

JUNE 2016



N4LNR

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NEWS & VIEWS

Newsletter of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club
Special Field Day Edition

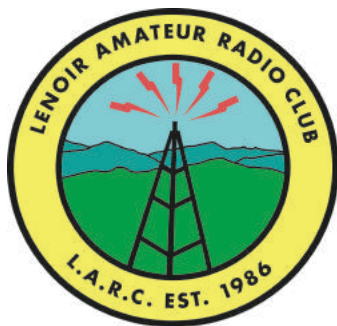
**A 24-hour demonstration of
Amateur Radio skill and
disaster readiness.**

PUBLIC INVITED

**Amateur Radio is a valuable
asset to the community during
emergency events and disasters
when standard means of
communication fail!**



*Serving Amateur Radio
in Caldwell County*



Lenoir Amateur Radio Club

Field Day 2016

June 25 – 26, 2016

Redwood Park
470 Redwood St
Hudson, NC 28638



Schedule of Events

Saturday

07:30 AM

Watch the Setup
Emergency Shelters
Communications Trailer
Antenna Trailer
Antennas
Radio Stations

2:00 PM

Field Day Begins and
continues for 24 hours

06:00 PM

Pizza Dinner

Sunday

2:00 PM

Field Day Ends
Breakdown of Camp

What is a Field Day?

Field Day is an annual event that many of us look forward to every year. It is a picnic, a campout, a practice for emergencies, an informal radio operating contest and, most of all, FUN! ARRL's Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On June 25-26, more than 40,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups, or simply with friends to operate from temporary locations.

Some groups will treat Field Day as a radio contest; others take this opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to test skills and equipment away from the conveniences of home, operating entirely on emergency power with portable equipment. Field Day demonstrates Amateur Radio skill and readiness to the community that will be used in an emergency. Field Day is open to the general public and is a good place to bring children to help build their interest in science and electronics.

The radio contest part simply involves contacting as many other stations as possible while learning to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. Last year, the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club was able to make contacts in all but one of the US states. LARC will setup its encampment in Redwood Park at Hudson, NC. We want to demonstrate our disaster capability to the public, elected officials, representatives of served agencies, and the media. Come on out!

Facility

LARC joined with Caldwell County Emergency Management and members of the Caldwell Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to deploy a climate-controlled emergency shelter, area lighting and emergency generator. These shelters are for use in emergency situations and the public had their first opportunity to see these emergency shelters in use last Field Day.



Communications Center

LARC will demonstrate its Communications and Antenna Trailers, that the “hams” have spent many workdays renovating to provide a mobile communications operation as a resource to the community for public events and emergency or disaster situations. These units can be towed and setup in any area where standard communications have failed.



Antennas

The amateurs begin to erect the antennas. Several antennas will be attached to the new Antenna Trailer's 42-foot pneumatic antenna mast. Other antennas will be erected on portable pushup masts, and several wire dipoles or straight wire antennas will be strung up in the trees, using antenna launchers or “potato guns.”



Public Information

An important part of Field Day is demonstrating to the public our disaster capabilities. That is why we are operating under emergency power. We have set up an information center with brochures and displays about Amateur Radio and disaster communications. Drop by and pick up some brochures. We have invited local elected officials, and representatives from our served agencies to come by as well as local media. The information center is a focal point for the event and you will often find “hams” hanging out there eager to talk amateur radio.



Training

This year, we will have a training session on how to setup and operate the 42' pneumatic mast on the Club's antenna trailer. The session will involve each participant in raising the mast, connecting an antenna, operating the air pressure pump, guying, and lowering the mast. Come by and learn how the antenna trailer is deployed.



Operating Stations

As you wander around the Field Day site, you will find a number of different operating stations. We are classified according to our main operating stations: Voice, CW, and Digital. But we get extra credit for a number of specialized stations.

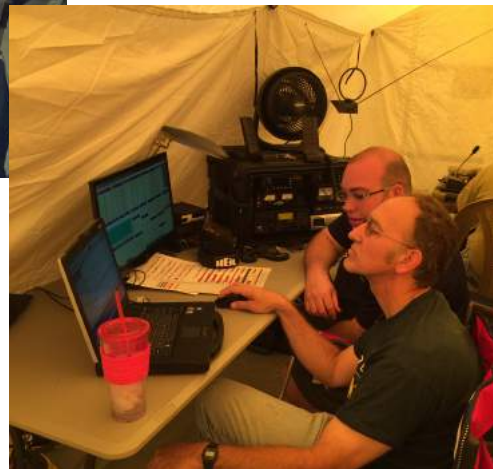


A mainstay of Field Day operations is the Voice Station – working contacts on all the radio bands, except 60, 30, 17 and 12. Teams of operators generally operate with one at the radio while the other logs the contacts. The operator and logger make a close team working together to pull out callsigns from the “noise” from “man-made” or “natural” sources. If you would like to participate at the Voice station, you could start as a logger, getting the feel of how things work. Then, once you become comfortable with logging, you could try your hand at operating.

Another mainstay of Field Day operations is the CW (Morse Code) Station, also working contacts on all bands as Voice. Since Morse Code is no longer required to get an amateur radio license, not as many “hams” operate CW. However, with a skilled hand on the key (or using computer generated macros) an operator can make many more radio contacts at the CW Station. Stop by and listen to some CW traffic and watch a skilled CW operator tickle the key.



The digital mode of radio communications is extremely popular with the “geeks.” Using software such as PSK-31, a digital operator can produce many more contacts than a Voice or CW Station.



A solar-powered radio station will be operating for extra credit. This station will demonstrate how solar power can be harnessed and used to generate steady power to the radio. If you are not into amateur radio, you might find some ideas of how to rig up a solar panel to power fans in a greenhouse, nightlights, or entry gates. That's what one "ham" uses his solar panels for when not in use for radio operations.



Field Day Contest

The "contesting" portion of Field Day begins at 2:00 PM on Saturday and runs continuously until 2:00 PM on Sunday. The goal is to contact as many radio stations in the US and Canada as possible during that period. We try to let as many people operate as possible. It's a great time to explore your interest, warm up some old skills, or develop some new ones. Drop by any of the operating stations and watch the "hams" work. Be sure to make it known to the operator that you would like to give it a try.



Because this is a 24-hour event, there are always plenty of opportunities to operate in the evening and early morning hours. As a matter of fact, the atmosphere is usually quite relaxed around 3:00 to 4:00 o'clock in the morning. It's a great time to come give it a try.



Eating Time

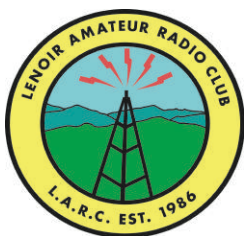
About 6:00 PM, we take a break and enjoy some food (this year it's pizza) and fellowship. Come grab a plate and sit down and chat with some of the amateur operators. We have your meals covered. A good time to learn about a hobby that will last a lifetime as well as provide career opportunities for those interested in computers and electronics.



There's always some fun new stuff to see at Field Day. It may be a drone with a camera making beautiful pictures, an interesting camp setup, a compact "go kit" for quick deployment to an emergency, or a crazy looking antenna. Come see what's new this year!



We hope you enjoyed this brief journey through Field Day 2016. Be sure to drop by anytime during the event. We will start setting up the facilities and equipment around 7:30 AM on Saturday. The main event starts at 2 PM and runs continuously until 2 PM on Sunday. You are welcome by at any time and spend as long as you would like. Bring the entire family.



Lenoir Amateur Radio Club
Redwood Park, Hudson NC
Saturday, June 25, 2 PM until
Sunday, June 26, 2 PM

