

# 2026 Summer Field Day



<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Join us to operate with voice, satellite, digital or morse code communications. New to radio (?), come to our **Get On The Air (GOTA)** station and let our experienced instructors guide you through making contacts. ARRL Field Day is a demonstration of communication capabilities and is an opportunity to practice emergency, field operations.

**W4IY**

**W4AD**

**June 27 (2 pm) -28 (2 pm), 2026**  
**Old Bridge and Smoketown Road**

**Woodbridge, VA 22192**

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

# Agenda and Purpose

- Agenda
  - Field Day Scoring
  - Location and Date, and Others
  - Schedule
  - Budget
  - Captains Roster
  - Setups
  - Checklists
  - Summary
- Purpose
  - Have some fun and practice radio
  - Get new hams involved
  - Make as many contacts as we can on as many bands as we can

## FIELD DAY OBJECTIVE:

To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.



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**WOODBRIIDGE WIRELESS**

Radio Amateurs serving Prince William County, Virginia  
Monday Night Net at 8 PM on all 3 repeaters: 147.24+, 224.78- and 444.90+.



# Field Day Scoring - ARRL Results - Field Day 2025

- Woodbridge Wireless placed Number 3 in 7A class

YEAR	CALL	PLACE	POINTS	CLASS	QSO	YEAR	CALL	PLACE	POINTS	CLASS	QSO
1970	K4LDR	117	2,128	1A	288	2001	W4IY	2	22,056	15A	6,572
1971	K4LDR	9	1,324	1B	587	2002	W4IY	2	24,088	8A	7,839
1972	W4JIO	79	1,050	1A	425	2003	W4IY	2	20,272	17A	5,922
1973	W4ADM	38	2,830	3A	1,250	2004	W4IY	4	22,001	12A	6,583
1974	W4ADM	33	2,528	4A	1,009	2005	W4IY	2	22,508	16A	6,501
1975	W4ADM	8	5,280	4A	1,596	2006	W4IY	2	23,038	18A	6,670
1976	K4JVG	5	6,876	6A	2,250	2007	W4IY	8	15,142	7A	4,199
1977	W4IY	2	8,322	7A	2,672	2008	W4IY	2	21,108	9A	6,592
1978	W4IY	7	7,215	7A	2,357	2009	W4IY	10	14,744	6A	4,355
1979	W4IY	9	7,174	6A	2,230	2010	W4IY	21	13,308	6A	4,072
1980	W4IY	3 (55)	7,816	8A	2,463	2011	W4IY	24	13,392	5A	4,090
1981	W4IY	4 (35)	8,680	7A	2,692	2012	W4IY	7	18,094	10A	5,311
1982	W4IY	1 (24)	9,604	8A	2,646	2013	W4IY	3	19,924	9A	5,762
1983	W4IY	1 (12)	11,988	9A	3,434	2014	W4IY	5	18,220	10A	5,274
1984	W4IY	1 (13)	12,030	10A	3,657	2015	W4IY	6	17,526	8A	4,916
1985	W4IY	1 (04)	15,474	10A*	5,067	2016	W4IY	6	17,056	11A	4,560
1986	W4IY	1 (37)	12,141	12A	3,739	2017	W4IY	2	20,930	12A	9,140
1987	W4IY	1 (39)	11,930	12A	2,876	2018	W4IY	4	16,988	9A	7,329
1988	W4IY	1 (04)	14,210	12A*	4,791	2019	W4IY	3	18,252	9A	4,852
1989	W4IY	1 (13)	12,660	10A	4,127	2020	W4IY	2	17,110	8A	4,196
1990	W4IY	1(03)	14,688	11A*	4,669	2021	W4IY	3	18,650	8A	4,737
1991	W4IY	1 (10)	12,880	11A	4,150	2022	W4IY	2 (2)	14,708	8A	3,740
1992	W4IY	2 (13)	11,316	8A	3,690	2023	W4IY	1	12,842	7A	3,185
1993	W4IY	1 (13)	14,078	8A	4,587	2024	W4IY	1	11,085	8A	2,554
1994	W4IY	4 (19)	11,076	6A	3,197	2025	W4IY	3	10,009	7A	2,078
1995	W4IY	1 (10)	13,748	7A	4,191	2026					
1996	W4IY	1 (03)	15,982	9A	4,976	2027					
1997	W4IY	1 (02)	16,904	9A	5,011	2028					
1998	W4IY	1 (04)	18,834	9A*	6,217	2029					
1999	W4IY	1 (03)	22,780	13A*	7,329						
2000	W4IY	2	24,904	14A	8,064						





