making one Field Day QSO via satellite (this is the one exception to the "no repeater use" rule)

- c. Copying the ARRL Field Day bulletin transmitted during Field Day via RF. This bulletin is sent multiple times during Field Day using CW, voice, and digital modes (RTTY, PSK31, and MFSK16)
 - d. Having a participant aged 18 or younger complete at least one QSO
- There are many other bonus opportunities, and some of these bonus points are only available to sites of a certain class, so be sure to read the rules
- One other change that was added during Covid is that members of a club may operate their own field day site separate from the club's site, but specify that their points should aggregate to the club's entry
 - a. If you operate outside of the official LARC site, you cannot use the club's WØENO call sign, you use your own
 - b. When submitting a Field Day summary sheet, the second field on the form is titled "Club or Group name"
 - c. The ARRL includes the sum of all entries with the same info in this field
 - d. In the past, we've used "Longmont Amateur Radio Club" (all spelled out)

Operating Technique

- Once you get all your equipment set up and sit down to operate, you have to make a choice as to how you are going to go about it.
- There are two broad methods of working a contest - "Search and Pounce" or "S&P" and "Calling CQ" or "Running"

Search and Pounce

- When operating search and pounce, you are the one responding to CQs
 - If you suffer from mic fright, this may be a lower-stress method to try
- You may also need to operate S&P if you can't find an unused frequency for calling CQ yourself
- To find busy frequencies, use your waterfall display or tune across the band to find a QSO in progress
- One benefit of operating in S&P is that you can listen to multiple contacts to make sure you get the other station's call sign and exchange - this takes some of the pressure off you when you make contact with them

- Note that you should always use only information you hear on the radio when making a QSO for a contest. Most contests ban participants from using information on spotting sites or contacting the other ham via email or telephone if you were not able to make out part of their exchange.
- When the station finishes a contact, they will generally call CQ, or may just say "QRZ?" That's your cue to send your call sign
- Give your call sign once using phonetics
- The calling station will pick a call sign out of the stations responding, and initiate a contact with them
- If they couldn't hear the entire call sign, they may ask for a station to repeat their call sign. If your call sign does not fit what they are asking for, do not respond - wait until they complete the QSO and call again.
 - For example, they may say "The 5 station - go ahead." If you don't have a "5" in your call sign, then wait until they've either finished with the "5" station, or they give up and repeat their QRZ or CQ.
- You will hear some stations respond without using phonetics. If the other operator seems to be responding to these stations, you can give this a try as well.
 - The reason phonetics are used by default is to reduce the amount of time needed to make the contact. You just yell out your callsign and the other station either can't figure out if you said D or V (delta or victor), it will waste time as you try to correct him to repeat your call sign with phonetics.
- The calling station will then reply with your call sign and his exchange, and the QSO will proceed as details previously.

Calling CQ

- To call CQ, you simply find an available frequency, transmit your CQ, and then listen for stations to contact you
 - a. Ok, in practice, it's a bit more work than that, but those are the highlights
- First of all, finding an available frequency can actually be very difficult during a big contest
 - a. While the bands may appear dead the day before a contest, when something like Field Day comes around, they suddenly come alive and are packed!

