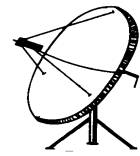




THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

June 2020

<http://www.taars.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 **APRS 144.39 (off air)

Special Edition - Field Day 2020 June 27-28 Update!



The Big Event of Amateur Radio! Recent events related to the global pandemic due to COVID-19 necessitates a change in the format for ARRL Field Day 2020. The American Radio Relay League has released information which provides two key changes to Field Day operations for 2020, <http://www.arrl.org/temporary-rule-waivers-for-arrl-field-day-2020>. The first change is specific to **Class D station contacts**. Normally a Class D station, known as a “Home Station”, can only contact other non-Class D stations. For this year only, Class D stations may contact all station categories, including other Class D stations. The second change for this year is an **aggregate club score**. This score will be a total of all entries submitted which are associated with a club. Each member must file their own log submissions for Field Day and should associate their entry with TAARS during the submission process. ARRL information is located at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. More details on log submission will be shared on the weekly TAARS Net and weekly TAARS Newsletter updates specific for this event.

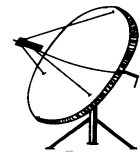
Operating Period Field Day officially begins on Saturday, 27 June at 1800 UTC or 1400 Local. The operating periods runs through Sunday, 28 June at 2059 UTC or 1659 Local. Specifics for the times are located in rules 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. You did read the rules already, right? If a station is setup before 1800 UTC on Saturday, they can only operate for 24 consecutive hours which starts when they begin operation. For most of us this means we can operate from 2pm on Saturday until 2 pm on Sunday. Keep the coffee flowing and transmitters warmed up!

Exchange The exchange for Field Day is your station category, likely 1D (home commercial) or 1E (home emergency power) followed by your state. Example, “1E North Carolina” via phone. This is normally logged as 1E NC. Via digital or CW it is passed as 1E NC. Identify your category before Field Day starts.

Sections, Sections, Sections You do know all the Section designations, right? Well I surely do not. There are a few good resources for section information. ARRL has a long text based list via, <http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations>. If you like neat pictures try this one,



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

June 2020

<http://www.taars.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 **APRS 144.39 (off air)

https://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/maps/ARRL_Sections_1960.png. Download the file to your computer and save as your background for Windows 10. It will always be handy, and you can daydream about logging them all!

Points, Points, Points Spend some time reviewing the rules for chances to get points. One example is making 5 QSOs on natural power. This includes solar, wind or water. Review the rules and review them again. Make a plan and go after the points. Let's put TAARS on the board this year in a big way! Don't forget the aggregate club score, but we each also get a score for our submission. More to follow on submissions after Field Day in a TAARS Newsletter immediately following the event. We should all submit with the club name, spelled the same way. Do not forget you also get points for filing your package online! More points!

Final Review and Questions The net on Thursday evening at 2100 Local on the Hertford repeater is a good chance to ask your questions. Most of us have participated in Field Day previously but operating independently or in small groups can bring up new questions. This year we may have questions and things are after all quite different. Make a list and bring those to the net on Thursday evening. How about those last-minute questions, minutes before kickoff? We expect a large number of operators on the repeaters during the event. We can all offer help and support which is part of the hobby. Pitch in and answer questions, this is our big day.

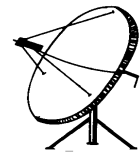
Field Day Dinner We can't gather at a Field Day site this year as a club, but we can still gather in smaller groups for a Field Day meal. We suggest everyone contact those in your local area and take a break from operating to enjoy a meal with a few local hams. It would be nice if we could all gather for one large meal as a group, but this year presents some unique challenges. Even if you only have one or two folks near you, see if there is an opportunity to dine together on Saturday evening. We might find a new friend or get Aunt Betty's family recipe for fried chicken. Either way we'll walk away with a smile and a full stomach, ready for a night of high intensity radio ops! Can you feel the energy? Better ground that antenna!

Online Chat Don't forget we have a few folks who are active on Telegram for chat. This application works on all devices, including a web browser, and TAARS has a few chat channels on the service. Telegram can be accessed via url at <https://web.telegram.org>. During Field Day we'll be passing some spots via Telegram. More details in a section below. If you have questions email k4eit@arrl.net.

Shirts Scruff, K4SDL, is handling the Field Day shirt operations this year. A real bang up job under some tough conditions, not to mention the crowd. TAARS members should have received a recent email with an



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

June 2020

<http://www.taars.us>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>
WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 **APRS 144.39 (off air)

order form and instructions for submitting your order. The process is a little different this year, so please ask if you have questions. The shirts are a slimming gold with black screen print lettering, just like on the red carpet! Nice job Scruffy.

Operating Information / Rules The ARRL has provided a packet with rules, questions and answers, and a tremendous amount of relevant information in one PDF file. This file can be downloaded from the ARRL at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/2020 Field Day Packet Rev a.pdf>. All operators are encouraged to review this file as soon as possible and bring their questions to the weekly TAARS Net.

