



# FIELD DAY 2002



From the archives of the W8VPV Poetry Depreciation Society comes this little ditty:

Spring has sprung  
The grass has riz  
Wanna know  
When Field Day is?  
June 22, 23

You were expecting maybe Burma-Shave?

Yes, folks, Field Day is THIS MONTH, and we're hoping to have another great weekend. Several members of CFARC have been working diligently since Winter to put together an activity that will be fun, easy to set up and tear down, test our preparedness in the field AND give everyone who wants, the opportunity to operate in this, the "granddaddy" of ham radio activities. Accompanied by breakfast, coffee and donuts, pop, and snacks, this group has been lining up equipment and supplies, mapping out the Silver Springs Groundhog Hill site and putting together some operating schedule formats. All we need is YOU! All of this preparation will be for naught if we don't have operators on site for the competition.

So, here's the scam: W8VPV will be operating 6A this year, which means 6 competition rigs PLUS the GOTA (Get On The Air) station and the VHF station - giving us 8 stations to operate for the 24 hour period. We can use the following people types: setter-uppers, tearer-downers, phone operators, CW operators (remember CW contacts are worth double points), loggers, control operators, hangers-on, cooks, eaters, warm bodies; in short anyone with a ham ticket or who has an abiding interest in ham radio. The schedule looks like this:

- Wednesday, June 12 – CFARC Meeting (*Learn about "TR" the contest software and other things we do at Field Day*)
- Friday, June 21, set-up at Silver Springs starting about 4:00 but getting serious around 5:30 PM
- Saturday, June 22, complete set-up and start contest at 2:00 PM
- Sunday, June 23, finish contest at 2:00 PM, picnic lunch followed by tear-down

## **COME ON OUT AND BE PART OF FIELD DAY 2002!!**

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The next three pages are the operating procedures and guidelines for Field Day 2002. These are to stress certain operating procedures and give you some tips on how to operate. The procedures are things you MUST follow, the guidelines are helpful pointers.

# CFARC Field Day 2002 Operating Procedures and Guidelines

In the past there have been no formal procedures or guidelines for Field Day at CFARC. The **Procedures** here change that and provide everyone with clear instructions on how to properly operate a station during Field Day. The **Guidelines** give general information and operating tips that will help make the Field Day experience an enjoyable one for everybody. The Procedures are to be followed without variance. The Guidelines are here to help point you in the right direction.

There will always be a designated Field Day operations manager at any given time. Contact this person with any questions or problems that need to be resolved.

## Procedures

1. All stations (except the GOTA station) will use the callsign W8VPV during Field Day operations only. If you are testing the station before or after Field Day use your own callsign.
2. Always use the standard phonetics: Whisky Eight Victor Papa Victor
3. UTC is the ONLY time used for all Field Day operations. Logging computers will automatically show the UTC time even their own clocks are set to local time.
4. A log of station operators and control operators is to be kept with each station. Record the date, time (in UTC), name, callsign and license class of the station operator and control operator.
5. You MUST operate within the license restrictions of the control operator. If your control operator holds a General class license then you must operate only within the General class portions of your band. We will try to be sure there is always an Extra class control operator. Remember, the control operator MUST BE PRESENT AT YOUR STATION.
6. Stay away from the band edges! Maintain at least 3 KHz away from the top of your band range for upper sideband (20 meters and above) and 3 KHz away from the bottom of your band range for lower sideband (40 meters and below). It's not worth an O-O report to make one contact.
7. You may NOT operate outside of the assigned bands and modes for your station. Doing so violates the Field Day rules as it would likely put multiple stations on the same band. Rare exceptions may be approved by the current Field Day Operations Manager.

## Guidelines

1. Field Day is supposed to be a demonstration of how we can set up a field station for emergency communications. It's also supposed to be FUN. We're not out to "win at any cost" but we are striving to do better than last year. It's good to score high but not at the expense of safety or other concerns.
2. Field Day is also about learning. It is an ideal way for people who have had little or no "contest" experience to get their feet wet. This is of course the main focus of the GOTA station but any station can provide this capability. You don't have to hold an HF capable license to operate as long as your control operator does have the appropriate privileges.
3. Don't wear yourself out by operating too much. There is either someone else to take over or the station can sit idle for a while. It is of course better to find someone who can operate for a while

but your own health and safety should come first. Also keep in mind that after Field Day is technically "over", we still have a bunch of antennas to take down and stow away.

