The Winter Field Association Presents

Winter Field Day 2025

January 25th - 26th

Starts 1600 UTC Saturday January 25th
Ends 21:59 UTC Sunday January 26th

Greetings,

The goal of the Winter Field Day Association is to help amateur radio operators improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities. The winter months present unique challenges for operating, including shorter days, the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards.

Our annual Winter Field Day Exercise is not a contest but a practical field exercise designed to push your emergency preparedness skills to the limit and test your capabilities in diverse and demanding conditions. By setting up a station away from the comforts of home, you can significantly enhance your readiness for disasters and improve your operating skills in challenging environments.

The lessons learned during Winter Field Day and the ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles can be invaluable during unexpected emergencies. We aim to boost your confidence and make you a better operator during adverse conditions.

While the purpose of WFD is to practice our skills in unfavorable weather, safety must remain our top priority. We advise all operators to take extra care when working in extreme conditions. While many operators in the south enjoy mild weather, those in the north should exercise caution around snow and ice. Stay alert by monitoring weather forecasts for sudden changes and have a plan to relocate or cease operations if conditions become unsafe. These considerations are crucial for the effective planning and execution of your operations.

This year, we have issued a safety bulletin to reinforce these important reminders and to promote a culture of safety throughout the amateur radio community.

Please carefully review the event guidelines in this packet, and feel free to reach out via our website if you have any questions. As we embark on another year of the Winter Field Day exercise, we encourage you to use this event to hone your skills as an amateur radio operator. Above all, remember to enjoy Winter Field Day, stay safe, have fun, make new friends, and create lasting memories! We wish you the best of luck and eagerly anticipate hearing you on the air during this exciting event.

Sincerely,
WFDA

Notable changes for Winter Field Day 2025

- Event times have changed, and the event has been extended beyond 24 hours.
- Locations do not have to remain fixed during the entire event.
- Objectives (previously called bonuses) are now multipliers.
- Several objectives have been added.

Objective: WFD is a multi-objective event. The primary objective is to set up an amateur radio field station and successfully make multiple contacts. Successful participants are those who can set up their equipment and correctly log the designated exchange during the operational period explained below. All participants are encouraged to complete as many additional objectives as possible. After the event, submit a log of stations worked and any additional documentation.

Eligibility: All licensed amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate in the emergency communications exercise known as Winter Field Day.

Operational Period: Winter Field Day is held the last full weekend in January. For 2025, it will be held on January 25th and 26th. The 30-hour operational period starts at 1600 UTC on Saturday (11 am EST), the 25th, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 26th (4:59 pm EST). Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 16:00 UTC (11 pm EST) on the Friday before. However, cumulative set-up time shall not exceed 12 hours.

Location Restraints: A multi-station WFD operation must ensure all stations operating under a single call sign are located in the same physical area. All station equipment, including antennas, feed lines, and accessories used, must be located within a circular area whose diameter does not exceed 1,000 feet (300m). This 1,000 ft area does not have to remain constant throughout the event[1].

Exchange: The designated Winter Field Day exchange includes your call sign, a category number, a class identifier, and a location identifier.

Category: A number designated by the number of transceivers (stations) at your location that are capable of transmitting simultaneously. 1, 2, 3, etc. This means you have the people needed to operate the number of transmitters you choose. Include all HF, VHF, and UHF transceivers. Don't count a station if it must be left unattended while you make contacts on another. If you decide to operate a satellite station, the satellite station does not increase your category number.

Class: You must choose which class you will operate in. If you are operating as a group under one call sign, choose the class that applies to the majority of the stations at your field day site.

Class Options:

H - Home station: is defined as any station participating from inside their permanent livable residence.

I - Indoor station: is defined as any station operating away from Home but from inside an insulated, weather-protected building or structure on a permanent foundation. Indoor stations typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, and running water. Church, EOCs, a club shack, a cabin, and community centers are all examples of an Indoor station.

