

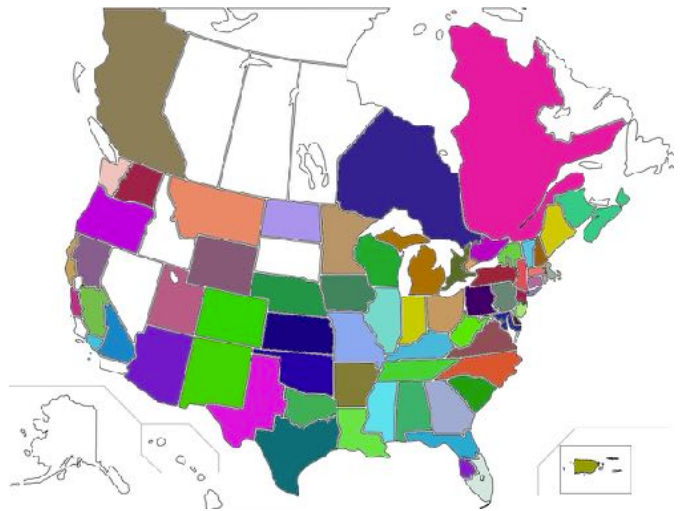
W8D Field Day 2022

Some in the Park, Some in the ARC

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While the Delaware (Ohio) Amateur Radio Association (DELARA) sponsors a great Field Day, some members decided to go out on their own for 2022. The club places at or near the top of 4F (or 4A in years past) operating as K8ES, and everyone has a great time. Of course, the K8ES folks have their share of CW, digital, and phone ops who operate the entire 24 hour period. DELARA members take advantage of the Red Cross ARC air conditioning and have access to a kitchen, GOTA room, break room, and permanent antennas that provide coverage from 160m all the way up to the 2.4 GHz MESH network. The shack is a great reason to join the club - folks can walk in any time to use the equipment, or remote in to it. DELARA is a GREAT club.



Who needs Air Conditioning (AC) or power (AC)! Rather than going to the EOC operate 4F/OH, K8MEJ, N8QL, and N4HAI decided to go back to the woods. We got permission from the township to use a park that the club perviously operated from before setting up at the Red Cross. Mind you.. this was a park, not a campsite with electric or any other service. Was it close to home? Yes. Could we have left camp to get additional supplies? Or to take a shower? Yes. But we didn't. We wanted to do Field Day in the field! Full disclosure: we ordered pizza on Friday night with instructions: "drive to the back of the park and look for a camper". Yes, she got a nice tip!

Ops

Our operation was simple: two radios, three "core" operators, three antennas. A couple years ago, K8MEJ and N4HAI invested in Low Band Systems filters and triplexers - we did pretty well in a couple Ohio QSO Party contests and a couple Field Days. We realized that Ed's DXCommander, the LBS filters, and the triplexers did the job quite nicely! We used the band filters all the time, even if we weren't sharing an antenna. We had no QRM between stations using the filters... something that a lot of FD operations have dealt with in the past. We had a couple guest ops show up to operate W8D and one who operated, but then used his own gear the antennas we set up - it was interesting to hear QRM because he didn't go through a filter. We all learned something that day!

The following operators worked at least one QSO running as W8D during FD2022: N4HAI, N8QL, K8MEJ, K8MP, KD8YGZ, W8OGF, W8MDC, KE8TTJ, AD8FY. KE8TTJ ran some 1A while on site, too.



Equipment

We learned that having good equipment makes Field Day more enjoyable. Do you need fancy radios and filters? No. But it gave us a QRM free weekend (for the most part)

- N3FJP logging software (running on MacBook Pros!)
- Network: Starlink providing local WiFi and 100Mbps internet
- Elecraft K3 / P3 pandapter / MFJ 949E tuner
- Icom IC 7300 (with built-in pandapter and tuner)
- Low Band Systems 80/40/20 Triplexer with matching filters
- Low Band Systems 20/15/10 Triplexer with matching filters
- SuperAntenna Beam (20-6m, but only on 20)
- DXCommander Vertical (80 inverted L, 40, 20)
- EFHW (80-10)
- Battery power from the camper



Power

As for power.. we were in a park, and wanted to operate 2A, which requires emergency power. We used Ed's 2kW solar / 15kWh battery system in his camper. We got occasional breaks relaxing in the AC inside the camper, but we also ran the radios from AC power supplies fed from the battery system. We couldn't hook up to commercial power, yet we were able to store food in the refrigerator in the camper!

Mistakes

We made some mistakes.

- GOTA: We assumed that we didn't need a GOTA station. We were wrong. Not only did we have lots of folks asking questions from the walking path, we had at least a half dozen guest operators show up because they saw our announcement on the ARRL Field Day Locator.
- Power supplies - test everything and take backups.
- Equipment - have a backup - even if it's the HF rig in your car.
- Check band conditions and QSY
- Make sure everyone knows how to use logging software. N3FJP was AWESOME, but configuring the app on site wasn't as easy as it was in the shack! Yes, we'll use N3FJP again



Accommodations

The three ops who were on site the entire weekend stayed in a camper and in tents. Looking back on it, so little time was spent in the tent, maybe it wasn't worth setting it up. Lessons



Learned

We learned all of these “the hard way”

- Do not use a 1x1 call. There were too many AGN? responses
- Next time, set up a GOTA station.
- Test everything before FD; we had some AC power supply issues
- Have more lighting at night
- Do we really need to set up tents?
- Have backup radios ready to go (not that it was an issue this time)
- Make sure everyone knows how to use logging software

LoTW

We uploaded our scores to LoTW and are pretty happy that so many stations QSL'd. More QSLs are bound to arrive after this article is published!

Your Logbook WAS Account (W8D FD 2022)				
Account Status				
WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
Misc	34	0	0	34
30M	9	0	0	9
40M	24	0	0	24
20M	21	0	0	21
CW	28	0	0	28
Phone	17	0	0	17
80M Phone	6	0	0	6
80M CW	4	0	0	4
40M Phone	9	0	0	9
40M CW	21	0	0	21
20M Phone	9	0	0	9
20M CW	18	0	0	18
Triple Play	45	0	0	45
S. Base	54	0	0	54

Score Summary

Here are some stats:

- CW QSOs: 368
- PH QSOs: 269
- Extra points: other than digital submission and operating in a public place... ZERO. We didn't even copy the ARRL message!

Next Field Day

There are some things we will do during FD2023

- Copy the ARRL message
- Operate from a park or campground
- QSY more
- Experiment with antennas
- Monitor the repeater and 146.52
- Print some QSL cards with a picture of the actual site to give out
- Have a safety officer / photographer
- Share a spreadsheet on line with checklists