## WOODBIDGE WIRELESS

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# Location, Date, and Others

- Saturday, June 27, 2025, 2 pm through Sunday June 28, 2 pm
- Baseball/Soccer fields at Old Bridge Road and Smoketown Road - Same Field Location - Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association
- Usable N-S line
- Good public location with parking
- Walgreen's adjacent and nearby grocery store
- Targeting to run as class 7A
- GOTA will operate as a PR position too
- Plan on taking vacation on Friday, June 26th to setup



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# Schedule

- Thursday, June 25
  - 2-6 pm: Bring in trailer and coaches ONLY
  - 6-10 pm: Set-up coaches, generator
- Friday, June 26
  - 8 am: early set-up
  - 12 pm: **Lunch at Buffet**
  - 1 :30 pm: Set-up towers, antennas, and power cables
- Saturday, June 27
  - 9 am: Complete any remaining set-up items
  - 1 pm: Radio practice and stake out frequency
  - 2 pm: Start Contest
- Sunday, June 28
  - Continue contest
  - 2 pm: End Contest and start tearing down
  - 6 pm: Complete tear down and leave site



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# Budget

- Friday Night Dinner – Volunteers?
- Lunches – on your own
- Saturday Night Dinner – Family Fun Hour/Pot Luck
- Sunday Breakfast – on your own
- \$195 Port-A-Potty
- \$300 Generator Fuel
- \$0 snacks - bring your own (and some extra for guests and visitors)
- **Give aways?**



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# Captains Roster

Position	Name	Position	Name
Chairman		Safety	Stu WA0DYJ
Assistant Chairman		Social Media	Kathy Lamont
CW	NONE	Education	
Digital	George		
SSB/Phone	Rob KJ4LWN	Msg/W1AW Bulletin	George
Satellite	Rob KJ4LWN	N1MM IT	George
GOTA/Talk In Pub Info Table	Bob KV4MJ		
Publicity	Bob Beecher KN4PAY	Natural Power	George
Photographer	Butch	Raffle	Butch
Generator	Stu WA0DYJ		

Do it again?

# Setups

- CW - **NONE**
- Digital
  - Small Club Trailer
  - Digital – Club Hustler 5B TV tuned for digital through a triplexer
  - Digital member radios and PCs
- SSB
  - Large club trailer
  - AB577 tower with 10-15-20 Triband, 40 Dipole, 80 Turnstile or OCFD
  - Club Triplexer and RPW ICE filters
  - RPW computers
  - IC7600, IC756 Pro II
- GOTA
  - Canopy
  - FT-991A
  - ?
  - Manual visitor and operator log, and certificates
  - Visitor information