O - Outdoor station: Outdoor stations operate from a partly or fully exposed building or shelter that does not typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, or running water available. Operating from a picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies are all places that could be considered Outdoor. These are locations where you may have to provide your own heat source and/or protection from the elements.

M - Mobile / Mobile Stationary: These stations are defined as operations from a mobile or potentially mobile structure like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer, mobile EOC, ETC. These are operating positions that may offer some sort of built-in heating/cooling. Mobile Stations do not have to be mobile during the event. They are defined as having the ability to be mobile should it be necessary to move during the event. RVs and Cargo trailers with external antennas set up are still considered Mobile.

Location Identifier: US and Canadian stations will use the ARRL / RAC Section as designated by those organizations. Mexico stations will use MX, and all other stations outside of the US will use DX.

Additional Information: The goal is to copy and record the full exchange accurately. Your Category, Class, and Location Identifiers must remain the same throughout the whole event. If your location changes sections during the event, such as a long-haul trucker, your section is the first section you made a contact from. For example, if you are operating with two people using two transmitters from an RV in Arizona, your exchange would be 2M Arizona.

Signal reports and other additional information are not a required part of the exchange; however, it is encouraged to practice exchanging additional information, which may include- signal reports, county location, grid square, temperature, weather conditions, antenna configurations, etc. In an emergency, you may be asked to relay anything from a list of supplies to GPS coordinates. Collecting and correctly copying down this information is an important skill that should be practiced during Winter Field Day.

Bands: All Amateur bands may be used except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. To qualify as a band worked, at least one valid, two-way QSO must have taken place on the said band during the event.

Modes: All modes, CW, Phone, and Digital, may be used. Phone includes SSB, AM, FM, DMR, C4FM, etc. If the end result is voice, it's Phone. Digital includes PSK, RTTY, Olivia, Packet, SSTV, ATV, JS8Call, and other soundcard modes except for FT4 & FT8. If the end result is text or a picture, it's digital.

QSO Points: Phone contacts count as one point each, and all CW and digital modes count as two points each. You may only contact other field day stations a maximum of three times per band but only once per mode. So K4FUN may be contacted on 20m using Phone, CW, and digital for a total of five Points (one point for Phone, two points for CW, and two points for digital).

Objective & Multipliers: More than points, achieving objectives should be your primary goal during WFD, these objectives, combined with your own, should be your main focus during the exercise. As an incentive to focus on objectives, an Objective Multiplier (OM) has been assigned to each objective. To calculate an overall score, we will take your QSO Points and times them by your total OM. We will also record and track the percentage of objectives completed. A great way to see overall how you did from year to year.

Operate 100% on alternative power: Operate exclusively on alternative power, defined as any power source not connected to the commercial power grid. You may use generators, batteries, solar power, wind power, or anything else. All batteries, whether in use or charging, should only be recharged using alternative power. WFD stations should run all station equipment, accessories, or heaters from an alternate power source. Logging-only computers or lights are the exception, and they may be connected to the power grid or any power source available. If you use a laptop for digital modes, it should not be connected to the power grid but also be plugged into an alternative power source. **OM x1**

Operate away from home: Operating away from one is one of the main reasons for "Field Day." Do you have the ability to walk into any shelter, parking garage, hospital, or community center and set up a portable Amateur radio station? Now is the time to start planning what you will do if your home location is destroyed during an emergency. For this objective, set up your field station more than a ½ mile from your home. **OM x3**

Deploy multiple antennas: Deploy two or more antennas that have not been previously installed. Pre-installed antennas are defined as any antenna attached to anything that could be used day to day or was set up before the WFD set-up time. This includes home antennas, antennas installed on vehicles, cargo trailers, and RVs, or any other antenna that would be considered permanently installed. Pre-installed antennas do not count. You must deploy field antennas. This could be a dipole and a hex beam or an EFHW and a 2-meter J-pole. Any combination of antennas works. Multi-band antennas do not count as separate antennas. **OM x1**

