

Field Day in the time of COVID-19

Tom Schaefer, NY4I

**ARRL
FIELD
DAY 2020**

www.arrl.org



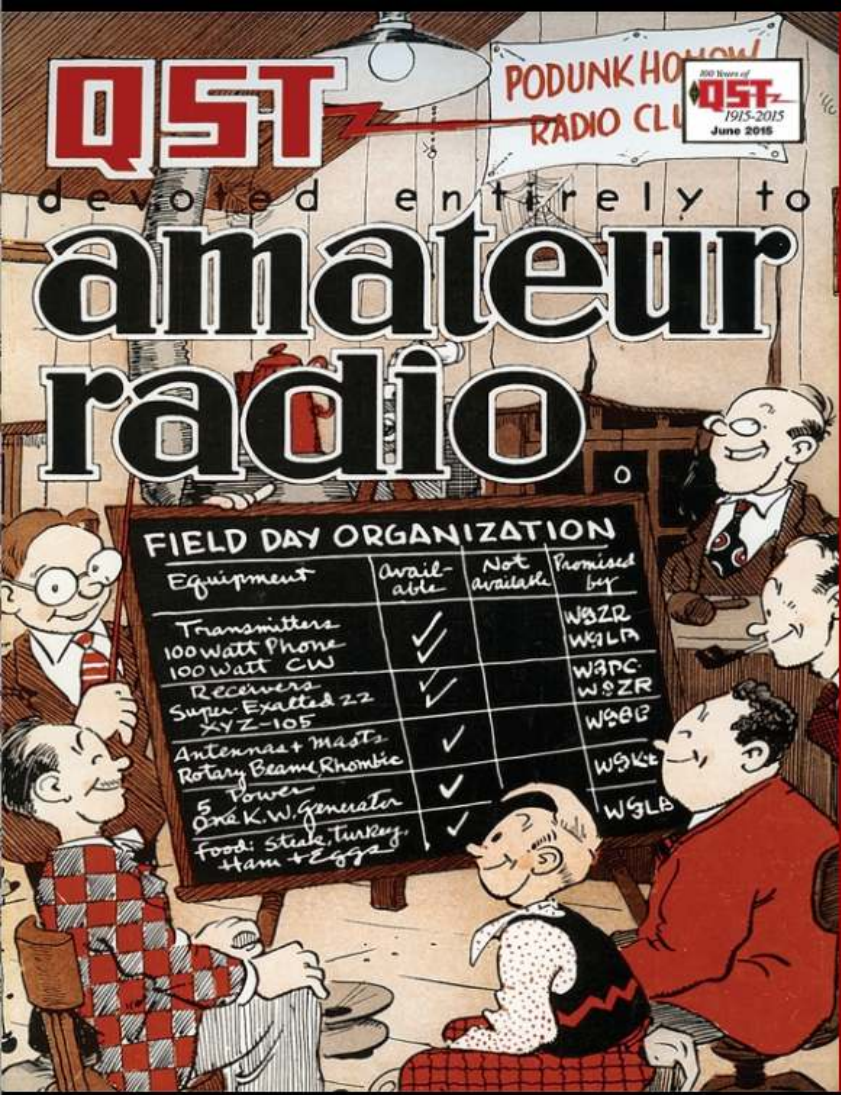
Picture from ARRL

Field Day Intro

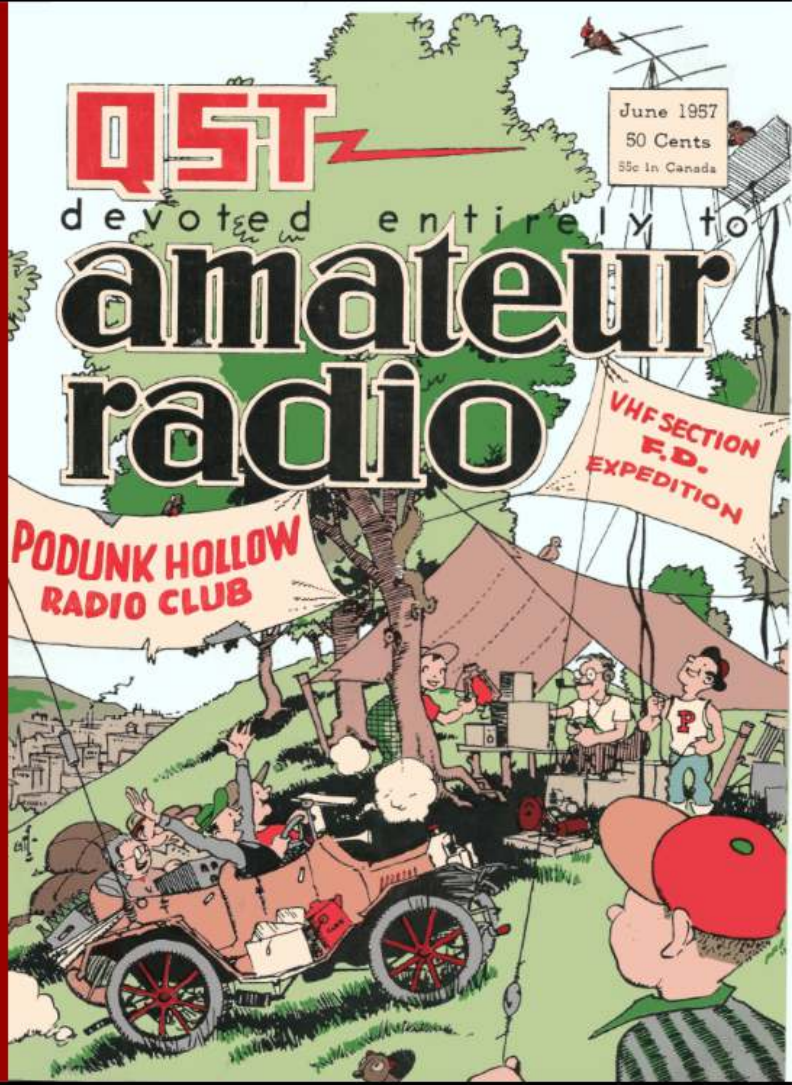
- Typically operate under emergency conditions/portable but @home ok too.
- Non-commercial power (generators/battery)
- Runs for 24 hours
- June 27 2:00 PM EDT through June 28 2:00 PM
- <http://www.arri.org/field-day>

