

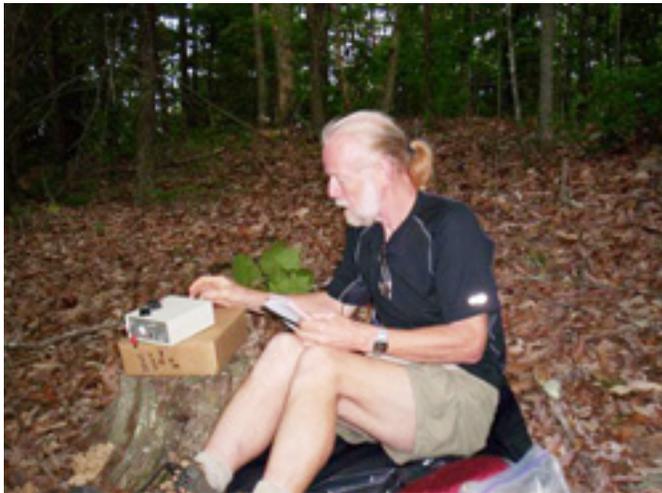
Were you "Bitten By The Bug"? - Ten Field Day Stories List for 2007

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With a tip of the cap to those who specialize in "Top Ten" lists...



Amy KE7NVZ works 'em like a pro on 20 meters SSB at the K7VIT Field Day.



K1YPP near Damascus, VA on Sunday morning of the contest. Homebrew 1.25W/DC receiver and 1/4 wave wire antenna operating from the Appalachian Trail.



The Hospital Tent held the whole W3AO operating crew with room to spare!



A severe thunderstorm ripped through the KB4KY Field Day site, downing several trees like the one pictured. Despite waterlogged equipment and antenna damage, the club's operation continued. Posing with the uprooted poplar tree is Elijah Brooks, son of Kentucky SM KY4Z.



Evan N7MCG & Jim WA7WET working the phone tent at W7MRG.



GOTA station KCØWQY in operation at the KCØAHN site. Logan, KCØVUH, Matt, KCØVUG, Samantha, KCØMTM, Rachel, and Jacob operating with up to FOUR headphones!



K5S XK inspecting "The Box" of the satellite station at W5IU.



The KH6RS group was definitely "Bitten by the Bug" with Field Day spirit

and repainted an old abandoned WWII communications blockhouse on the beach at Hookipa Maui.



WB6SCP, WA6FGW, KB6LAS, WA9STI, & KI6FKS operating as WA6FGW took up temporary residence on Santa Barbara Island in the Channel Islands National Park, 40 miles off the coast of Malibu, CA.



Three grandkids of W5GT participating at the K5NRH site, David (age 10), Bekah (age 12 at the mike), and Carlie (age 8).



WB1ARU Anne searching for a frequency after switching back to phone at the WA1ENO entry.

“Percy” – the 2007 Field Day Hambug was reported at hundreds of Field Day sites across the US, Canada and beyond. After returning to his “home office” in Newington, he was asked to relate some of the stories he uncovered in his travels. So, he has put together a “Top Ten” list. This isn’t a list of the Top Scoring Stations, because the highest score really isn’t the purpose of Field Day. It isn’t a list of the Top Ten best operators he found, the ten most important things about FD or even the ten best FD food locations (though Percy is known to be partial to FD cuisine). It is simply a Top Ten List of “Field Day Things” from 2007...

10) “Amateurs love to talk on the radio.”



Young prospective ham, Harrison Sanders making his very first ham radio contact while his dad, Mark (L) and Jack , WMØG (R) looks on at WØDK.



Wyatt KG6JAY and Adam KG6JUH racking up Qs at the W6ZZK GOTA station of the K6XG FD site.



The 46 foot ketch Bellerophon proudly flying the ARRL Battle Flag and the Narragansett Bay Amateur Radio Club Call NB1RI with signal flags.



A busy FD for WØMA as George, ABØRX (foreground) works 20M SSB while prospective ham Peter (center) listens in. Peter made his first QSO on Field Day and all of our 15M QSOs. John, KAØLDB (far end) working 40M SSB while Terry, KEØLY, Irv, NØNOB and Terry, WAØEXO look on.



Were the W6ERE operators perhaps making a Wouff Hong offering to the radio gods?



Jordan Carter, K9NZF, of Muncie Indiana tunes up his new Icom IC-7000 at ARRL Field Day 2007. Carter was the lucky ARRL Expo Passport grand prize winner at this year's Dayton Hamvention and set up his new radio to participate in Field Day activities with the emergency communications group EmComm ECI at the W9YFD Field Day site.



W8ILC Ron operating QRP CW for bonus points while KC7EHJ Stan is providing him the power with a generator driven by bicycle power at NO8I.



First time Field Day operator John, KD8FXV, learns the ropes from Gary, K8EHB at the K8ES site.



Sumter County Florida Mobile Operations Center was the QTH for the K4VRC Field Day station.

