

FIELD DAY

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday.

Field Day is a large scale emergency preparedness exercise where Amateur Radio operators from the United States and Canada set up and operate portable stations using emergency power and try to maintain reliable communications by contacting as many other amateur stations as possible during the 24 hour period. This is done in order to test our equipment, ourselves and to improve our operating skills. Operating under improvised field conditions and independent of commercial power to try and simulate somewhat of an emergency situation.

Field Day is open to all, amateur or not, using any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands), and using as many modes of radio communications as possible. Besides the training aspect of Field Day it is also to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

There is something at Field Day for everyone. Whether your interest lies in learning how to set up a portable or emergency station, how to operate HF, satellites operations, digital modes, CW, or just socializing with other hams. Field Day is the place to get it all at once in one weekend. Field Day is "the most fun you can have with ham radio" in one day.

Another nice part about Field Day for the Novice or Technician class operators or operators without a station of their own is a chance to get on the air or get on the air out of the restriction of their current license class. The Field Day use of the High Frequency bands that offers a taste of DX'ing to the Novice and Technician operator. Also, you may get to operate a mode(s) that you have not tried or given a thought about before.

Field Day first came about during the 1930's and had been evolving ever since. To make it a bit of fun and to help classify the stations a contest has been devised. Stations earn points for each contact made. Stations are classified by the number transmitters on the air and the type of Field Day operations.

CLASS A – Club / Non-Club Portable

CLASS A – Battery - Club / Non-Club Portable

CLASS B – Club / Non-Club Portable 1 or 2 operators

CLASS C – Mobile

CLASS D – Home – Commercial Power

CLASS E – Home – Emergency Power

CLASS F – Emergency Operation Center

We be using the club call W6LIE and will probably be running something like 5A or 6A.

For the complete rules of Field Day and other information about Field Day you can go to the following link:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/fd.html>

Everyone is invited to join us for Field Day. Even if you do not belong to the club or you do not have a license you can participate. We will provide a tour of the site and if you are interested we will show you everything that you need to know to get you on the air. Now is the time to see what Amateur Radio and Field Day is all about.

The W6LIE Field Day operation will be held on the lawn at College Park, Panorama Dr. and Mt. Vernon Ave. across the street from Bakersfield College and next to the County Communication Center.