Sources

- Parts of the presentation are from a similar presentation by Anthony Luscre K8ZT
- Other information comes from official ARRL Contest Branch information and clarifications
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/>
- <https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Contesting>



Club
Field
Days



This Presentation

- This presentation is **NOT a political discussion** of the merits of quarantines, social-distancing, mask usage, etc.
- This is meant to **offer alternatives** to people that **for personal reasons**, have decided they may not want to participate in a **large group-style of Field Day** this year.

Typical Field Day

- Class 3A Portable with emergency power
- Portable antennas
- Lots of operators sharing radios, computers
- Shared food and drink stations/buffet style of service

Changes for 2020

- To the rules: None!
- ARRL does state the following: “We will be including club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club’s members can be acknowledged.”



WHAT THE RULES SAY

Entry Classes

- A – 3 or more person club/portable
- B – 1 or 2 person portable
- C - Mobile
- D – Home station on commercial power
- E – Home station on emergency power

Class A

- Club/Non-club portable
 - 3 or more persons
 - Must not use facilities installed for permanent station use or any structure permanently installed (like your tower, or regular antennas)
 - All equipment within 1000 foot circle
 - Typically emergency power/generator but can be 1A-Commercial with regular power

Class B

- One or two person portable (same portability as Class A).
- You in your backyard with your spouse/child is class B, not A.
- Again, no existing structures
- Like our "in the park" events but in your backyard

Class C

- Mobile stations capable of being operated while in motion and normally operated as such.
- Vehicle need not be moving.
- All equipment in same vehicle so 10 mobiles in a parking lot is not 10C

Class D

- Home stations using existing permanent facilities
 - Your existing antennas
- Commercial power
- No points for working other D stations but who cares?
- Work them all...It's not a contest

Class E

- Home stations like D, but emergency power
- Anything used to make a contact must be on emergency power
 - Transceiver, computer if using digital modes or log-generated CW
 - If just logging on SSB, computer can be on commercial power
- Can work all other stations for points
- More...

Class E

- Emergency power can be:
 - Generator
 - Battery
 - Battery can be charged by regular power before Field Day
 - If charged during Field Day, must be non-commercial means (solar, etc.).
 - Best option for home stations to fully participate
 - Grab a big battery or two
 - Get 12V DC charger for laptop or inverter if using digital

Class F

- EOC Stations
 - Seems like a non-starter this year

Socially Distant

- Stations at home (D, E) not many challenges and may be best option is other risk factors
- If friends coming over to help, etc., still use common sense on distancing.
- Consider a repeater or Zoom meeting to stay in touch especially during setup

Safe Class A and Class B

- Class A and B harder but doable:
 - Logging and operating alone
 - No sharing microphones
 - Wipe down keyboards, mic, radio knobs, desk surface, chair arms
 - Anything that previous op touched
 - Better option is to setup dedicated stations
 - Easier with smaller groups
 - Antenna setup offers the highest risk

Techs can participate

- VHF (2m, 6m)
 - 6 meters usually open for SSB, FT8
 - Satellite contacts
 - Likely to be more activity on local 2m (SSB too)
 - Stay in touch with club members
- With band conditions, 10m may or may not be usable but check.
- Study to upgrade to general when testing available

Logging

- N1MM
 - Free
 - Will do training sessions
 - Steep learning curve
- TR4W
 - Free
 - Easy to use
- N3FJP
 - Easy to use (8\$ to buy)

Questions

