



Field Day 2017

**Emerald Coast Amateur Radio Association
Operations Plan**

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Concept of Operations

The Emerald Coast Amateur Radio Association will participate in the annual Amateur Radio Relay League's Field Day (FD) by:

- Setting up equipment (antennas, radios, etc.)
- Provide "on-the-job" and "on-the-air" training for technician licensees (and other interested parties, licensed or not) on contesting, HF radio operations and antenna theory, and/or different modes of amateur radio operations
- Provide amateur radio awareness and emergency communications awareness to the general public
- Provide disaster preparedness information to the public courtesy of hand-out materials provided by Navarre CERT

Field Day History

ARRL Field Day is an annual event that many in the amateur radio community participate. From its beginning in the 1930's as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year.

In 2015, contest logs were submitted by over 3,000 clubs, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by nearly 40,000 individuals and over 1.25 million contacts were reported during the 24-hours of the event.

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OBJECTIVES:

The Emerald Coast Amateur Radio Association has several objectives for this event:

- Conduct this event in the safest manner possible
- **GET OPERATORS ON THE AIR**
- Encourage non-licensed people to get on the air (kids, visitors, family, friends, etc.)
- **STRONGLY** encourage Technician licensees to work HF frequencies they are not authorized
- Use event as training for operating radios and radio nets under simulated emergency conditions
- Get operators contesting experience
- Make as many contacts (as a group) as possible
- Accumulate as many contest points as possible
- Demonstrate emergency communications capabilities to the public
- Provide disaster preparedness information to the public courtesy of hand-out materials provided by Navarre CERT

Operational Overview

Equipment

- Radio Equipment:
 - Equipment will be set up inside the on-site Santa Rosa County Emergency Communications trailer. One operating station **MAY** be moved outside during periods of daylight under a canopy.
 - Three stations will be set up as follows:
 - 2 each Phone
 - 1 each Phone / CW / Digital
 - All radio equipment will be operated off of either generator or battery power. (Note: Solar power may be used for the minimum number of contacts to count for contest points.)
- Antennas:
 - Must all lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet) per ARRL FD rules. Antenna locations will be pre-determined.
 - One antenna per radio will be set up
- Logging:
 - Logging will be done via laptop computers using the N3FJP Field Day logging program.
 - All computers will be networked together. This allows for:
 - Prevention of duplicate contacts on bands
 - Participants to see how the group is doing as a whole
 - Ease of compiling results at the end of the event

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Incident Response

Any incidents that occur will be handled by directly calling 911 or utilizing the available Santa Rosa County Communications trailer.

Additional Information:

Since we are on Santa Rosa Island beach, all ECARA members are encouraged to bring their families and enjoy the day (and night) at Navarre Beach Park. One does **NOT** have to be a licensed amateur radio operator to participate.

Organizational Structure

Field Day Captain:

STEVE VANDENAKKER, W4SJV

Field Day Co-Captain:

DANE LUCKEY, W4DSL

Control Operator:

The ARRL is always answering questions about FCC rules as they apply to Field Day. Of course, every station must have a control operator (97.103). On Field Day, we operate using the club call sign W8EHH. The call sign trustee is ultimately responsible for all transmissions from our site. **Both the call sign trustee AND the control operator share equal responsibility for all transmissions** (Part 97.103(a) and (b)).

For Field Day, we commonly use HF frequencies that are authorized for General Class licensees and above. Since we have a number of General Class or higher licensees as members and ASSUMABLY on-hand, we will mostly be using HF frequencies authorized for General Class licensees. If an Amateur-Extra licensee is on site, we can use frequencies authorized for that class as well.

For individual operating stations, the “Active Control Operator” will be the person talking on the microphone.

In all cases, good amateur radio operating practices will be observed.

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Radio Operator / Logger:

There will be 2 people assigned to each radio during a shift. One person will be the Operator and the other will be the logger.