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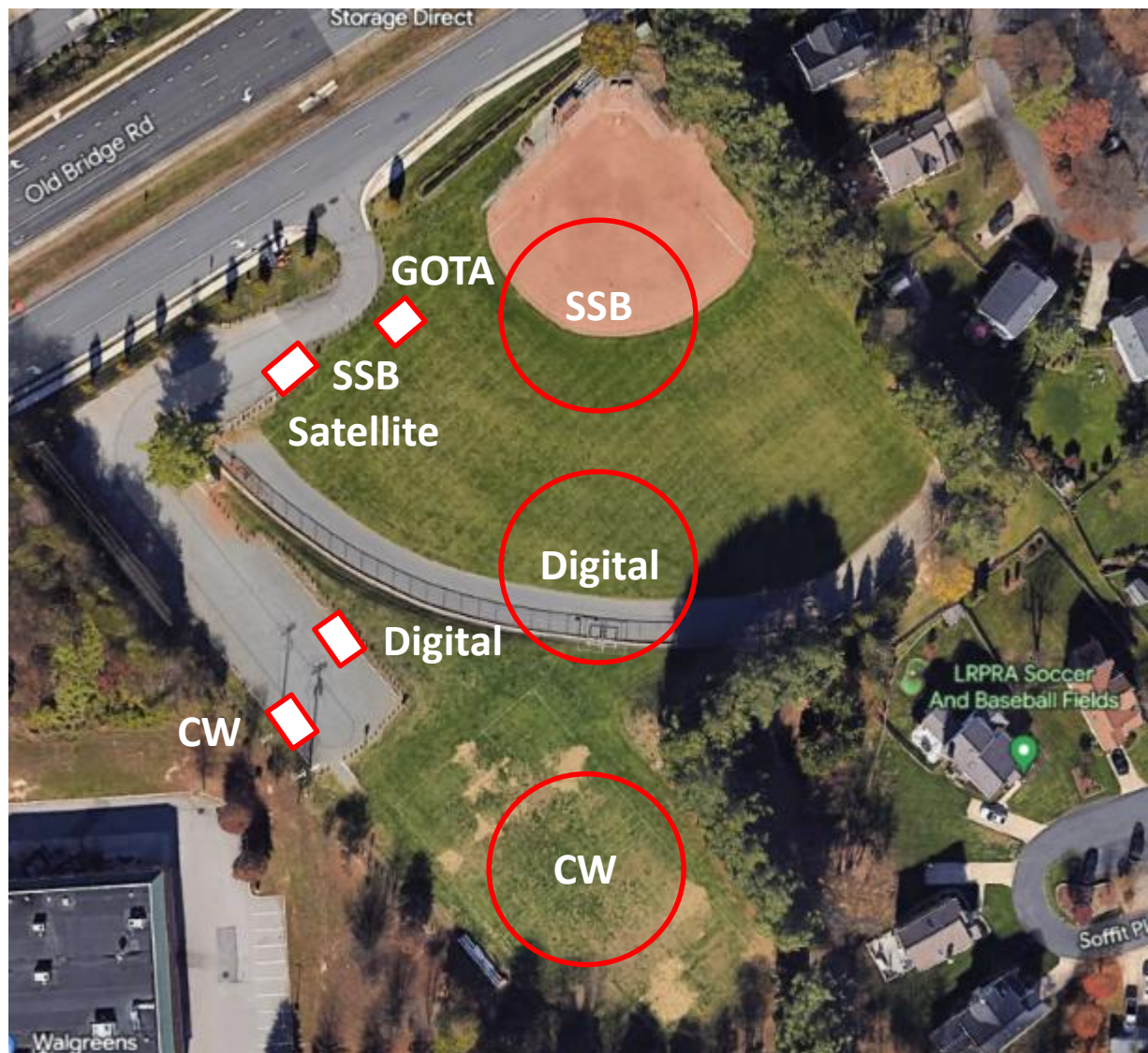
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# Setups - LRPRA Field - Old Bridge & Smoketown Roads

- Everyone on N-S line and beaming West
- ICE filters and/or stub filters
- Competition class radios with roofing filters
- Good engineering practices with grounding, tight connections, and quality power supplies
- Adjust radio for:
  - Use IF Bandwidth, Shift & RIT
  - Noise Blanking & DNR
  - Notch Filtering
  - Turn on input attenuation
  - Turn off receiver preamp
  - Turn off AGC and use manual RF Gain
  - Use DSP processing per radio capabilities



# Setups - Parking Plan

Bring trailers in first

Bring in bigger vehicles

All others

Parking is first come, first served with overflow to Walgreens parking lot

Parking needs (sequence):