Field Day 2020 Presentation A presentation will be provided to the TAARS members following the Field Day 2020 event. Club members are encouraged to provide 2 or 3 photos of their operating location, including one picture of the operator at the position, and two to three paragraphs about the event. The photos and narratives will be assembled into a presentation and provided at the July meeting, or via the TAARS website.

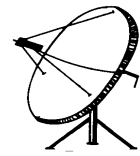
Suggested Operations Operators can work as a Class D Station which designates a “Home Station” on normal power. However, ops can run with emergency power from home and register as a Class E. Another option is portable operation as a Class B station or Class B Battery. This applies to one or two users. Details on the Entry Categories can be found in the ARRL Rules or the Operator Information Packet. As noted by ARRL, Field Day is not only for the HF bands, so don’t forget 50Mhz and up!

Comms During Field Day We can’t meet face to face this year at a Field Day site, but we can discuss operations over the local repeaters. Some members plan to also work on the Hertford and Elizabeth City machines. For users who want additional points for the VHF band consider calling on 146.520 Simplex. With a large number of home operators this is a great way to get some additional contacts! All members are encouraged to monitor VHF Simplex Calling on 146.520. You will likely help other HAM radio operators get an important QSO in their log and you can log it too!

Internet Chat / Meetings Many clubs are using the Internet for club meetings to stay connected during the pandemic. One important lesson learned is a disaster does not mean comms circuits are unavailable. We should be prepared to continue our daily routine including club meetings via other methods. Plans include a webex prior to and/or during the event. Several options are being discussed and include options like Google Meet, Facebook Messenger (new meeting option), or Microsoft Teams. When using these applications while operating on the radio a USB camera with a microphone is a good option. An operator is busy chasing and logging the QSOs, so the webex is more of a passive form of communications for the active operator. TAARS



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

June 2020

<http://www.taars.us>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>
WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 **APRS 144.39 (off air)

also has an option for chat on Telegram, <https://telegram.org>, as discussed at previous club meetings and we'll be active on "TAARS On the Air" via <https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=g277125387>. More info about these options will be passed on the weekly TAARS VHF net and via updates to the TAARS Newsletter. For any users with limited bandwidth Telegram chat is a great option.

Log Submissions Each operator is responsible for their own log submission. During previous Field Day Events the club logs for K4WO were submitted by a designated club member. For this event each member is operating their own station and logging under their own callsign. Questions about log submission can be addressed during the weekly TAARS Net on Thursday evening.

Logging Software Herman, NO4Y, suggests a great option for Field Day Logging, if you need a software program for that function. N3FJP offers a Field Day Logging program for \$8.99. You can obtain this through the N4FJP website at <http://n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>. This is the normal program of choice for logging K4WO contacts during the annual event. Of course you may also want to consider a license for all of his software which is available at, <http://n3fjp.com/aclog.html>, and includes regular logging and other contests in addition to Field Day for \$49.99. If you are looking for a free Field Day Logging option, ARRL noted the FDLog Software, <http://www.fdlog.info/home>, which is written in Python. Joe, K4EIT, is researching that program and will provide more info in the next few days. The ARRL website indicates an update to the FDLog software will be provided soon. One other option is the N1MM Logger+ which is available from <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>.

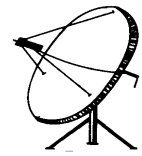
Newsletter Updates and TAARS Net For last minute updates participate in the TAARS Weekly Nets on Thursday evening at 2100 local. Additional information will be provided via Net Announcements as we get closer to Field Day. Continue to monitor your email for weekly updates to the TAARS Newsletter. Our plan continues to evolve, and additional items are under consideration.

Final Thoughts Although we can't assemble as a group, this does not mean we don't still work together to operate during Field Day. Each member has something to contribute to the group and at least one lesson to share with everyone. The normal environment of K4WO operations at the Field Day site is something we have all become accustomed to over the years and this year provides a chance to excel as operators.

Events like COVID-19 are a chance to rethink our operations in the field. After all, they do not call it Field Day for nothing! We encourage each member to try at least one new mode, station enhancement, or method of operation during the Field Day 2020 event. Share those lessons through your photos and narrative submissions



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

June 2020

<http://www.taars.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 **APRS 144.39 (off air)

following the event. We can all learn from each other, which is the most important aspect of Amateur Radio. Each operator that takes the time and energy to prepare and operate a station for Field Day 2020 will be better prepared for future radio operations, whether the next Field Day, hurricane or community service event.

We challenge everyone to review your station configuration and how you operate. Find at least one thing to improve or test during Field Day 2020. When you learn something, share it with the club. We all enjoy the hobby of amateur radio and have something to contribute. Is this not what the hobby is all about, teamwork and sharing?

For the most up to date information on Field Day and the “local action” dial into the TAARS Nets on Thursday evening at 2100 local. Also watch for updates to the TAARS Newsletter each week through Field Day 2020.