

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: What's in the Book?

Ham Radio material you may want to have close by!

At Field Day, someone asked what was in the important-looking three-ring binder that seemed to go everywhere with me . For Field Day, we had two separate binders.

The first book is the *Cumberland Amateur Radio Club/K3IEC Operations Guide*. It was prepared for, and provides reference material about, our portable operations. The book has a few sections marked with color-coded tabs:

1. Who or what is the Cumberland Amateur Radio Club? This provides some notes on the club and how to find our website etc.
2. Where are we: Some information about the location from which we are currently operating.
3. In Case of Emergency: Street Address, phone numbers, contact names in case there is a problem.
4. The rules for the event in which we are participating.
5. An ARRL Worked All States (WAS) map showing states and ARRL Sections.
6. Band Plan chart-showing the amateur radio allocations and license privileges.
7. DX Entity listing
8. Reference section:
 - a. Morse Code Characters
 - b. National Traffic System standards
 - c. Common operating frequencies
 - d. An "Official Copy" of my FCC License.
9. Coffee recipe.

The materials in sections 2, 3, and 4 are rotated in and out fairly frequently.

The second book is my own. It contains

- the User Manual for the radios I plan to use;
- the Signalink USB soundcard manual;
- the Yaesu SCU 17 manual;
- the Yaesu CAT control manual for the radios I plan to use;
- User Manuals for any of the antenna systems I plan to use;
- Band Plan chart;
- A list of common operating frequencies;
- Configuration information for setting up and operating various digital modes using the FLDIGI application software. It is good to be prepared for the common (and not-so-common) digital modes I might use. This includes PSK31; WSJT-X modes; and Olivia.

Your book may vary depending on your operating preferences, but having a reference book is highly recommended!

Catch 'ya on the air!