PortaPotty

KV4UC trailer

Digital trailer

Large club trailer 10x14

Small club trailer 10 x 24

Stu's motorhome 12 x 30

Generator trailer



# Checklist

- December
  - Pickup LRPRA Field Reservation
    - Contact: Laura Krauss
    - Charge \$100
    - Complete form to occupy site from Thursday Evening through Sunday Afternoon Field Day weekend
    - Form signed by Club President and submitted with check **Done**
- January
  - Verify LRPRA Field is reserved with Laura Krauss **Done**
  - Annotate Field Day planning at January WARC meeting
  - Call for Band Captains at meeting and via reflector
  - Establish meetings once per month for Jan – May planning
- Jan – Feb – Mar – Apr – May
  - Monthly meetings
- April
  - Present Preliminary Plan/Volunteer Call at March Monthly Meeting
  - Contact Porta Potty Service for on-site toilets (President/Treasurer to sign/pay)
- June
  - Finalize Field Day Plan
  - Present final plan at June WARC meeting
  - Field Day! Execute Plan
    - Get key
    - Field, parking, facilities, power, and antenna Layout
    - IT Plan (including Wireless PCs and N1MM)
    - Band Coverage Plans
- July
  - Wrap up report to Club at WARC meeting
  - Lessons Learned/Scoring Pictures



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# Checklist

## Field Day Team

- Field Reserved
- Porta-Potty's Reserved
- Food Plan Set
- Band Captains Confirmed
- Club Equipment Confirmed
  - Parking Plan
  - Set-up Plan
  - Equipment Allocations
  - Public Notices
- PCs, N1MM and Wifi network

## Field Day Band Captain

- Equipment reserved
- Operators identified
- Equipment tested and brought:
  - Radio, antenna tuner, antenna(s), antenna supports (masts, towers, guy wires, nylon rope, etc.), coax, power supply (at least 20A peak), extension power cords, power strips, bandpass filter, logging computer, N1MM logging software, headphones, microphone (preferably mike headset), foot or hand switch, digital voice recorder, CW paddle, CW interface cable for CT, tent and stakes, table, chairs, fan, external clock, lights for late night operating, tools (wrenches, screwdrivers, hammer, etc.), antenna erection equipment (ladder, slingshot, climbing harness, etc.), power meter, antenna analyzer, Y-adapter for multiple headphones, accessories (tape measurer, zip ties, soldering iron, connectors, etc.), pens and pencils, blank paper
- Comfort items
  - Food, bug spray, sun screen, canopy or tent, sleeping bag?, sanitizing supplies



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# Checklists

- **ARRL Field Day checklist for Safety Officer affirmation and bonus.**
  - Safety Officer or a qualified designated assistant/s on site for the duration of the event
  - Safety Officer is designated point of contact for public safety officials
  - Fuel for generator properly stored
  - Fire extinguisher on hand and appropriately located
  - First Aid kit on hand
  - First Aid - CPR - AED trained participant/s on site for full Field Day period
  - Access to NWS alerts to monitor for inclement weather
  - Tent stakes properly installed and marked
  - Temporary antenna structures properly secured and marked
  - Site secured from tripping hazards
  - Site is set up in a neat and orderly manner to reduce hazards
  - Stations and equipment properly grounded
  - Access to a means to contact police/fire/rescue if needed
  - Minimize risks and control hazards to ensure no injuries to public
  - Monitor participants for hydration and ensuring adequate water supply is available



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# Summary

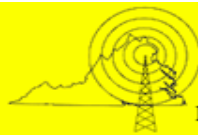
- HAVE FUN
- SCORE WELL
- NO CASUALTIES
- HAVE FUN



- **Time to commit and bring a friend!**



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# Making Contact

- **They want to talk to you** and don't care if you're new
- “Search and Pounce” or “Park and Call”
  - **Park and call gets more QSOs!**
- Use standard phonetics for your call sign
  - Club will use club call sign W4IY Whiskey Four India Yankee
  - GOTA will use club call sign W4AD Whiskey Four Alpha Delta
- Listen to ensure frequency is clear, ask if frequency is in use, and call – own and hold it early
- Don't be nervous
- Exchange appropriate information and use N1MM logging program



