ARRL Field Day 2025

June 28 – 29, 2025
Clearwater Fire Training Center

What is ARRL Field Day?

- Setup temporary antennas and radios in field
- Goal is to make as many contacts as possible
- Introduce ham radio to others
- Have fun

Joint Exercise

- CARS, SPARC and UPARC
- Sponsored by ARRL
- Rules and other info:
- https://www.arrl.org/field-day

Details

- Setup begins
  - Saturday June 28, 2025 @ 8 AM
- Operating Period
  - Start: Saturday June 28th @ 2:00 PM
  - Finish: Sunday June 29th @ 2:00 PM
- Location
  - Clearwater Fire Training Center
  - 1700 N Belcher Road (south of Sunset Point Road).

Distances to FD Site

- Club Station – 10.5 mi
- Lealman – 14 miles
- 38th Ave N and 4th St – 18.3 miles
- Downtown St. Pete – 20.2 miles
- Madeira Beach – 16 miles
- Ulmerton Rd And Belcher - 8.5 miles

Meals

- Saturday - Lunch and Dinner (bring dish to share)
- Sunday - Breakfast and Lunch
- Sign up for food count

  - https://www.sparc-club.org/arrlfd2025/

- Clubs provide meat, drinks
- Need count so please sign up by June 23 at 11:59 PM.
- Ideas for Dinner??? Pulled pork, pizza, pasta, Chicken, Sandwiches, etc?

Equipment

- 3 Stations
  - 2 SSB (one can also do is FT8)
  - 1 CW but can also be SSB
  - Satellite Station - 9700, Az/El rotator
  - Elecraft K3 radios (All 100 watts)
  - 6 meter station for FT8/SSB/CW
- We have all gear - just need operators and setup/teardown help.
- Please no other transmitters on site.
- FD isn't a "bring your own radio" event.

Equipment

- All radios have desk microphones, foot switch and hand PTT switch
- CW Station has a WinKeyer w/ Bencher.
  - If you want to use your own paddle or key, bring it along.
  - Computer sends CW but go manual if you like.
- Behringer Headphone splitter on each station to adjust your own volume
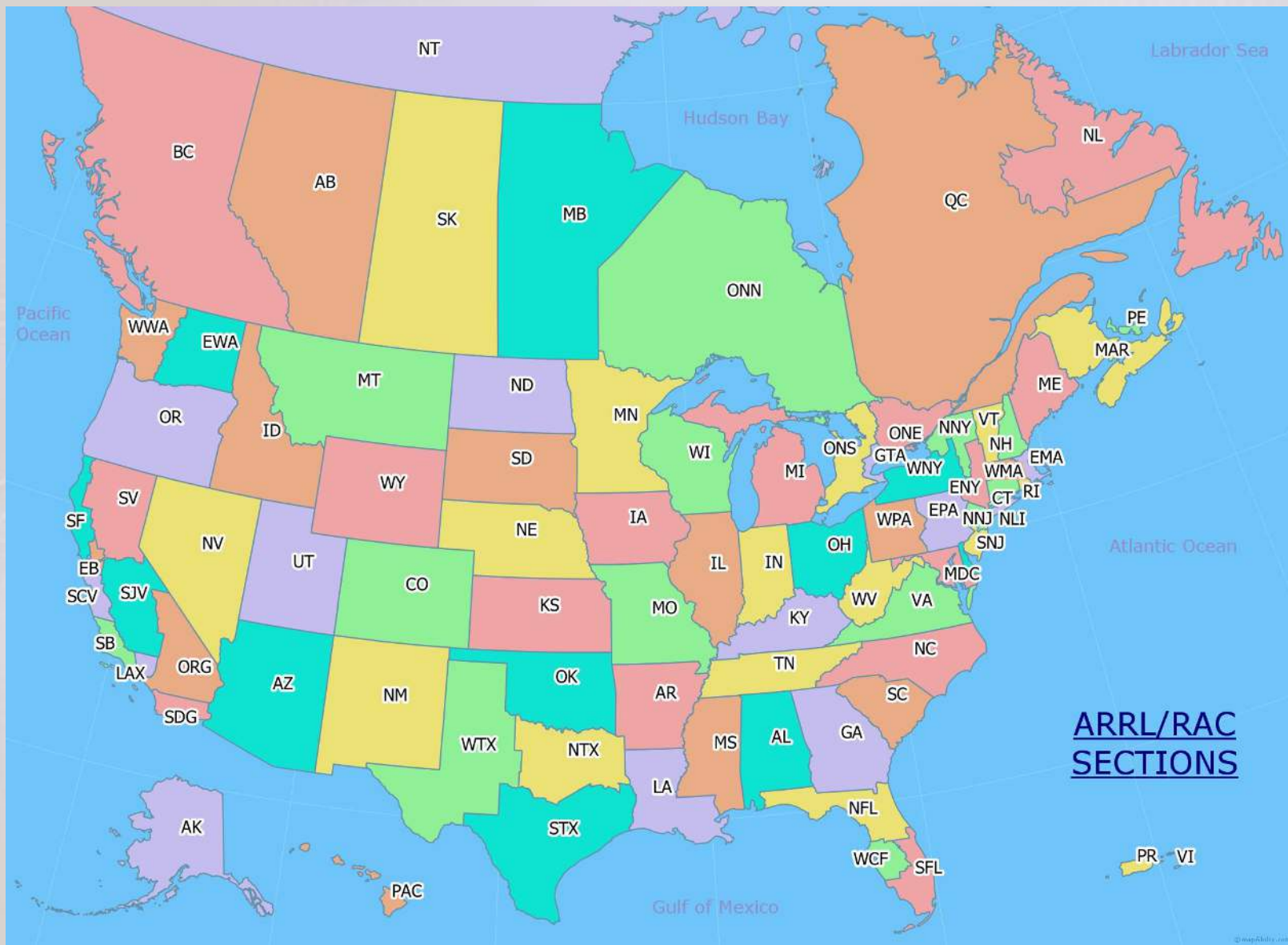- BRING YOUR OWN HEADPHONES!