Make an FM satellite contact[2]: Make at least 1 **FM** satellite contact during the operating period. Dedicated satellite transmitters do not count toward your Category number. Satellite contacts do not count towards your total QSO points. Only the multiplier applies. See the appendix below for more information on satellite contacts. **OM x2**

Make a SSB or CW satellite contact[2]: Make at least one contact using **SSB or CW**. Dedicated satellite transmitters do not count toward your Category number. Satellite contacts do not count towards your total QSO points. Only the multiplier applies. See the appendix below for more information on satellite contacts. **OM x3**

Send and receive at least one Winlink email: Winlink has proven useful during emergencies and is considered a digital mode. Because time stamps may be hours apart on emails, Winlink contacts do not count for total QSO points. Only the Multiplier applies. Successfully send and receive at least one Winlink email to achieve this objective. Winlink exchanges must leave your WFD site via RF. **OM x1**

Copy the Winter Field Day Special Bulletin: This year, in association with K6KPH, the WFDA board will broadcast a short bulletin during the WFD event. Accurately copy the message and submit your copy with your log submission to achieve this objective. The frequencies and times will be published on our website prior to the event. **OM x1**

Operate on at least six different bands: Conditions may change throughout an event. Operate at least six different bands during the operating period. You should be able to accomplish this objective by utilizing HF, VHF, and UHF frequencies. Don't forget about 1.25 meters (220)? It's an excellent band for local emergencies. **OM x6**

Use multiple modes: Increase your versatility by using multiple modes during the event, such as phone and CW, CW and digital, or Phone and digital. **OM x2**

Operate the event QRP: Operating on QRP, means every station in your Winter Field Day operation is using 10 watts or less on Phone or 5 watts or less on CW or Digital for the entire time you choose to operate during the event. **OM x4**

Operate six continuous hours during the event: Emergencies may last days or even weeks. You may be expected to man a radio station between 4-12 hours if you are operating alone or in shifts. Can you sit and operate for extended periods of time with enough backup power? This does not necessarily mean you are making contacts the whole time, but you are in front of the radio, monitoring and ready to pick up a microphone if you are called. **OM x2**

When you submit your log, we will ask you to select your completed objectives. For those who like to track your points, the total points formula is: Total number of QSO points X the Total Objective Multiplier.

Miscellaneous Statements:

- All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.
- All rules governing amateur radio at your location must be observed throughout the event.
- All participants submitting a single entry must be using one callsign.
- Entrants may not count for QSO credit any contact with anyone who is or was a participant in their WFD operation or is present at their WFD location.
- During the event, spotting clusters, the RBN, APRS, and Winlink will may be used as long as the originating transmission is sent out via RF.
- QSOs may be solicited during the event only over RF.
- Cross-band contacts are not permitted (satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).
- No repeater contacts are allowed, including DMR or YSF-type modes that may be transmitted through a repeater or hotspot on the receiving end.
- Multiple transmitters are not allowed to operate on the same band-mode simultaneously.
- Any mode used must be able to fully transmit the exchange intact and must be able to pass additional information.

Certificates & Log Submission: A downloadable certificate will be available after the event. To receive a certificate, all logs must be submitted on our website by filling in the form and uploading a Cabrillo log or ADIF file containing the proper exchange data. Logs must be submitted by 11:59 UTC on March 1st to be considered. Late entries cannot be accepted. If you find an error in your log after submitting, correct your log and resubmit. The corrected version will replace the original you submitted.

You must submit your entries, which will include your log and any supporting documents, at www.winterfieldday.org

Once you click "submit a log," you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to download your certificate. If you participated as a club, only the call sign used during the event and submitted on the form will appear on the certificate.

Appendix

[1] Safety, weather, or other elements may require you to relocate during an emergency. We allow this during the WFD activity as well. You could, in theory, operate from one location for a set amount of time, then tear down and move the whole operation to another location, say from a state park to a school parking lot across town. Just note that your exchange must remain the same even if you are located in different ARRL/RAC sections or states. You must use the same exchange throughout the entire event!