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# Making Contact

- Contesting isn't like day-to-day operating. The bands are full of strong signals packed close together. It's like playing a real football game instead of a game of catch. You'll find that you need to use some of those receiver controls and narrower filters. In fact, cranking in some attenuation or turning down the RF gain control will improve receiver performance dramatically under the strong-signal conditions in a contest. By effectively using the capabilities of a modern receiver, you will surely find that the band is quieter and nearby signals are less disruptive. In fact, you will find yourself making better use of your receiver's controls every day!
- Preamplifier – Off - Because there are so many strong signals present during a contest, having the preamp turned on is not at all necessary and will likely lead to severe intermodulation and overload problems in your receiver. Turn it off - this will also help a non-contester operating on the bands.
- Noise Blanker – Off - Noise blankers work by sensing strong pulses of RF anywhere on a band and then turning off the receiver during the pulse. In a contest with lots of strong signals, the noise blanker gets confused and starts turning off the receiver in sync with the strong signals. This makes your receiver audio sound like the strong signal is splattering all across the band! The first thing you should do when operating on a busy contest-filled band is turn off the noise blanker.
- The Attenuator – On - The attenuator seldom gets a workout, but it can be your biggest friend when dealing with strong nearby signals. It's surprisingly easy for a strong signal to drive a receiver's RF amplifier or mixers into non-linearity known as overload. This creates spurious intermodulation products, known as "crud," up and down the band. 10 dB of attenuation cures a surprising number of ailments at the cost of just a couple of S-units of signal strength. Try cranking in some attenuation and you may find that interference drops dramatically when your receiver is no longer being overloaded. Remember that the goal is to maximize signal-to-noise ratio, not necessarily absolute signal strength. Try out your attenuator and you may be surprised at how much it cleans up a band even on a weekday!
- RF Gain – Turn it Down - Late breaking news - RF gain controls are not welded in the full-on position! This makes your receiver very sensitive but also leaves your IF (and sometimes the RF) amplifiers susceptible to overload. Experiment with backing off the RF gain to see if it doesn't improve your receiver's performance in a strong signal environment. Even during casual operating, backing off the RF gain can dramatically reduce background noise. Experiment with changing the AGC settings or even (gasp!) turn it OFF and use the RF gain control instead. It doesn't take much to change a QRM-clobbered QSO into a fairly manageable channel.
- Special Receiver Features – Use Them - Does your receiver have passband tuning, IF shift, variable bandwidth or similar controls? All those new DSP features you paid for can also clean up noise and attenuate low-frequency or high-frequency interference. There's no time like the present to find the receiver's manual and learn what these controls do. You'll find they make day-to-day operating easier and more successful, too.
- Sharing the Road- When operating in a contest, you need to be sensitive to the effect of undesired spurious transmitter byproducts. It's one thing to set up your voice keyer and speech processor on a calm, weekday after work and quite another thing to then hammer it during the contest when you're excited.
- Do an on-air audio check with a friend to learn where to set mic gain and processing level. Learn what your ALC and compression meters show with audio levels set properly. Turn on the amplifier fan and every other noisemaker in the shack to see if they make an unwanted contribution to your signal. Be sure you don't have RF feedback on any frequency. Listen to a playback of your voice with every noisemaker in the shack turned on. It's important that all that RF energy is carrying your message and not fan noise. Use a windscreen on your boom mike to limit the high-frequency pops and snaps. You need the crisp high end of speech, but not the transients that overdrive a compressor. Windscreens also reduce fan and background noise.
- Check to be sure that running an amplifier doesn't cause RF feedback or distortion to your mic or voice keyer. Better to find that out now instead of during the contest. CW operators should check for key clicks, too.



