



DFARG Signal

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Helpful Field Day Tips



Always keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher by the generator. Never fuel a running generator.

Here are some helpful hints that ought to help to plan and set up for a Field Day operation. Although every Field Day setup is different, and everyone has a different way of doing things, these tips should at least point you in the right direction.

Safety Tips

More people are killed by contact with regular 120-V line service than by any other voltage. The voltages in many power supplies can be lethal! Don't take any chances! Ground anything and everything. Never use "three-prong" adapters to connect your equipment to your power source. Remember, the power coming out of your generator is as lethal as the AC plugs at home!

Watch out for overhead power lines! Make certain they are at least twice the height of any antenna's height in distance away: an antenna 50' high should be at least 100' from any overhead line, for example.

Never smoke around a generator. Keep the fuel in a separate place away from the hot generator. **Generators should always be kept outdoors in an area with good air circulation.**

Watch out for lightning!

Storms can develop and move quickly. At the first sign of a storm, disconnect all antennas from the rigs, shut down the generators, and head for shelter.

Setup

Check out your operating site ahead of time. Avoid confusion on Field Day by preparing a work plan. You'll want to determine where antenna, power sources, and operating positions should be placed. Coordinate in advance the order for each task. Make sure that all essential items will be on hand when they are needed. Don't forget the essential creature comforts, such as trash cans, toilet paper, flashlights,

bug spray, first aid kit, etc. Nothing can kill the Field Day enthusiasm faster than not having sufficient help to set-up and tear-down the site. Sign up your volunteers early. Be proactive in soliciting volunteers. **Don't just say "we need help." Personally invite individuals to participate (i.e. "Pete I could really use your help as the 10meter Phone band captain.)**

Give everyone something to do. Newer hams can do 2-meter talk-ins, help operate a GOTA station, or help assemble antennas – but also spend time with them, Elmering them through some on-the-air contacts at the main station. The more people are involved, the better time you will all have. This is a great chance to give some of your newer hams some practical experience. Do what it takes to get the new hams ON THE AIR - after all, Field Day is a great opportunity for new hams to learn how to operate!

Operating

Keep an ever-constant eye on 10 and 6 meters. If those bands open up, you should have lots of stations to work. If the band is quiet, don't assume that it's dead.

Throw out a CQ or try to stir up interest. Everyone else could be listening, too! Remember: all licensed amateurs have some type of HF-operating privileges on 10-meters and almost all have 6-meter privileges.

Don't ignore one mode for another. Many groups have concentrated on CW only to miss out on some easy Phone contacts, and vice versa. Digital modes are the fastest growing area of Field Day contacts. Always keep in mind that every contact counts, no matter what the mode.

Read the rules very carefully. Look over the bonus points available. A number of these could be relatively easy to earn. If your club has any traffic handlers, they could easily help you earn the message bonus. Copy the W1AW bulletin! This is an easy 100 points. W1AW and K6KPH come on the air several times each day to give you an extra chance to copy the message. Remember! Every 100 bonus points you earn are that many QSOs you wouldn't need to make to have the same score.

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Hamfests	2
Club Badge Update	2
Local Net Schedule	2
Upcoming Contests	3
Last Month's Meeting Minutes	3

Don't forget our next meeting! May 16th at 7:00 PM at the shack in Little Mountain.

Club Badge Update

Due to an issue with timing, the DFARG name tags will not be ready in time for the May meeting, but will be available at the June meeting.

Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

- 05/25/2019 | DurHamFest
Location: Durham, NC
- 06/01/2019 | Georgia Section Convention, Atlanta Hamfest
Location: Marietta, GA
- 06/15/2019 | Knoxville Hamfest
Location: Knoxville, TN
- 07/06/2019 | 34th Annual Firecracker Hamfest
Location: Salisbury, NC
- 07/20/2019 | Mid-Summer SWAPFEST
Location: Cary, NC
- 07/27/2019 | WCARS Hamfest 2019
Location: Waynesville, NC

Midlands Net Schedule

There is a net on the air somewhere in the Midlands almost every day

Band	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2m repeater	CARC 2030 146.360 RARC After simplex 147.225	KCARC 2000 146.775	SARA 1900 147.015	CARC 2030 146.360	CC-ARES 1930 146.670 GARS 2100 146.165		
2m simplex	RARC 2100 146.550			CARC 2000 146.400			
HF							RARC First Saturday of month 2100 3.959

Legend:

CARC: Columbia Amateur Radio Club
SARA: Sumter Amateur Radio Association
RARC: Ridge Amateur Radio Club (Batesburg-Leesville)

KCARC: Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club
GARS: Greenwood Amateur Radio Society
DFARG: Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group

Upcoming Contests

June 2019

8-10 ARRL June VHF
15 ARRL Kids Day
22-23 ARRL Field Day

July 2019

13-14 IARU HF World Championship

April Meeting Minutes

1. David Graham, President of DFARG, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Our guest speakers were a father/Son team named Roger & Tripp Williamson. They are from the Ridge Amateur Radio Club. Their topic was how to properly solder a PL-259 Connector onto a good grade Coax cable. They had a U-tube video that was played for the membership. Also, they had a handout detailing the 8 steps displayed on the video as well. The handout will be attached to the end of the minutes. They also covered the tools used to made the connection to include the proper soldering iron (60 Watt, flat blade), and special tool to cut and strip the coax to accept the connector (their preference is the Amphenol brand), Kester 44 flux, and denatured alcohol to clean the excess flux from the connector. Having made a few connections, their approach was different and appeared very sound and easy to do. Very interesting briefing and concise and to the point, Well received by the membership.

3. The Secretary's Report for March was read and approved by the membership without correction.

4. Hugh gave his Treasurer's report:

Beginning balance:	\$1750.70
Income:	+73.93
Gas bill:	-16.93
Final balance:	\$1807.44

5. Jack gave us an update on the status of all our antennas feeding the shack. Basically, the problem was isolated to the feedthrough where all the coax enters the building. Jack and John Miller were able to find the problem rather quickly and get us back online. The culprits were probably squirrels chewing on the coax. Steel wool have been stuffed into the PVC feed though to prevent any future access to the building. Our two TS-590's are on the air and ready for use. Station three still needs a little work. The large radio has received two new output tubes, but the radio output is only 40 watts. Still some work to do on this unit. Also, the little radio need a speaker to put it back on the air. Little urgency since this station had little to no use in the past. Jack is still work on these two radios.

6. The Shack camera system will receive some upgrades in the com-

ing months. We may add an additional camera with the intent to allow members to take a peak at what is happening at the Shack. The long term goal is to be able to stream club meetings so members can see what is going on if they are unable to attend a meeting. We will investigate the cost of a streaming service. It is unlikely that multiple simultaneous connections can be made to the DFARG dvr.

7. Tripp volunteered to help with the camera hook-up, as well as the 65" TV we are contemplating buying.

8. . Hugh has been researching the best TV deal for our Shack. Best Buy has a 65" smart TV for \$499.98 plus tax. A motion was made and seconded, and all were in favor of buying it. So Hugh will go purchase it for the front wall at the Shack.

9. Charlie Brown gave a quick update of the work he has been doing on the newsletter and Web Page. They both are a work in progress. Also, he mentioned that we only have a couple more monthly meeting to ready for the Summer Field Day. So, it behooves us to begin our planning phase at the next meeting in May if we are planning to participate.

10. The meeting was adjourned at around 9:00PM.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.W4DFG.ORG
