



Picture 1 FT8 version 1.9.1 in WSJT-X in action

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: Practice-Winter Edition

Hopefully everyone is past the holidays and looking forward to a winter of radio fun. Winter Field Day is coming! It is the 4th weekend in January (January 26-27, 2019). I was looking for inspiration for the next article. While looking at the Dillon Blue Press catalog I saw an article with “Practice” in the title. Yep. Practice. Whether you are playing football for a national championship caliber college team or golfing or playing radio, as they say-practice makes perfect.

Many are familiar with the ARRL Field Day held the 4th weekend in June. The Winter edition is newer. And is admittedly far more popular in Florida, Arizona, California, etc. than in northern states. Whether you go portable and set up away from home, or hunker down in the shack by a warm fire with your favorite hot beverage at hand, Winter Field

Day is a great time to practice your radio skills.

Why practice? Sure it takes time. and can feel like work. But the more familiar you are with your equipment, especially if using sound cards, computers, CAT control, etc the better it will perform when needed. Whether you like contesting, emergency communications or just plain rag chewing, you will have a more satisfactory experience if you know how your equipment works.

How do you practice? Get on the air! Join a local club like this one. Participate in the on air nets. "Talk" to folks. In addition to phone nets there are CW and digital nets. For every class of operator. **CARC** runs a 2 meter simplex net on Sunday at 1900 eastern and all are welcome. We try to keep the net informal and have time to help troubleshoot equipment or answer questions. The 10 meter net meets on Wednesday night at 2000 eastern and you will find the same friendly folks there.

Catch ya on the air!