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# Making Contact

- **Operating Tip**
- Dan Zeitlin, K2YWE, has some tips for how to achieve higher QSO rates to increase your score during this weekend's CQ World Wide DX Contest — SSB. Higher rates require spending less time per QSO. Here's how.
- **Eliminate wasted words.**
  - Avoid phrases like “please copy” and “thank you for.” The quicker and more efficient each QSO is, the higher your net rate will be.
- **Avoid repetition.**
  - Do not repeat your call or the exchange unless conditions warrant it. If the station you're working missed part of the exchange, they will ask you for a fill.
- **Limit fill information.**
  - When a station requests a fill, give only the information that is asked for. Do not repeat the entire exchange, it wastes your time, and theirs.
- **Avoid partial calls**
  - When giving your call sign, always give your entire call. Partial calls will only cause stations to ask for more repeats. If they copy only part of your call, they'll ask you for a repeat.
- **Remember the K3ZO (SK) “Rule of Twice”**
  - If you can't get them after calling twice, move on to another station. Additionally, you should move on if you come across a station “running” and they don't give their call sign after transmitting twice.
- **Thanks to Dan Zeitlin, K2YWE, and Contest University**



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# Making Contact – RST System

## Readability

- 1--Unreadable
- 2--Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable.
- 3--Readable with considerable difficulty.
- 4--Readable with practically no difficulty.
- 5--Perfectly readable.

## Signal Strength

- 1--Faint signals, barely perceptible.
- 2--Very weak signals.
- 3--Weak signals.
- 4--Fair signals.
- 5--Fairly good signals.
- 6--Good signals.
- 7--Moderately strong signals.
- 8--Strong signals.
- 9--Extremely strong signals.

## Tone

- 1--Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad.
- 2--Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
- 3--Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
- 4--Rough note, some trace of filtering.
- 5--Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
- 6--Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
- 7--Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
- 8--Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
- 9--Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

If the signal has the characteristic steadiness of crystal control, add the letter X to the RST report. If there is a chirp, the letter C may be added to so indicate. Similarly for a click, add K. The above reporting system is used on both cw and voice, leaving out the "tone" report on voice. Turn card over for examples.

## Making Contact - Using foot pedals, hand switches and headsets

- Sometimes it's all about ergonomics or just being able to hear
- Headsets help when it's quiet or the contact is weak
  - Noise canceling anyone?
- Foot pedals and a headset free up hands to work the computer to log the contact
  - Sometimes a hand switch
- Helps with speed and accuracy
- Much more comfortable
- Heil is the Amateur Radio leader but not the only one
  - Expensive but may be worth the experience



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# GOTA Station - W4AD

- GOTA Scoring FAQ
- Individual operators of a GOTA station can earn points as follows:
  - The individual operator of a GOTA station earns 5 GOTA Bonus points for any QSO made from the GOTA Station, regardless of the mode (CW, Phone, or Digital.)
  - The QSOs made at the GOTA station will also count toward the total QSO points, but those QSOs will be scored the same as all other QSOs made by the primary Field Day operation.
  - There is no limit to the number of QSOs that a GOTA operator can make.
  - If the GOTA station is supervised by a designated GOTA Coach for at least 10 QSOs, a single 100-point GOTA Coach Bonus will be earned.
- Q. Do you have to be a licensed amateur to operate the GOTA station?
- A. An unlicensed person may never operate an amateur station. As per the FCC rules, they may participate by operating the station, but there must always be a licensee at the control point of the GOTA station with an operator's license class that allows them to use the band and mode being used.
- Q: What is the maximum number of QSOs that may be completed and claimed by operators of the GOTA station?
- A: There is no maximum number of QSOs that can be made by operators of the GOTA station.
- Q: How do you earn GOTA bonus points?
- A: As stated above, any QSOs made by operators at the GOTA station are worth 5 GOTA Bonus points, regardless of the mode (CW, Phone, or Digital) used. The 5 points per QSO only applies to GOTA Bonus points, and not to the Total QSO points.
- Q: How do we claim the GOTA Bonus?
- A: First, mark the appropriate area in Item 15 on the Summary Sheet. Then in Item 19 on the Summary Sheet, you must list the name and/or callsign of each operator of the GOTA station and the number of QSOs completed by that operator. Total up the number of GOTA QSOs made on each mode and transfer those totals to the GOTA line in Item 18. Enter the total number of all GOTA QSOs in Item 19 and multiply by 5 and enter in Total GOTA QSO Bonus points. If claiming the GOTA Coach Bonus, check the box and add 100 points to the total GOTA QSO Bonus points. Then transfer the Total GOTA Bonus Points to Item 15 of the summary sheet. If you do not complete Item 19, the GOTA bonus may be disallowed.
- Q: How is the GOTA Coach Bonus calculated?
- A: A single 100-point bonus can be earned by having a designated GOTA Coach present for at least 10 QSOs made from the GOTA Station. The GOTA Coach must be present and actively coaching the operator of the GOTA station to qualify for this bonus. If claiming the 100- point GOTA Coach Bonus, check the box below Item 19 on the summary sheet.
- Q: Do we still earn QSO points for contacts made at the GOTA station?
- A Yes, but those QSOs will be scored the same as all other QSOs made by the primary Field Day operation and must be entered in the Band/Mode QSO breakdown in Item 18 as GOTA QSOs.