Now mind you this is a given, because after all we ARE communicators aren't we? And with a total of over 1.2 million QSOs reported during FD2007, that's over 50,000 contacts ever hour over a 24-hour period. That's an excellent total – especially when you consider Ol' Sol is being as uncooperative as possible with sunspot. I guess what this really means is that there are always bands which you can utilize, regardless of time of day or propagation.

9) “Amateurs are like us bugs – you find them everywhere.”

Everywhere Percy went, we ran into amateurs participating in Field Day. In fact there were a record 2,331 Field Day entries submitted – 4% more than the previous record of 2,241 in 2004. AND that record number of entries contained yet another record as an all-time high of 34,833 operators, helpers and visitors were reported at FD sites. Modest numbers when compared against the number of licensees in the US, but remember, not every group or individual that participate in Field Day (particularly home stations) submit entries to document their participation.

8) “You gotta GOTA”

Percy was well aware of the two significant changes in the Part 97 rules made since FD2006, and he was pleased to observe that besides participation in general being up, there were also an all-time record number of “Get On The Air” – GOTA – stations available for newcomers to try their hand on the air. Percy thought it a bit ironic that the first year all US amateurs have at least some HF privileges coincided with a year predicted as the very bottom of the sunspot cycle, which meant generally poor propagation on the most popular newcomer HF band – 10-meters. But he did find a silver lining in the fact that perhaps the newcomers would upgrade and gain greater privileges after whetting their appetites at one of the 467 GOTA stations reported in 2007 (an increase of over 8% from last year).

7) “What’s that strange “buzzing” in my antenna?”

Well, Percy was able to pretty quickly figure out that buzzing was probably yet another increase (though small) in number of Digital mode contacts being made. While the number of both CW and Phone QSOs were down slightly (thanks in large part of poor band conditions), many groups are discovering the relative easy digital modes, such as RTTY and PSK31 can be made using computer interfaces and readily available software. While still constituting only a small portion of FD contacts, the number of reported digital contacts has more than doubled since 2000 (up 113%!).

6) “Yummy! Yummy! Yummy!”

Unlike the pesky mosquitoes, Percy found epicurean delights at almost every FD site. From simple hamburger and wiener roasts to steak dinners to home-made chili to desserts that would make Emeril himself proud, FD is always certain to be one of the highlights of most amateur’s “social calendars.” After all, the troops have got to be fed, and clubs seem to take seriously the motto “Only the best for our gang!” Make sure to read the ARRL Field Day Online Soapbox www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/ to discover how hundreds of clubs and groups approach this annual event. And why not add your own FD experiences to the site to share with others?

5) “Mommy – Can I go outside and play all night?”

Part of the FD experience is setting up stations quickly in places where you usually do not operate. As usual, the vast majority of entrants choose to test this side of their planning skills, as 1758 (75%) of all entries operated away from home. Fields, parks, campsites, EOCs, boats, campers, tents, hiking trails – you name it and odds are you would find a FD group setting up in those kinds of situations. This isn’t meant to downplay the role of those who participate from home stations. On the contrary, it underscores the role ALL stations and operators have to play in emergency operations. (For example, just ask those who were assisted during Katrina by home stations serving as relays and keeping the flow of information going how important the Class D and E stations are.)

4) “You’re sitting there with WHO???”

More and more, Percy found that elected officials and served agencies are gaining a better awareness and understanding of the role that amateur radio can play in emergency communications and preparedness. For example, the Sussex Amateur Radio Association and the Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club joint operation played host to Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner, who proclaimed June as Amateur Radio Awareness Month, along with State Secretary of Homeland Security, Dave Mitchell; Sussex County Administrator, Dave Baker and Georgetown Mayor, Mike Wyatt. But it doesn’t always have to be that high of a profile. Percy observed hundreds of county officials and liaisons from served agencies such as the Salvation Army and American Red Cross, attending FD demonstrations all across the ARRL and RAC territories.

3) “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again!”

Even with all of the planning in advance, even if you take all of the possible precautions, at some point Murphy is going to visit your site in some way. For example, a concerted effort was made to put on several of the Antarctic research bases on the air by amateurs in residence. Emails were exchanged announcing frequencies and information, and announcements were made. But when FD rolled around, there was simply no propagation for them to North America. It certainly was a disappointment, but surely doesn’t count as a failure, because the key component of FD isn’t making thousands of contacts; it’s doing the preparation and planning to be able to do what is possible when the time comes. So in spite of no sunspots,

malfunctioning radios, thunderstorms that take out antennas and trees, Percy was impressed with the “stick to it” spirit of the thousands of participants.

2) “We’re ready for our close-up Mr. DeMille.”

Percy couldn’t accommodate the numerous requests he received from television, radio and print journalists for a personal interview. After all, he is naturally shy. But he was more than pleased to see hundreds of FD participants working with members of the press, telling the story of amateur radio. Sharing the story of amateur radio is important – and getting the media to assist in telling that story is important. Club and section PIOs submitted what has to be a record number of media hits to Percy in the days and weeks after FD2007. And he isn’t worried about using up your Andy Warhol 15-minutes of fame promoting the amateur radio service.