4. Be sure you know how to use the equipment. If you're not sure, ask for help.
5. There are two ways to operate a station: "Run" and "Search and Pounce". A "Run" station will stay on one frequency and call CQ soliciting calls from other stations. A "Search and Pounce" station will hunt around the band looking for other stations to call. There is no doubt that a "Run" station will make more contacts but operating one is a bit more demanding than operating in "Search and Pounce" mode. If you have never (or rarely) operated as a "Run" station you should visit the 40 meter station (either SSB or CW) and watch how it's done. A little observing from behind the logging computer will let you get the hang of it. Ideally all of our stations should be "Run" stations but that isn't practical.
6. SSB "Run Station" hints:
  - A. If you haven't done a "Run Station" before, Field Day is an excellent opportunity to watch one in action.
  - B. Try to find a clear frequency (not always easy). Nearby QRM will make it impossible to operate a "Run Station" for any period of time. You'll get a headache just listening to the QRM.
  - C. Call "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is Whisky Eight Victor Papa Victor, Whiskey Eight Victor Papa Victor, CQ Field Day" with about a 10 second gap between calls.
  - D. After you answer a call use move on with "Whisky Eight Victor Papa Victor Q R Zed". This turns it around to the next caller quickly and keeps things moving quickly. It also keeps in FCC rule compliance by ending the QSO with our callsign. If you don't get a response, go back to the usual CQ call.
  - E. DO NOT respond to the people who try to interfere with you. I remember last year having someone calling right on our frequency "CQ Field Mice" just to interfere. They of course did not identify their station. The only correct response is NO response. Do not acknowledge them - they're just juveniles who are looking for attention.
  - F. Stand firm on your frequency once you establish it. It's yours until you abandon it. If someone else tries to take over your frequency you can start by telling them the frequency is in use. If they ignore you, ignore them and continue your CQ call. For a time, neither of you may get anywhere but the way to fight this type of intrusion is to outlast the intruder.
  - G. Ignore callers who repeatedly re-call you. After you've told the station a couple of times that they're a dupe IGNORE them. This is another tactic to try and take over your frequency.
  - H. If you're operating with a beam antenna, have your antenna "follow the sun". Start out to the east and work your way though south to the west.
7. SSB "Search and Pounce" station hints:
  - A. Start at one end of the band and work your way towards the opposite end. Once you reach that end go back to your starting point and do it again. For example, on 20 meters you might start at 14.347 (notice 3 KHz down from the actual high end) and work down towards 14.150 (or 14.225 if your control operator only has General privileges). Don't go below 14.150 even though you may hear someone down there. Canadian stations in particular are permitted in that part of the band but US stations are NOT.
  - B. All you need is the Field Day callsign: Whisky Eight Victor Papa Victor. ALWAYS use the phonetics no matter how strong the signal is. Everybody is expecting them and it eliminates most mistakes.

- C. While you're picking up the other station's callsign try to get a sense for how they are operating. Some just say "thank you" and expect more calls. Others use "QRZ". Sometimes they do the full CQ call after every contact. What you are looking for is what is the right time for you to put out your call.
- D. If you can't get the station's callsign within 2 or 3 other contacts, move on. Some stations only give their callsigns infrequently and others don't give it as a tactic to clear a pileup. In either case it's better to move on to the next one that you can work quickly.
- E. Try the call just a few times. If you don't get through on 4 or 5 tries move on down the band. It's important to keep working stations, not specific stations. There are no multipliers in Field Day so no one station is any more important than another.
- F. If you have trouble picking out the station because of another nearby station, move on. It's not worth it if you have to ask over and over for your report because you can't hear the station.
- G. Timing can be everything. If you delay your call for a second or two you can sometimes be the last one still talking at the end of the "mess". The other station may come back with "the station ending Papa Victor please". That's your signal to come back with the complete callsign again ONLY. Don't try to do the report too, just the callsign.
- H. Once the station acknowledges your callsign (and has it right) then send them the exchange "Thank you, we are six alpha Ohio" (or "QSL, we are six alpha Ohio"). They should acknowledge that and send you their report at that time. You probably already know that anyway but if you miss it just wait for the next contact if you miss it. If the station has trouble with Ohio, use "Oscar Hotel".

#### 8. Logging hints:

- A. It helps a LOT if you can type. One finger keying where you have to look at the keyboard to see what you are doing will slow you down too much. If you can't do this, then you are best suited to operating.
- B. The operator and logger must BOTH be able to see the screen. If you type something different from what the operator heard, then he must clarify the callsign. The setup for the 15/75 SSB station last year was perfect - a separate monitor on a stand that sat above the transceiver.
- C. Headphones for both the operator and logger are best but an easily heard speaker is OK too.
- D. Become familiar with the logging program, TR, before you have to actually use it. Practice copies are available for anyone who wants one. We will also be doing a program at one of the meetings before Field Day on how to use TR.
- E. Help out the operator by alerting them when TR shows the contact as a DUPE (duplicate).
- F. If things go wrong and you're not sure what to do - STOP and call for help. We don't want any disasters that could lead to the loss of the logs.

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Remember:

Field Day is also supposed to be FUN!

