

Why an Individual Field Day?

As many other amateur radio clubs have done, the Athens County Amateur Radio Association (ACARA) has decided that the risks associated with group gatherings during this ongoing coronavirus crisis are greater than any benefits and the ACARA has decided to not participate in a group Field Day operation this year.

Instead, ACARA members are encouraged to perform their own, individual Field Day efforts this year, using their own callsigns, and to make their Field Day submission to ARRL with the club listed as "Athens County ARA".

Don't worry about operating the full 24 hours of Field Day—just operate for as long as you want to or can operate. Make as many contacts as you can, have fun, learn something, and be safe.

As an inducement for ACARA members to participate in Field Day 2020, the ACARA will sponsor a \$25 Gift Certificate from DX Engineering to be awarded to the member who makes the most Field Day QSOs and who submits their Field Day package to the ARRL with "Athens County ARA" listed as the club affiliation.

As an additional inducement, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has generously agreed to sponsor a second \$25 Gift Certificate from DX Engineering to be awarded by random drawing to an ACARA member who participates in Field Day and submits their Field Day package to the ARRL with "Athens County ARA" listed as the club affiliation. (Thank you, Drew!)

Watch your email, the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>), and the ACARA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AthensCountyARA>) for more news and announcements leading up to Field Day.

How to Participate in Field Day, COVID-19 Edition

The full Field Day package, including rules, FAQs, and other information, can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

The ACARA, as a group, has traditionally participated in Class 1-A, meaning "one transmitter, club or non-club group". As mentioned above, due to the coronavirus situation, Class 1-A is now out of consideration for the ACARA.

For this year only, the ARRL will aggregate individual scores submitted with an affiliated club name. If ACARA members make their Field Day submission with the club name, "Athens County ARA", their individual scores will be listed in QST and on the ARRL website, and their score will contribute to the ACARA's total aggregated score.



There are several Field Day classes in which an ACARA member might choose to participate this year.

Class 1-D: The easiest way for an ACARA member to participate in Field Day this year is to operate his/her home station, using existing station antennas and commercial power. This would place the member in Class 1-D, "one transmitter, home station". For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. (Normally, Class D stations are not permitted to work other Class D stations for points.)

Class 1-E: If an ACARA member has emergency power for his/her home ham station, the member could operate Field Day, using their regular station equipment and antennas, in Class 1-E, "one transmitter, home station, emergency power".

Class 1-B / Class 1-B (Battery): An ACARA member, an ACARA member and a spouse or child, or a pair of ACARA members might choose to operate "in the field" in Class 1-B, "one transmitter, one or two person portable". Class 1-B (Battery) is essentially the same as Class 1-B but transmitter output power is limited to 5 watts or less and the power source must be something other than commercial mains or a motor-driven generator. One might choose to set up and operate in a remote area of a local park, in a farm-field, or in one's own backyard.

A note about Class 1-B and Class 1-B (Battery): The writer of the ARRL's Field Day FAQ ([link](#)) states that "convenient access across one's backyard to their home station facilities is not in keeping with the spirit of Class A or Class B portable operations", that "such convenient backyard operations on property of home stations remain either Class D or Class E", and that in order for Field Day stations to qualify for Class A or Class B, they must be located "clearly away from home conveniences (away from home utilities, or home restrooms/bedrooms, or even eating facilities/refrigerator/kitchen)". I strongly disagree with this writer's interpretation of the spirit of Class A and Class B and suggest that the vast majority of clubs regularly choose their Field Day sites based at least partially on the availability of restroom facilities and, perhaps, kitchen facilities. In a true communications emergency, amateur radio emergency communicators would not be expected to bring their own bathrooms with them—this would be the responsibility of the served agency. *Therefore, for Field Day 2020, as President of the ACARA, I declare that stations set up in a member's yard, using radios and antennas temporarily deployed explicitly for Field Day, can be operated as Class 1-B or Class 1-B (Battery).*

Class 1-C: If an ACARA member has a station installed in a vehicle, such that the station that can be operated while the vehicle is in motion, the member can use that station to participate in Field Day from a stationary location in Class 1-C, "one transmitter, mobile". Such operations must use the antennas installed on the vehicle, antennas that can be used while the vehicle is in motion.

Members should make sure to study section 4 of the Field Day rules (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>) for full information about the available Field Day classes.

Field Day 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 would send "3A CT" on CW or Digital, or "3 Alpha Connecticut" on Phone. Stations in Class 1-B (Battery) send just 1B. A complete list of ARRL / RAC sections can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

DX stations send operating class and the term "DX" (i.e. 2A DX).

Field Day QSOs and Miscellaneous Rules:

Field Day contacts are allowed using Phone, CW, and Digital (non-CW) modes. **Stations can be worked once per band per mode.** All voice contacts are equivalent. All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

No repeater contacts are allowed.