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# Satellite Contact

- Handhelds or dedicated satellite radio (IC-9700)
- Handheld antenna or computer controlled array
- Equipment
  - Antenna
  - Radio
  - Headphones
  - Canopy, table, and chairs
  - Satellite tracking software (SATPC32, SatSat, W1ANT Pro Satellite Tracker, and Grid Square Locator) or CSN Tech SAT controller
- Satellites to contacts
  - SO-50
  - AO-27
  - PO-101
  - CAS-7A, CAS-7C, CAS-5A



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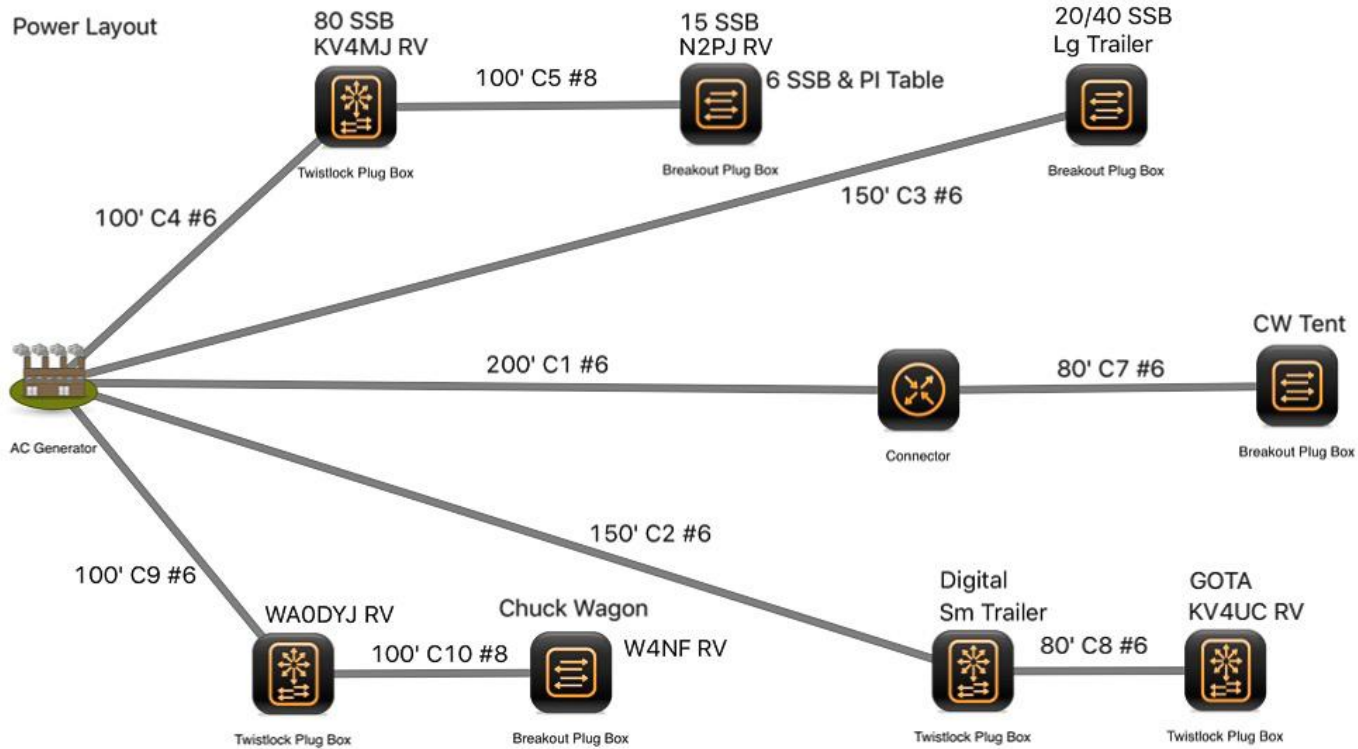
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# AC Power Distribution



