

A special Field Day 2020 in confinement in Quebec

Due to the pandemic, the Club Radio Amateur de Québec (CRAQ) was unable to operate a temporary stand-alone station as it does every year. So there is no entry for the callsign VE2CQ this year but the club members were active during the Field Day.

It's under the theme "All together, everyone at home!" that the CRAQ coordinated the Field Day 2020, promoting the individual operation of its members in class D or E as suggested by the ARRL. To create a club experience while operating individually, the CRAQ has innovated by making available a meeting website based on a free video conferencing platform. This "[Field Day Virtual site](#)" helped recreate the synergy that is usually found between attendees and visitors at the Field Day location.

The screenshot shows the main menu of the virtual Field Day 2020 website for the CRAQ. At the top left is the CRAQ logo, a yellow triangle with 'CRAQ' and '1954-2020' written on it. The title is 'Menu principal' and the subtitle is 'Site virtuel du Field Day 2020 du Club radio amateur de Québec'. A message states 'Le Field Day 2020 est terminé! Merci à tous les visiteurs et participants!'. Below this is a welcome message: 'Bienvenue Gaétan Trépanier!'. The menu consists of several buttons and sections:

- Plateforme de conférence vidéo**: Visitez les différents opérateurs dans leur "shack" pendant qu'ils s'installent et opèrent en plus d'échanger avec les autres visiteurs dans les aires communes.
- Visiteur officiel du Field Day (invité spécial)**: Si vous avez reçu une invitation spéciale pour visiter le Field Day du CRAQ, utilisez ce lien pour nous faire part de votre arrivée.
- Certificat de présence au Field Day**: Obtenez et imprimez votre certificat de présence au Field Day 2020 afin de commémorer votre visite lors de cette édition hors du commun.
- Résultats en temps réel**: Suivez la progression en temps réel des opérateurs qui partagent leurs résultats avec la plateforme.
- Livre de bord du Field Day (Log book)**: Il est coutume pour les visiteurs du Field Day de signer le livre de bord (Log Book). Cette édition n'échappe pas à cette tradition et vous permet de le signer encore cette année, virtuellement.
- Changement de mot de passe**
- Déconnexion**

On the right side, there are additional sections:

- Audio des répéteurs du club**: Includes buttons for VE2ROR, VE2RQTC, VE2RFJ, and MASQUER. Credit: Gracieuseté de Broadcastify.
- Diffusion en direct des activités du Field Day**: A black box with the text 'La diffusion n'est pas encore débutée.' and a 'Détacher' button.
- Connectez-vous sur le serveur Discord du Club radio amateur de Québec!**: Includes the Discord logo and the text 'DISCORD'. Below it: 'Discord est une application de communication texte/voix/vidéo versatile et gratuite.'
- Suivez nos médias sociaux**: Includes logos for Facebook and YouTube.

Club Radio Amateur de Québec inc. (C.R.A.Q.) <https://craq.club>

Thus, several participants broadcast images of their operations and visitors were able to move virtually to each of the participants and follow their operations live. This year, the deployment of temporary communications facilities has therefore been replaced by the connection of regular amateur radio stations to the video conference platform set up specifically for this event by one of our members.



Social media coverage was provided for the duration of the Field Day. Several posts were made on Twitter and Facebook to invite people to come visit us virtually. More than 13 hours of video presenting the activities of the CRAQ's Field Day operations are available on the YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/ve2cq> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ve2cq> of the CRAQ.

Our Field Day virtual site included a logbook to be signed virtually and a table compiling in real time the results transmitted by the N1MM software of each of the participants.

To underline the special character of the Field Day 2020 in confinement, visitors could download a souvenir certificate and certificates of participation will be given to all those who actively participated in the realization of this event.

The platform set up for the Field Day demonstrated several advantages for holding technical workshops and supporting those who want to learn about different technologies, all from the comfort of their own amateur radio station.

We really enjoyed this experience that made us innovate to be in the spirit of the Field Day as a club, even if we were operating from individual stations at home.

73's!

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