Davie/Cooper City Amateur Radio Club

a 501(c)(3) not for profit organizaiton

We are Radio Active

Winter Field Day

DCARC – NA4DC – 2024

V1.5

From our President WB4BAG: Winter Field Day

In my opinion, it was the best we've had in a long time.

We had a great turnout (29), an almost completely full schedule of operators for the entire 24 hour period, and even the weather cooperated.

BeBe N4BJC and Rich WB4EHG successfully organized and ran the event, with only a few (recoverable) hiccups.

Elsewhere, there's a comprehensive list of the tasks our members performed in assisting with setup, operating, and tear-down, but I 'd like to also summarize a few here:

1. We had 13 operators.
2. There were at least 11 members who helped with setup and tear-down.
3. Diane KC4BAR brought food, along with Phil K4OMD and his XYL, Elza who
4. prepared much of the food that Jeff WB3ISP cooked on the grill. Ed KO4UZI and Cameron KO4VHB brought coffee and donuts in the morning.
5. Edwin KN4GPE provided the (quiet!!) generator for our power source to run the third radio.
6. George N8XH and Chris both provided ice.
7. Phil K4OMD also built a 220 antenna specifically for this event.
8. Rich WB4EHG supplied and configured operating accessories for the stations.
9. Tom N4MEO as Trustee and Sergeant-At-Arms kept us all in line.

Although many members performed multiple jobs, I listed the ones that I could recall for individual recognition. I'm sure that I forgot a few -- there was a lot going on this past weekend! Several members even stayed up all night, so we didn't have to shut down the stations in the wee hours.

Thank you all for the hard work putting this together.
Someone should post (here or on the website) pictures taken at the event.
I'd also like to hear more comments from our participants.

Let's do this again in June!
73, Fred WB4BAG President, DCARC

Score Statistics	
Total CW Contacts	66
Total Phone Contacts	769
Total DIG Contacts	6
Total Multipliers	22
Total Score	20,086

Total contact points = 913 = (2*(66+6) + 769)

Total contacts = 841

Times 22 "multipliers" = 20,086

During the contest we add the points for each contact (1 or 2 (CW/Dig)) to the total points then multiply by the multiplier (913).

Each combination of band + mode is 1 multiplier.

Apply that information to the chart below. Any place you see a 0 in a red box is a multiplier we missed.

The 1's in a yellow box are multipliers we got from one contact on that band-mode. That's why we spent so much time on the VHF/UHF station.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

80m?

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	6	142	0	148	18
20	33	187	1	221	26
15	13	184	1	198	24
10	10	252	1	263	31
6	1	1	1	3	0
2	1	1	1	3	0
1.25	1	1	0	2	0
70	1	1	1	3	0
Total	66	769	6	841	100

Missing from that data is 80m contacts. We didn't get the 80m antenna up until around midnight. That late and it being dark and all, the 80m wire got snagged on both sides and could not be loaded.

So, we missed a total of 5 multipliers. Working 22 is really good!

How good?

The N3FJP logger has a web site (HamDash) that posts contestant's scores in real time. I believe this site is only for N3FJP loggers. There are other sites available not restricted to just one logger. 3840, Contest online ScoreBoard are others. Our score on HamDash does not match our score shown here because I removed 2 dups from our submission.

We ranked 9th out of 1,390 groups on HamDash.

Winter Field Day

CALLSIGN	SCORE	QSOS	CATEGORY
N9BCN	50,004	1,794	H A
W8VTD	48,691	1,525	L N
K8BSR	35,834	1,773	H A
K1WAS	32,452	1,106	L N M
N9WH	27,948	1,126	L N M
K7UVA	25,312	1,145	H A
KT4Q	22,800	1,421	L A M
VA3DO	20,718	918	H N
NA4DC	20,130	843	H A
KY4AR	16,074	504	H A

Here are our operators. This is the most operators we have ever had:

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
WB3ISP	321	38
N4QV	209	25
K4BZ	126	15
KQ4DQS	27	3
KJ3Q	26	3
KO4VHB	24	3
KO4SYU	23	3
K2AU	22	3
KQ4JKQ	21	2
KO4UZI	14	2
WB4EHG	13	2
N8XH	8	1
KM4GCL	7	1

Total = 13

These are the sections worked. We got all but 3 (SB, SDG, MT) in the continental US6 in Canada and Virgin Islands.