- b. If you have an HF radio with a waterfall or bandscope display, you can visually look for an unused frequency, but if you have an older radio, you have to tune it across the band to find an opening
 - c. Once you find a candidate frequency, wait a short period of time (say, 20 seconds) to make sure you're just not hearing half of a QSO
 - d. Then you should ask if that frequency is in use. A simple "AF0W, is this frequency in use?" is fine
 - e. Then wait 10 seconds to see if anyone responds. You can repeat this process once if you want to be sure, but in a busy contest environment, this may not be feasible.
 - f. At this point, go ahead and call CQ.
- The purpose of calling CQ is to get other operators to notice and respond to you. If you're not transmitting on the frequency, then they can't hear you!
 - a. Something I've seen many times at Field Day is that an operator will find a frequency, call CQ once, then listen for a minute or so, then call CQ again, listen again, then change to another frequency and start the process over again.
 - b. Remember that many operators do not have band scopes or waterfall displays, so the only way they're going to find you is by tuning across the band. If you wait a long time before repeating your CQ, they can tune right across your frequency!
- You want your CQ to be long enough and often enough that someone will find you!
- An example CQ for Field Day would be something like "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day. This is AF0W, alpha-foxtrot-zero-whiskey, calling CQ Field Day."
- Wait a short period of time (3 seconds or so) to see if you get any response, but if all you hear is static, repeat your CQ.
 - a. Some radios (such as the club's IC-7300) have a built-in voice recorder that you can use to record your CQ and play it back repeatedly.
- Note that this is a long CQ - if things are busy, you can just say "CQ Field Day AF0W" or "QRZ AF0W?"
- If another station hears you, they'll respond with their call sign
 - a. If you have difficulty making out the call, just ask them to repeat it. If you can only make out that his call sign ends with "foxtrot-delta," say something like "Can the station ending with foxtrot-delta come again?"

- If you can't make out any of the call sign, just call a quick CQ again, or announce "QRZ?" (queue-are-zed) which stands for "who is calling me?"
- At this point, you respond with their call sign and the contest exchange. For example, "K0ITP, 4A CO" (three-alpha, charlie-oscar)
- They then respond with their exchange. For example, "QSL, AF0W, 1B PA" (one-bravo papa-alpha)
- You then thank them and move on to your next contact - something like "QSL, 73 and good luck, QRZ Field Day AF0W"
 - a. Make sure to use your call sign when soliciting a new contact - don't just say "QRZ?" It's frustrating for people who have just "found" your frequency, and haven't heard your call sign yet.
- After running a frequency, you may have someone pop up saying they're using the frequency. This can be because propagation conditions have changed, and they are now able to hear you.
 - a. Easiest thing to do is to just spin the VFO and find a new frequency. You'll probably not get far trying to argue with them.

Tips

- A few operating tips for Field Day:
 - a. Remember to log the contact! If it's not in the log, it didn't happen!
 - b. If the other side repeats your call sign or exchange and has something incorrect, be sure to let them know. Say something like "Negative - AF0W, alpha-foxtrot-0-whiskey"
 - c. One thing to keep in mind no matter how you operate are the frequency limits of your license class
 - It can be very easy to get caught up in the action, and respond to a station calling CQ in the Extra Class portion of a band while you have a General license
 - It's not enough to make sure that your VFO is tuned inside your range - you need to make sure that your entire transmission is inside the limits.
- Another thing you will likely notice is that contests, especially large ones like Field Day, can bring out the worst in people.

- a. You will hear people stepping on others, responding out-of-turn in a pileup, tuning up over a QSO, incorrect phonetics, responding to a CQ with just the last two letters of their call sign, etc.
 - b. While the urge to make contacts is great, don't be a ham that flouts the rules to do so at any cost.
- It's easy to get caught up in the excitement, and start talking louder (or even yelling) into the microphone. Avoid this, as it is likely your audio will be overdriven and distorted, making it difficult for others to understand you.
 - Remember, one of the goals of Field Day is to have fun. If you find it getting too stressful, just take a break.

Summary

- Looking at all the rules involved in Field Day may seem daunting at first, but as you read them, you'll find that many do not apply to your site class
- If you want to run your own Field Day site, but are unsure of how to do so, please drop by the LARC Field Day site at the Boulder County fairgrounds and you'll be able to see how the process works (it's much easier than it sounds when you try to explain it!)
- You can also get on probably any repeater in the area and say you have a question about Field Day, and I'm sure you'll get a response!

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 Field Day Results: <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php>

- ARRL Field Day Locator: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

Email to elmer@w0eno.org

- 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. KØITP - Chuck - Firestone
2. WØDPC - Donald - 2mi NE of Longmont
3. KFØOKA - Ben - near Pinewood Springs
4. N7CTM - Mark
5. AFØW - Bryan - Longmont

End: 7:50 pm