- Radio Operator: The radio operator is the person who will be responsible for tuning the radio, taking care to stay within the assigned band, and passing the proper exchange with the distant station.
- Logger: The logger will be responsible for ensuring the proper exchange is entered into the contest log. This person will also assist the operator in correctly identifying heard on-air call signs.

Logistics

Equipment List

Item	Qty	Provider	Comments
SRC EMA Comm Trailer	1	SRC EMA	Coordinated with Santa Rosa EMA. They will deliver and pick up.
ECARA banner	1		
Disaster Preparedness Handouts	A/R	Navarre CERT	
Laptop computers	3	TBD	One per operating position
Fire Extinguisher	1	SRC EMA	Verify in the Comm Trailer
Solar Panels and battery	1	TBD	For solar power to obtain minimum contacts for points
Sand Bags	A/R	Navarre CERT	Use as weights on antenna guys
Traffic cones	A/R	Navarre CERT	Mark safety area for antennas
Surveyor / flagging ribbon	A/R	W4SJV	Mark antenna guys
Support poles	A/R	W4DSL	W4DSL will coordinate
Antennas	3	TBD	W4SJV & W4DSL will coordinate
Radios	2 1	W4SJV W4DSL	Will provide 1 CW/Digital & 1 phone Will provide phone station
Coaxial cable	A/R	TBD	W4SJV will have extra coax and connectors available to make cables if needed.
Cooler (w/ ice)	1-2	TBD	

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Operations

Operating positions:

Phone #1:

This position will primarily be voice only on 20 meters.

Phone #2:

This position will primarily be voice only on 15 meters daytime, 40 meters nighttime.

CW / Digital:

This station will primarily be digital (PSK, RTTY, etc.) and CW operations on all bands. Phone mode MAY be used if it does not interfere with the other stations.

Notes:

- There will be a minimum of 2 people per phone operating position.
 - Radio (Control) Operator
 - Logger
- Operators will not tune to another band without coordinating with the FD Captain or Co-Captain.

Field Day Schedule

Pre-Field Day (NLT June 23):

- Association members are strongly encouraged to sign up on the Association web site
- Members are strongly encouraged to review this Operations Plan
- Members are strongly encouraged to review the Field Day Rules found on the ARRL web site

Friday, June 2 – Club Meeting

Field Day captains will brief event and what to expect.

Saturday, June 24 through Sunday, June 25:

- Set up will commence at 0900 local time at the Field Day Site.
- On-air operations will commence at 1300 local time on Saturday and end NLT 1700 on Sunday. Operators will be assigned to their requested shift(s) to the maximum extent possible and are requested to report on time.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 24 hours. The end time is subject to change depending upon the number of participants.
- **Joint Pot-luck Picnic: Members of Navarre CERT will join us for a pot-luck dinner Saturday evening around 1800. All invited to attend and bring a dish.**

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Field Day Safety

Basic Information

We will have a designated Safety Observer (or his alternate) on site. Members should always think "Safety First" in everything done during this event. We want everyone to have an enjoyable and safe time. Remember things like:

- Make sure guy wires / ropes are secured and well-marked with flagging ribbons and/or cones to reduce trip hazards.
- Use the buddy system and look out for your fellow team member(s).
- **STAY HYDRATED!!!** It will be hot and humid, so make sure you drink plenty of water.

Lightning / Storms

In the event of lightning in the immediate vicinity, one of the Field Day captains or a designated person on scene will make the decision when to cease operations. Once the decision is made to cease operations, the following **WILL** occur:

- All radio operations will cease immediately. If an operator is in the middle of a QSO, that operator will complete the QSO (to include logging), and then shut down the radio and power supply.
- Antenna cables will be disconnected from the radios.

Operations will resume once the lightning threat has moved out of the area.

We will operate rain or shine, so make sure you wear appropriate clothing and drink enough liquids. Insect repellent will most likely be required after sunset.

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Field Day Operating Location
Navarre Beach, FL