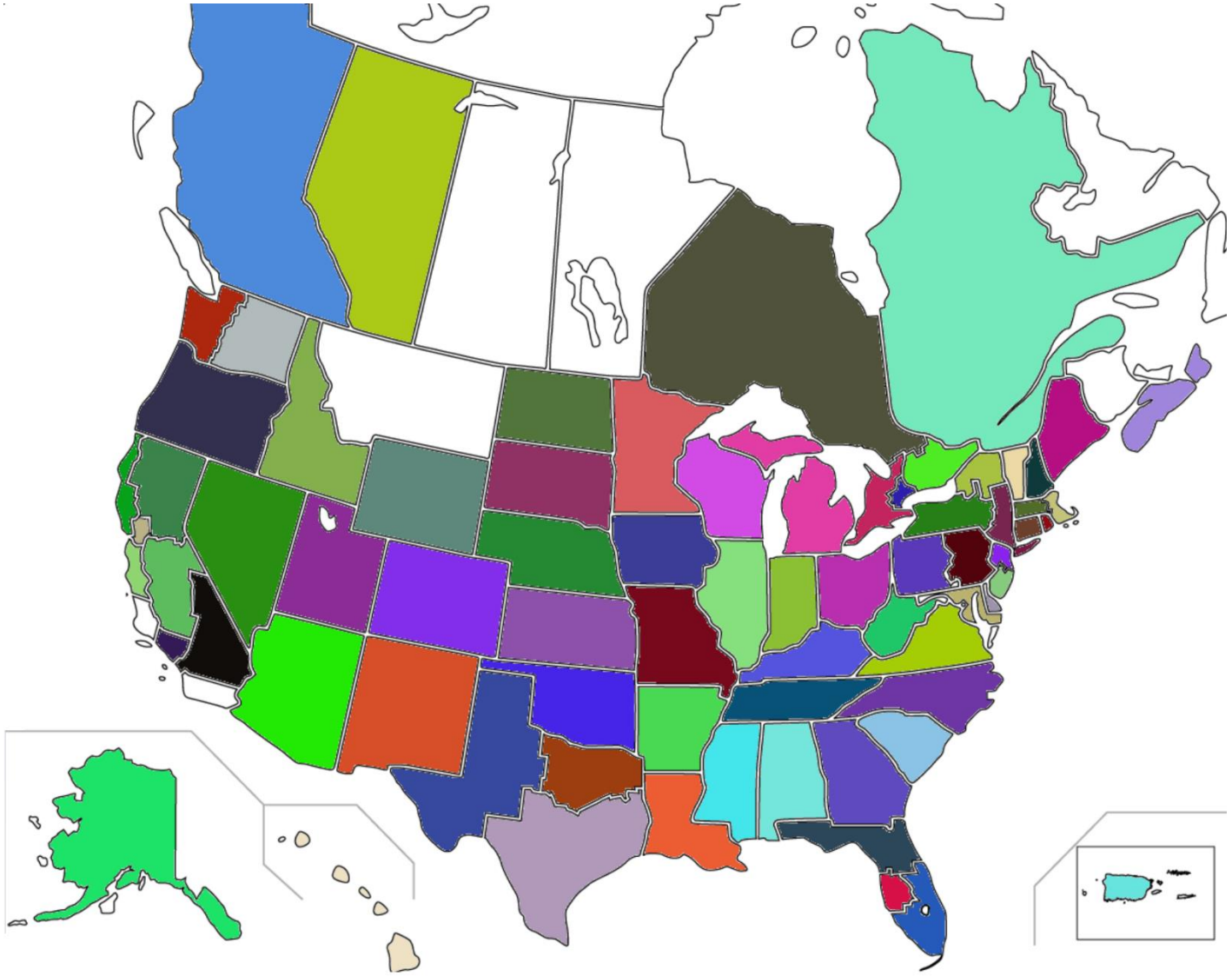
DX		3		5		7		0	
DX	MX	DE	MDC	AR	NTX	AK	NV	CO	MO
1		EPA	WPA	LA	OK	AZ	OR	IA	ND
CT	RI	**4**		MS	STX	EWA	UT	KS	NE
EMA	VT	AL	SC	NM	WTX	ID	WWA	MN	SD
ME	WMA	GA	SFL	**6**		MT	WY	**Canada**	
NH		KY	TN	EB	SCV	**8**		AB	ONE
2		NC	VA	LAX	SDG	MI	WV	BC	ONN
ENY	NNY	NFL	VI	ORG	SF	OH		GH	ONS
NLI	SNJ	PR	WCF	PAC	SJV	**9**		MB	PE
NNJ	WNY			SB	SV	IL	WI	NB	QC
						IN		NL	SK
								NS	TER

Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
USA	788	93
Canada	45	5
Alaska	4	0
Hawaii	3	0
Puerto Rico	2	0
England	1	0

Total = 6

Winter Field Day is oriented towards North American contacts. We worked stations in the colored (non-white) sections.



What went right:

We had lots of enthusiastic participants for setup and teardown.

There was lots of interest in the radios and how to operate.

New hams got on the air which is GREAT!

The weather was great.

The food was good and there was plenty of it.

All equipment worked fine (configuring/installing is another matter).

We did a good job of getting multipliers, the only ones missed were equipment related.

The demo station in the building was great for keeping the operators in the trailer focused.

Score tracking on HamDash and our placing #9 of 1,390 placement!

Addition:

I just learned that three new HF operators started operating in the middle of the night and all had a great experience. They are looking forward to ARRL Field Day.

What we can do better next Field Day:

Put all antennas up in the daylight (summer: at dusk on the evening before to beat the heat).