ACTIVITY	Rob Williams			Steve halleman	Jim O'Rourke	Bob Beecher	Bob Szerszynski	Tim Larkin	Gary Westling	Chris Reidenback	James Haberstat		Mike Kashtock				Home Operators	Home Operators	Home Operators
THU SETUP																			
FRI SETUP																			
2-5 pm A																			
2-5 pm B																			
2-5 pm C																			
5-8 pm A																			
5-8 pm B																			
5-8 pm C																			
8-11 pm A																			
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11-2 pm B																			
11-2 pm C																			
SUN Close																			

# Radio Shifts

A = IC-7600, B=756 Pro II

ACTIVITY	Rob Williams	Terry Erlacher	Jim Humble	Steve halleman	Jim O'Rourke	Bob Beecher	Bob Szerszynski	Tim Larkin	Gary Westling	Chris Reidenback	James Haberstat	Ray Hutt	Mike Kashtock	Tom Fournier	George	Maddie	Club		
IC-7600																			
IC-756 Pro II																			
RF Filters																			
Tri-plexer																			
RF Cable 10/15/20																			
RF Cable 40																			
RR Cable 80																			
Yagi 10/15/20																			
Dipole 40																			
Turnstile 80																			
Computers (3)																			
GP S tent																			
Tables (2)																			
Chairs (4)																			
Hand/Foot Switch																			
Headset																			
10-80 OCFD																			

# Equipment

Person providing radio also provides antenna tuner, power supply, and all connection cables

# Field Day Countdown – from ARRL

- Field Day is just about 3 months away, and now is the time for your club to plan for the event. Many of the details of this event should not be left to the last minute. With hopes of pointing clubs in the right direction, here are a few tips that may help.
- 1. Plan your location with a few questions in mind.
  - a. Will you have public traffic around your site, and are the antennas you will be using mindful of safety?
  - b. Is your site on property that requires supplying an insurance certificate to the owners? Many public sites require this.
  - c. Are you planning to create signs telling the public what you are doing and inviting them to learn more?
  - d. Does the site have adequate parking and access? Remember, Field Day is a 24-hour operation. You don't want to get locked in or out of your location, especially once it's dark.
  - e. Have you reviewed the safety requirements for fueling and grounding your generator? Noise may be an issue if you are on a public site.
  - f. How do you plan to keep the site clean and uncluttered for pictures?
- 2. Contact the local media to invite them to your site.
  - a. Local newspapers
  - b. Local television networks
  - c. Plan to have someone that can serve as a guide, answer questions, and direct pictures.
- 3. Operator planning is essential. Create a schedule of operators.
  - a. Think about whether you will operate for the full 24 hours or not.
  - b. Invite new hams to learn by logging and operating.
  - c. Don't forget to think about having relief operators.
- 4. Consider contacting your local served agencies to demonstrate the capabilities of hams in an emergency.
  - a. Local emergency management
  - b. American Red Cross
  - c. Local police, fire, and ambulance companies
  - d. Other local agencies that may be involved with shelter management
- Field Day is what you want to make of it. Treat it like a contest and see how many contacts you can make, make it an emergency drill, use it for outreach to the public, or make it a social event for your club and include having fun on the radio. Field Day is all about having fun and showcasing the different aspects of amateur radio. Make your Field Day an event that the club will learn from, and, most importantly, have fun!
- Find the complete list of Field Day resources at [field-day.arrl.org](http://field-day.arrl.org).