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.

All stations for a single entry must be operated under one callsign

Scoring:

QSO Points:

Phone contacts count one point each.

CW contacts count two points each.

Digital contacts count two points each.

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.

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).

If all contacts are made using a power of 5 Watts or less, but the power source is from commercial mains 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).

If any or all contacts are made using an output power up to 150 Watts or less, the power multiplier is 2 (two).

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

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.

Bonus Points:

The Field Day rules provide several ways to earn a significant number of bonus points.

I would suggest that individuals participating in Field Day should strongly consider trying to earn the bonus points for 100% Emergency Power, Alternate Power, Media Publicity, W1AW Bulletin, Web Submission, and—if the member has children or grand-children—Field Day Youth Participation. Those who set up (safely) in a public setting, can earn the "Public Location" bonus and should consider placing appropriate hand-outs and a visitor sign-in sheet at a safe distance from their operation to earn the Public Information Table bonus—but should be prepared to take time away from the radio to answer questions! See below for descriptions of all the available bonuses and visit the full Field Day rules (<http://www.arrrl.org/field-day>) for complete details and pay particular attention to what sort of “proof” each bonus requires.

100% Emergency Power: 100 points per transmitter classification if all contacts are made only using an emergency power source. Not available to Class D.

Media Publicity: 100 bonus points may be earned for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media. Available to all Classes.

Public Location: 100 bonus points for physically locating the Field Day operation in a public place (i.e. shopping center, park, school campus, etc). The intent is for amateur radio to be on display to the public. Available to Classes A, B and F.

Public Information Table: 100 bonus points for a Public Information Table at the Field Day site. The purpose is to make appropriate handouts and information available to the visiting public at the site. A copy of a visitor's log, copies of club handouts or photos is sufficient evidence for claiming this bonus. Available to Classes A, B and F.

Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. Available to all Classes.

Message Handling: 10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Available to all Classes.

Satellite QSO: 100 bonus points for successfully completing at least one QSO via an amateur radio satellite during the Field Day period. Stations are limited to one (1) completed QSO on any single channel FM satellite. Available to Classes A, B, and F.

Alternate Power: 100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or petroleum driven generator. This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or water. This includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells). Available to Classes A, B, E, and F.

W1AW Bulletin: 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH) during its operating schedule during the Field Day weekend. An accurate copy of the message is required to be included in your Field Day submission. (Note: The Field Day bulletin must be copied via amateur radio.) I recommend that the bulletin be copied on Friday evening prior to the start of Field Day. The bulletin schedule is available at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.) Available to all Classes.

Educational Activity Bonus: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day operation includes a specific educational-related activity. The activity can be diverse and must be related to amateur radio. It must be some type of formal activity. Limited availability—see rules.

Site Visitation by an Elected Governmental Official: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by an elected government official as the result of an invitation. Available to all Classes.

Site Visitation by a Representative of an Agency: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by a representative of an agency served by ARES in your local community (American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc.) as the result of an invitation. Available to all Classes.

Web Submission: A 50-point bonus may be claimed by a group submitting their Field Day entry via the <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php> web app. Available to all Classes.

Field Day Youth Participation: A 20-point bonus (maximum of 100) may be earned by any Class A, C, D, E, or F group for each participant age 18 or younger at your Field Day operation that completes at least one QSO. For a 1-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned if the operator is age 18 or younger. For a 2-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned for each operator age 18 or younger (maximum of 40 points.)

Social Media: 100 points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized and utilized social media platform (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operation. Individual participants do not qualify for this bonus. Club websites do not qualify for this bonus.

Safety Officer Bonus: A 100-point bonus may be earned by having a person serving as a Safety Officer for those groups setting up Class A stations.

How to Log/Dupe a Field Day Operation:

Contacts for points are limited to once per band/mode, so it is important to be able to quickly determine if a station has already been worked on that band and mode. For this reason, nearly all Field Day participants rely on computers to “log” and “dupe” for them. In addition, after Field Day is over, the logging/duping software will allow easy creation of the files necessary for submission to ARRL.

Here are two recommended logging/duping programs for Windows PCs:

- N1MM Logger+ (free)- <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com>
- N3JFP (\$8.95 for FD version)- www.n3fjp.com

It is, in general, important to ensure that the newest version of the logging/duping software is being used but because of this year’s change in the rules allowing Class D stations to work other Class D stations for points, it is especially important to run the newest version.

I will limit this discussion to N1MM Logger+.

To install N1MM Logger+ on a Windows computer, visit <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>, click on “Downloads”, then “Program Files”, and then on “Full Install”. Click on “To Download the Full Install File Click Here”. Click on the link “N1MM Logger+ FullInstaller” on the resulting page. Finally, click “Download”. Run the installer, accepting the defaults.