Modes/Bands

- ARRL Field day allows CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

- Lots of activity on FT8 when not using SSB

- HF uses 80 - 10m (no WARC bands)

- Satellite contacts attempted
  - SSB/CW.

Antennas

- Hex Beam
  - 20, 15 and 10 meters (triplexer)
- OCF Wire, End-fed and ZS6 Antenna
  - 80 and 40 meters
  - Reorienting to avoid past interference
- Satellite
  - Arrow antenna on AZ/EL rotator controlled by S.A.T. Controller.
- Patch Panel

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ARRL Sections

- Most states are just the two-letter state
- 8 states divide up the state more
- Each operating position has the list as well as a window on the computer

ARRL/RAC SECTIONS

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Exchange

- "3 Alpha, Whiskey Charlie Foxtrot"
- 3 is the number of transmitters
- Alpha is class
  - Alpha through Foxtrot
- 3A means we have 3 transmitters and are a club
- 1D would mean 1 station at home
- WCF is our ARRL Section

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Calling CQ…

- Using W4TA as our callsign
- Calling CQ on phone
  - Pick one
    - "CQ Field Day"
    - "CQ Contest"
  - "Whiskey Four Tango Alpha"
  - "CQ Field Day, Whiskey Four Tango Alpha"

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Search & Pounce

- Let's say W1AW is calling "CQ Field Day"

- You respond with just your call one time: "W4TA"

- They say, "W4TA, Three Foxtrot Charlie Tango"

- You say, "QSL, Three Alpha Whiskey Charlie Foxtrot"

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Effective Communication

- FD is fun but also a field exercise to help practice emergency operations

- Communicating efficiently is a good skill to learn

- In the prior exchange, notice what I didn't say?
  - Filler Words, "This is", "Please copy"
  - I never said W1AW. They know their call so no need to repeat. Same for us, Unless they ask for repeat, assume not needed.

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TR4W

- Based on TRLog from 1998
- Ported to Windows
- Powerful but easy to operate
- Big difference for N1MM users:
  – One exchange window
  – Doesn't matter which order exchange is entered
  – 3A EPA or EPA 3A
  – Can update callsign in exchange window

- If you enter wrong class, program lets you know.

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Other Software Notes

- TR4W handles SSB, CW and FT8/4.
- Integrated with WSJT-X
  - You will just use WSJT-X for FT8/4
  - WSJT-X Callsigns colors set for dupes
  - TR4W programs are networked together for dupe checking and backups.
- OPON – Change operators.
- TR4W.NET to download…Now a demo

Take Aways

- Sign up https://sparc-club.org/ARRLFD2025
- Bring your own headphones
- OPON
- Detailed email to everyone that signs-up
- Come early for setup, stay for teardown
- Register for operator spots (at site)
- Have fun, come to learn (or teach)

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Questions?