

How do I?



An occasional series

This week: Field Day-CARC style!

When: June 22-23, 2019 starting at 0900 local on Saturday

Where: The cabin at Shaffer Park, Carlisle PA

Field Day. Funny how 2 simple words can fill so many hearts with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a trace of nervousness.

What is Field Day? It is an ARRL sponsored event, taking place annually on the 4th weekend in June. This year it is early, falling on June 22 and 23, 2019. It is primarily a North American activity, widely participated in by US and some Canadian amateurs, with a smattering of foreign (DX) participants. Operating is a primary function, and while the ARRL collects logs and scoring sheets and posts standings in the December edition of *QST*, the ARRL does not consider it a contest. Field Day has its origins in the 1930's. The idea was to prepare for emergencies by being able to set up away from home and successfully operate. This may involve some pretty basic accommodations and bring scouting skills into use. Over time it has evolved into THE primary operating event in North American amateur radio. Most clubs and many individuals participate. For many field day is a combination social event, preparedness event, operating event, educational event and just plain fun. Some clubs try to go big and show how many stations they can get on the air. Some are happy to get one or two stations operational. Many are inbetween, with 3 or 4 stations.

CARC has operated for many years from the Shaffer Park in Carlisle, PA. It is along the PA Turnpike west of Cavalry RD. We typically start setting up between 0800 and 0900 Saturday. The last few years we have operated as class *4A-Commercial*. Four stations set up specifically for Field Day running commercial power. If we ran off batteries and were QRP (low power) we'd be 4A-Battery. Class B is 1 or 2 people operating a station specifically for Field Day. Class C is mobile, Class D are home stations. Home stations may not count contacts made with other home stations. Class E is the same as D, with

the important exceptions they are running off battery or emergency power and Class E stations may count contacts made with each other. Class F is stations operating from an established, activated, Emergency Operations Center-EOC.

Picture 1

Andy AF3I and Dave
Harry K3EYL in



W3VRE operating digital modes.
background/

In the morning the CARC crew strives to get 4 antennas up, 4 stations set up and get everything on the air. We then have lunch and complete any tasks and try to do the educational activity so we may count those bonus points. Then at 2 PM EDT (1800 UTC) the contest portion begins. We typically operate on 80/75 meter phone, 40 meter phone, 20 meter phone and a digital station that can work whatever band seems to be doing best. We may have a GOTA -Get On The Air station where inactive, recently licensed and non licensed individuals can operate with a licensed control operator and make contacts. Depending on band conditions and openings we may also have a VHF station to take advantage of 6 meter openings. Depending on the timing of passes and interest, we may try to make a satellite contact. That earns us a 100 point bonus if successful and demonstrates the skills necessary to do it.

The highlight of the day for many us supper. Some of us leave around dark, others spend the night and operate into the wee hours of the morning. Sunday morning people begin to return and we operate until around 0900 EDT then begin to tear down so we can be of the premises by noon.

After the event is over, Andy AF3I goes through the arduous process of auditing the logs, collecting the photos and other proof necessary to complete the scoring packet and sends it off to ARRL. At the July and August club meetings we discuss lessons learned and spend the next few months waiting for the official scores to be posted.

Here are some photos of Field Day past. May we see you in photos of the 2019 Field

Day?

If you have an interest in amateur radio, please come out. It is a great chance to learn about this fascinating hobby.

Picture 2 80m tape Dipole. Typically used for about 50% of the CARC Field Day QSO's.



Picture 3 Butternut Vertical-used primarily on 20 or 40 meters.

Picture 4 The 75m phone Dynamic Duo-Bobbe WA3BKK and Garry K3EYK. They make a lot of QSO's!

Catch ya on the air!