Please note: Once you have successfully installed N1MM Logger+, you’ll need to install the latest update file. Visit <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/> again, click “Downloads”, then “Program Files”, and then “Latest Update Files”. Click the newest file entitled, “N1MM Logger+ Update x.xx.xxxx”. Finally, click “Download”. Run the installer. The N1MM Logger+ update files are cumulative, meaning you only need to install the newest one to completely update an existing installation of N1MM Logger+. Also, once N1MM Logger+ is installed, starting the program will initiate a check via the internet for updates and the user will be prompted to allow the program to automatically download and install any updates.

Start N1MM Logger+.

You will need to configure your station data. Click “Config”, then “Change Your Station Data”. Place the callsign you will be using for Field Day (probably your own callsign) into the *Call* field, enter your mailing address. The *Grid Square*, *CQ Zone*, *ITU Zone*, and *Lat/Long* fields aren’t necessary for Field Day but you can determine your values for these by visiting your page at <https://www.qrz.com/> and clicking the “Detail” tab. (If you live in Ohio, your *CQ Zone* is 4 and your *ITU Zone* is 8.) The *Station TX/RX*, *Power*, *Antenna*, *Ant Height*, and *A.S.L.* are not needed for Field Day but you can fill them in if you wish. Your *ARRL Section* will be OH if you are in Ohio, WV if you are in West Virginia. Please enter “Athens County ARA” in the *Club* field so your Field Day score can contribute to the ACARA’s aggregated score. Please note the Tip in the upper-right and verify that your computer clock is set to the correct time zone, local time, and local date.

Edit Station Information

Tip: You need to fill out this form or the program will not perform properly... Also, make sure your computer date and time are set to the LOCAL date and time zone for your location.

Call:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Country:

Grid Square: CQ Zone: ITU Zone:

License: Latitude: Longitude:

Station TX/RX: Power:

Antenna: Ant. Height: a.s.l.:

ARRL Section:

Rover QTH:

Club:

Email address:

You will need to create a “New Log in Database” for Field Day 2020. If you are not prompted to do so, click “File” and “New Log in Database”. In the resulting window, select “FD” in the *Log Type* field, and set “2020-06-27 18:00:00” for *Start Date*. Fill out the rest of the fields using this example as a guide, changing values as necessary for your particular operation. For *Power*, select “Low” for transmitter-output of up to 150 watts. For *Station*, select “Fixed” if you’ll be operating Class D or Class E in your regular station, “Mobile” if you’ll be operating Class C, or “Portable” if you be operating in Class B or B (Battery).

If you wish to have N1MM Logger+ “talk” to your transceiver so that band and mode changes are automatically recorded, click “Config” and “Configure Ports, Mode Control...” and set the configuration there.

What About Novice/Tech Licensees?

With limited HF Voice and Digital privileges on 10 Meters, opportunities for Novice and Technician Class Licensees may be limited during our current sunspot minimum. Fortunately, the last few weeks have shown some Sporadic-E activity on 10 Meters, so it is likely some QSOs can be made on 10 Meters during Field Day. ACARA members who hold higher class licenses are encouraged to periodically monitor the Novice/Tech portion of 10 meters (28.3 – 28.5 MHz), and perhaps call CQ, to encourage at least local/regional activity on 10 Meters. Novices/Techs who can run FT8 or FT4 might find these modes to be very efficient for making QSOs on 10 Meters this year.

The 6 Meter band can easily be “dead” or very active. Look for activity between 50.125 and 50.200 MHz. (*Do not* make Field Day QSOs in the Intercontinental DX Window of 50.1 – 50.125 MHz!)

For Technicians who have only 2 Meter FM equipment, opportunities for 2 Meter contacts during Field Day in southeastern Ohio will be limited. To enhance the chances of Field Day contacts the following are suggested:

- Remember that for Field Day contacts must be *simplex* and not via repeaters
- Do not expect good results using a standard rubber duck antenna on an HT
- All ACARA members should monitor the ACARA’s 2 Meter FM simplex frequency of 146.400 Mhz during Field Day in order to provide contacts to those members limited to FM; the use of additional radios in *receive* mode does not change your Field Day classification.
- Read the “FM” section of the ARRL’s VHF Field FAQ: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_66-2020%20Above%2030%20MHz.pdf

Novice/Tech licensees who can do CW should take advantage of the Novice/Tech subbands on 80 Meters (3.525 – 3.600 MHz), 40 Meters (7.025 – 7.175 MHz), and 15 Meters (21.025 – 21.200 MHz).

What to Do After Field Day is Over

Follow the instructions in the Field Day Rules (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>) and/or in the “Field Day’s Over... Now What” FAQ (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/4_01-2020%20Now%20what.pdf) to submit your entry. Please remember to list your club affiliation as “Athens County ARA” in your online submission!