[2] Satellite QSOs do not count as a regular QSOs credit. Adding a satellite transmitter station does not increase or count toward the number of transmitters used to decide your category. A simple CQ is sufficient. The designated WFD exchange does not and should not be used. Satellite QSOs follow a different protocol. You should be prepared to give a signal report and your Grid Square to the other station. The other station will likely not be a WFD participant and will want a confirmation of the contact afterward. Please be considerate and comply.

The following format is provided as an example of a Cabrillo log. We do not use most of the information in the Cabrillo log; we only pull the actual log out of that file. Therefore, we can also accept a simple ADIF file. Just answer the questions on the website and upload the ADIF file.

Cabrillo Formatting Example

Notes: There MUST be at LEAST one space between fields. Each line in the log must end with a carriage return and line feed. There must be at least one space following a colon in a line. The frequency for HF must be in kilohertz rounded to the nearest kilohertz. 3753 is fine, 3753.20 is not. Frequencies above 50 MHz are specified as the band. Examples: 50, 70, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1.2G, 2.3G, 3.4G, 5.7G, 10G, 24G, etc.

The mode should be one of the valid Cabrillo modes. CW, PH, FM, RY, DG. It is preferred that you use RY or DG.

If your logging software is NOT connected to your radio, any in-band frequency is fine. The dates and times need to be in UTC and do not need to be exactly accurate.

Additional notes in the soapbox area are unnecessary and can be left blank. We will send you a link where you can leave comments. All comments are reviewed by the team after the event and used to improve the event for next year.

The callsign in the file name for the log MUST be the same as the callsign USED in the event. If your event call is N8LOG, make sure your file name is N8LOG.log or N8LOG.txt

The main body **must** follow this format:

START-OF-LOG: 3.0
LOCATION: WTX (Arrl Section) or MX or DX
CALLSIGN: N8LOG
CLUB: K4ARC - Riverdale ARC
CONTEST: WFD
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP or MULTI-OP (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: ASSISTED or NON-ASSITED (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-MODE: MIXED (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-POWER: HIGH or LOW (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED or MOBILE (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE or TWO or UNLIMTED (can be either; we do not use this data for WFD)
CLAIMED-SCORE: xxxx (your calculated total score, including multipliers)
OPERATORS: W1CALL, W2CALL, W3CALL, (operators present at your event)
NAME: Mike Smith (contact person)
ADDRESS : 123 Main Street
ADDRESS-CITY: Anytown
ADDRESS-STATE: TN
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: 13791
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: USA
X-EXCHANGE: 2M
SOAPBOX: please leave blank (a link to post comments will be in your submission confirmation email)
EMAIL: mike@fakemail.com
QSO: 3750 PH 2025-01-25 1911 N8LOG 1O OH WB9X 2H IL
QSO: 14070 DG 2025-01-25 2131 N8LOG 1O OH K6XXX 14I LA
END-OF-LOG: (add a space after the colon)

Event Summary

Call sign used during WFD _____ Location identifier _____

Point Multipliers

Objective	Multiplier
☐ Operate 100% on alternative Power	1
☐ Operate away from home	3
☐ Deploy multiple antennas	1
☐ Make a satellite contact using FM	2
☐ Make a satellite contact using SSB or CW	3
☐ Send and receive at least one Winlink email	1
☐ Copy the Winter Field Day Special Bulletin	1
☐ Operate on at least six different bands	6
☐ Use multiple modes	2
☐ Operate the event QRP	4
☐ Operate six continuous hours during the event	2

Your objective multiplier number (OM#) _____
(out of a possible 26)

Point Totals

Number of phone contacts _____ x 1=_____ points

Number of CW & digital contacts _____ x 2=_____ points

_____
Total QSO Points

Final Points

_____ x _____ = _____
Total QSO Points x (OM#) = Total Points