Have a dedicated radio for 2m SSB/CW (FT8 for ARRL Field Day) (The IC-7100 is easy to config for FT8)

Have a dedicated radio for 6m SSB/CW (FT8 for ARRL Field Day) (Any recent HF rig has 6m)

Get the IC-7100 configured early for RTTY (FT8 for ARRL Field Day) or replace it with a different

radio (IC-746Pro? TS-2000? FT-991A? *[WB4EHG: no offense to owners of the FT-991A but it is just an IC-7100 with a color screen. It is no easier to operate and is missing the contest knobs {I am speaking from personal experience: I owned a FT-991A, sold it and bought a IC-7100 which I still have]*, IC-9100 [I'd trade the IC-7100 and cash for an IC-9100 with no qualms].

Trying to config the radio-laptop interface for RTTY/Digital kept the VHF/UHF station tied up for hours, and it was not available to work one of the bands the stations in the trailer was not.

[Other choices: WB4EHG's IC-746Pro, Fred's TS-2000, Randy's T-991A. The first two need a Signalink for digital modes.]

Note: Since this was written, the requirements for a new radio have been firmed up in more detail by WB4EHG than presented in this document.

I did configure the IC-7300's for RTTY including programming the built in keyer for the FD exchange. I think the operators in the trailer did not try RTTY. Perhaps I did not communicate it properly.

> **ARRL FD allows FT8 so we can easily operate that mode. It will be popular and the IC-7300's are already configured.**

Get a foot switch for each SSB station to free up the operator's hands for logging, tuning, etc.

Get a desk mic for each SSB station to free up the operator's hands for logging, tuning, etc.

Get a USB cable for CAT (USB-RTS01 Programming Cable) for each of the Icom radios. This lets us assign a cable to the logger full time. And use the USB cable for Digital modes (RTTY, PSK, Ft8). (2024-02-

12 update: cables were purchased (thank you Grumme) and are at the club station.)

Propagation faded earlier than usual. Nothing we can do about that.

Encourage more new hams to operate. This is a great way to learn and a good use of the demo station in the building.

We lost our overnight CW operator.

Our score as reported in this document has been submitted to Winter Field Day.

Prepared by WB4EHG, Secretary DCARC Inc.

Further details on a new HF/VHF radio (WB4EHG's opinion):

Since we only operate Field Days which are very much like contests the new radio should make it easy to operate in a crowded band by minimizing the use of menus in favor of easy to access buttons and knobs

Further, for contests that allow band-mode multipliers we need to be able to operate all modes (phone, CW, digital [RTTY or FT8] with easy setup and mode changes).

We need to be able to adjust the receive filter bandwidth and IF shift so we can easily separate stations that are very close together (20m is a great example of this need).

For 6m and 2m weak signal contacts (SSB, CW, digital) that are dependent on band openings that may arrive in bursts for short periods of time, the ability to monitor these 2 bands at the same time (meaning we need two antenna connectors, one for each antenna) is vital. There are not many radios that allow this (Icom IC-9100 is one). The other choice is to have two radios, one for each band (more space on the desk but may be less expensive).

I would like us to start working contests. There are many available; I add then to the web site monthly.

Winter Field Day Objectives (used to be bonus items, so no bonus points awarded):

- [x] **Operate 100% on alternative power**
  This means any power not connected to the commercial power grid. Generators, batteries, solar power, and wind are all possible alternative power sources. Batteries in use should only be recharged using alternate power. When not in use, batteries may be charged by any means available. WFD stations should run all station equipment, accessories, lights, heaters, etc., from the alternate power source, except the logging-only computer, which may be connected to the power grid or any power source available. If you use a laptop for Digital modes, this should not be connected to the power grid but should also be powered by batteries.
- [x] **Operate away from Home**
  Get out of the house and operate from any other location more than a 1 mile from your home. Do you have the ability to walk into any shelter, parking garage, hospital, or community center and set up a portable Amateur radio station? Now is the time to start planning what you will do if your home location is destroyed during an emergency.
- [x] **Deploy multiple Antennas**
  Pre-installed antennas are defined as any antenna attached to anything that could be used day to day or was set up before the WFD set-up time. This includes home antennas, antennas installed on vehicles, cargo trailers, and RVs, or, any other antenna that would be considered permanently installed. Now ignore all pre-installed antennas and deploy multiple antennas; this could be a dipole and a hex beam or an EFHW and a 2meter J-pole. No matter how you do it. Are you capable of deploying multiple antennas for different bands?
- [ ] **Make a Satellite contact**
  Make a Satellite contact
- [x] **Operate on at least six different bands**
  Conditions may change throughout an event. Can you operate HF, VHF, and UHF? Do you ever use 1.25 meters (220)? It's a great band for local emergencies.
- [ ] **Send and receive at least 1 Winlink email**
  Winlink has been proven to be useful during emergencies and is a digital mode.
- [x] **Operate 6 continuous hours**
  Emergencies may last days or even weeks. If you are operating alone or in shifts, you may be expected to man a radio station between 4-12 hours. Are you able to sit and operate of extended periods of time with enough backup power? This does not necessary mean you are making contacts the whole time, but you are in front of the radio, monitoring and ready to pick up a microphone if you were called.

Our Participation Trophy