And, finally, Number 1 on Percy’s Top Ten List for Field Day 2007...

Field Day is FUN!

Look at the photos in this article... Peruse the smiling faces posted in the ARRL Online Soapbox. It is obvious that the common ingredient to all of them is FUN. It’s fun to spend time with good friends... It’s fun to learn new things... It’s fun to get on the air... It’s fun to be part of a group working for a common purpose and helping friends and neighbors...It’s fun to set a goal and achieve it during Field Day... It’s fun to take pride in our skills and put them on display to mentor others.

So to all who participated in FD2007, Congratulations! Whether you only completed a handful of QSOs to whet your appetite or posted the most claimed points in your category – if you maximized your fun during the weekend of June 23-24, you are a Field Day champion.

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June – which means it will be June 28-29, 2008. Why not start your own Top Ten list of things you want to accomplish for FD2008? See you on the air!

RF Safety: The Basics

Unusual antennas, such as the one detailed in this article, can pose special problems for RF safety. Special antenna configurations can be capable of exceeding safe exposure limits even if they are listed as “exempted.” Since every radio amateur is responsible for not exceeding the Maximum Permissible Exposure requirements listed in the FCC regulations, in some cases the exemption does not apply and the station operator should perform an environmental assessment to determine under what conditions MPEs will not be exceeded.

In addition to MPEs, unusual antenna configurations pose other dangers. Exposure regulations deal only with emission of electromagnetic waves. When a person physically comes in contact with high voltage nodes of an energized antenna, additional dangers from RF conduction also exist.

An antenna that is used in close proximity to where people can be located is very likely to exceed MPE limits and special operating conditions may apply. In some cases the operator will have to observe the antenna at all times and stop transmitting when people draw near. In other cases, lower power transmissions may be necessary to maintain safety. Publications such as [RF Exposure and You](#) and [FCC](#)

[OET Bulletin 65](#) can offer valuable guidance to evaluating exposure conditions and taking steps to ensure that all amateur transmissions are performed safely. — *ARRL RF Safety Committee*

Field Day 2007 - Top Ten Claimed Scores

CALL	SCORE	CLASS
W3AO	27,150	19A
W6ZE	20,246	9A
W9CA	19,288	3A
W6YX	17,158	4F
K1R	16,894	5A
VE3GMA	16,734	9A
K2AA	16,680	6A
W4IY	15,142	7A
K5TA	14,680	2E
K7LED	13,786	6A

Field Day 2007 - Entries by Class

Class	Entries
1A	191
2A	518
3A	299
4A	137
5A	69
6A	29
7A	24
8A	18
9A	6
10A	1
11A	1
16A	1
19A	1
1B1	159
2B1	2
1B2	47
2B2	27
1C	63
2C	2
3C	3
1D	300
2D	14
3D	6
4D	1
5D	1
7D	1
1E	203
2E	24
3E	14
4E	5
5E	1
6E	1
10E	1
13E	1
1F	32
2F	69
3F	31
4F	17
5F	5
6F	3
7F	2
9F	

Field Day 2007 - Entries by ARRL/RAC Section

Section	Entries
AB	9
AK	7
AL	24
AR	24
AZ	48
BC	30
CO	47
CT	41
DE	8
DX	2
EB	16
EMA	27
ENY	29
EPA	58
EWA	16
GA	54
IA	30
ID	15
IL	80
IN	50
KS	31
KY	23
LA	20
LAX	29
MAR	10
MB	2
MDC	43
ME	26
MI	85
MN	40
MO	49
MS	13
MT	16
NC	59
ND	8
NE	15
NFL	47
NH	19
NL	4
NLI	21
NM	28
NNJ	46
NNY	8
NT	1
NTX	57
NV	6
OH	116
OK	26
ON	71
OR	39
ORG	41

PAC	10
PR	2
QC	18
RI	14
SB	17
SC	26
SCV	31
SD	8
SDG	20
SF	10
SFL	27
SJV	21
SK	4
SNJ	22
STX	53
SV	23
TN	52
UT	16
VA	72
VI	1
VT	13
WCF	18
WI	48
WMA	10
WNY	35
WPA	42
WTX	9
WV	18
WWA	64
WY	

Field Day 2007 - Recent Field Day Stats

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
CW QSOs	511580	518,799	503,205	517,738	467,748	537,130	536,072	511,422
Digital QSOs	22,112	21,459	21,766	20,940	12,525	17,170	14,283	10,376
Phone QSOs	679,240	696,567	692,722	787,444	646,564	869,922	868,174	906,226
Total QSOs	1,212,932	1,236,825	1,217,693	1,326,122	1,126,837	1,424,222	1,418,529	1,428,024
Total Entries	2331	2199	2212	2241	2080	2110	2062	2054
Novice/GOTA	467	432	396	436	346	428	208	240
Participants	34,833	32,506	33,078	33,002	32,100	34,398	31,530	30,242