

“What’s all this hype about Field Day? What goes on and how do I fit in?”

For those of you who are new to Ham Radio and don't know what Field Day is, it's a multi-purpose activity with something for everyone to do. It's an exercise in emergency communications (we use portable antenna's with a generator and solar panels/batteries to power the radios), it's a contest, it's an opportunity for HAM's (and non-HAM's) to get on the air on HF (even if you don't have a General ticket), and a place for learning and socializing. The food's pretty good too!

The following is a reprint from page 2 of the ARRL's 2009 Field Day Packet...it pretty well sum's it up:

Field Day... For the Fun of It!

We all became hams for our own reasons. Some of us were interested in public service and helping others in times of need. Many discovered the hobby as an outlet to their curiosity about electronics and communications. Still others joined our ranks because of the quest to meet new people and expand their own personal bank of knowledge. Whatever the reason you became an amateur, there is one compelling thread that brought us all together in this fraternity of amateur radio. It is as simple as can be:

We became hams for the FUN of the hobby!

*And while it serves a wide array of interests and purposes, there is no greater FUN-damental goal for Field Day than to **HAVE FUN!** While it encompasses a broad range of amateur radio interests – CW, Phone, Digital, emergency preparedness, public service, satellites, recruitment, antennas, new and vintage equipment, and so many more – Field Day is, above all else, a chance for us to have some fun with our hobby. After all, while it is a regulated service and there are serious aspects to our use of the bands, the true "amateur spirit" of our hobby (defined by Paul Segal, W9EEA, back in 1928 in "**The Amateur's Code**") is found in "slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others."*

Fun is where YOU find it in this hobby. Some will discover the fun by operating overnight building up their club's total number of **QSOs**. Others will never make a single Field Day contact but will derive their fun by helping set-up **antennas, generators and solar power systems**. The joy of sharing your radio **knowledge** to a newcomer will be fun for many old-timers while other old-timers will experience the "Field Day high" when they make their very first QSO using a new **digital mode** or via one of the amateur radio **satellites**. The camaraderie of the annual club Field Day **picnic** covered dish supper will be a fun highlight for many, while still others will find the joy in the hobby by simply being able to spend a couple of hours from home on an otherwise busy weekend tuning the bands and making a few contacts. Test your skills and limits. But what ever you do, remember the first and most important element of Field Day is **HAVE SOME FUN!**

Whether you're planning on spending time on the radio or not, I hope you're able to spend some time with us at Field Day this year.

73,

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