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WINTER FIELD DAY 2023

January 28th - 29th

Start 1900 UTC Saturday

End 18:59 UTC Sunday

A Message From the President



As many may have heard, Winter Field Day Association has changed hands and has taken on a new board. There are five board members, and we are all volunteers. Later, you will learn more about us, but many other ham radio operators are part of our WFDA advisory board. The advisory board helps with tasks like the website, scoring software, rule suggestions, and more. I want to thank all of them for stepping up and helping continue the mission of Winter Field Day.

The Winter Field Day website has taken on a new look, as you might have noticed. We still have some tweaks and adjustments to get it right, but it's a work in progress. These final changes are a little harder to get right, but soon the field day locator and some back-end security will be improved. We hope this site will be easier to maneuver and more interactive.

We have made some minor changes to the Winter Field Day rules this year. We hope these changes will be clear and help you get the most out of Winter Field Day. In making these changes, we were able to shorten the WFD rules packet. We even added a mobile class and some additional bonuses! We are also working on a FAQ section for rules and hope to have it up on the website by the end of December.

We have new WFD apparel created and sold by Club Gear Online and JSE-Repair. We want to thank them for their donations back to the WFDA and for supporting the WFD event. In turn, please help these businesses that are supporting us by going to the shop tab on our website and getting your Winter Field Day merchandise.

Finally, I want to also thank Icom America for joining us as a corporate sponsor of Winter Field Day. Icom demonstrates a passion for ham radio by supporting several events and organizations each year, and we are pleased that they encourage emergency preparedness through Amateur radio by supporting the WFD event. If you would like to join us as a sponsor, we have different levels of support and would like to recognize you on our website. You can request a sponsorship packet by sending us an email at wfda@winterfieldday.com.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the new Winter Field Day Association is enthusiastic about WFD, and the event will continue for many years. We are excited about the direction we are headed in and look forward to a very busy 2023 Winter Field Day. We wish you much success while practicing your emergency communication skills and hope you use WFD to improve your working knowledge and efficiency.

Marvin Turner
WFDA President

Meet The New Board Members



Marvin Turner WØMET, a 20-year law enforcement veteran and Extra-class amateur radio operator. Marvin is president of the Stones River Amateur Radio Club and creator of the Ham Radio Guy podcast.



Mikel Turner, W4OPS is a graphic designer, copywriter, and owner of ClubGearOnline.com. Mikel is an extra-class amateur radio operator who also sits on the POTA hamfest committee and actively promotes POTA.



James Copeland KDØICP is an Extra-class amateur radio operator and morning show host, and engineer at 10,000 watt KGGF-AM in Coffeyville, KS. James serves as secretary and newsletter editor and enjoys traveling and working out of his 1975 Winnebago.



Jason Johnston KC5HWB is a Youtuber, and creator of HamRadio2.0. Jason holds a General-class amateur radio license and is very active in promoting ham radio through social media and POTA activations.



Melinda Birchfeld, KC4CCL is our newest member of the WFD team. She is our treasurer and has been licensed since 2017. She can be found baking, crafting, or gardening when she is not playing on the radio. Her OM is her Elmer and helps her pursue any facets of the hobby that she finds interesting. is a Technician-class amateur operator

Past WFD Board

We salute the past board
for their vision and
continued support:

Tom Phelps W8WFD

Bill Nangle VE3FI

Erik McCord WX4ET

Dave Tabbutt W3DET

Ken Coughlin N8KC

Software and support:
Jerry Radcliffe N8KLX
Ray Stevens KB9LGS
Mike Palmer KD8ENV

We look forward to the program's continued growth, and though changes will happen, the mission and core principles of WFD will always remain the same.

- Natural disasters are unpredictable and can strike when you least expect them.
- Your training and operating skills should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios.
- Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event.

We aim to make Winter Field Day a popular communications exercise, with more incentives to participate and clearly defined objectives. We are excited about the future and direction of Winter Field Day.

We are working hard to process all the information we have been handed. We look forward to your participation again this year and in many years to come!



For those who have already looked at the 2023 rules, you may have noticed a few changes. When I started looking at the rules, I saw a lot of repetition and explanation in the 11-page document. So I started editing and deleting and got the 2023 event packet, including an introduction letter, down to 8 pages! So what has changed? Not much, but here are a few major changes and some notable rules for 2023.

Stations from Mexico now have their own location identifier of MX. You can now long Mexican stations with MX instead of DX.

We have added a 4th category which a lot of stations and groups will fall under. M is for all Mobile/Mobile stationary stations. Now, if you are operating in anything that has the potential to be mobile, like an RV, car, van, cargo trailer, sailboat, plane, or bike, you will fall under the M category. Mobile stations that are actually moving or roving during the event and using a standard vehicle antenna will get a 250-point mobile bonus. Mobile stationary stations that put up external antennas or remain at a fixed point will not get the 250-point bonus.

We have also added an antenna bonus for those who are setting up a non-pre-existing antenna for field day. If you go through the effort of setting up an antenna for the event, you get 500 bonus points.

Finally, we have changed or clarified our stance on solicited QSOs. During the event and via the airwaves, you can request QSO's.

This means you can tell someone, "Hey, do you want to go down to 40 meters and see if we can make contact there?". This is valid. You may need to change bands to accommodate communications in an emergency situation, so feel free to practice doing that. The use of spotting clusters, APRS, Winlink, and other Amateur radio-related communication paths is allowed during the event. You cannot use social media or other technology, including cell phones, to solicit QSOs before or during the event. You cannot preplan any QSOs either.

[Read the full rules here](#)

As of this printing, the latest version of the rules is 12.12.22

In the future, we hope to revise things even more and give you more guidelines and fewer rules. Remember, this is a communications exercise, and in real emergencies, we have to be flexible and adaptable to provide the best service to our affiliated organizations.

Good luck during WFD 2023. I hope to work you on the air.

Connect with us



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/winterfieldday>



<https://discord.com/invite/JzVX2PuGSv>



<https://twitter.com/winterfieldday>



<https://www.instagram.com/winterfieldday/>

Support our Sponsors

We are excited to have Icom America as a sponsor for WFD 2023. Show your appreciation and shop ICOM for all great amateur radios.



HOT TENTS OF WFD

By James KDØICP

There's no question that hams like to combine multiple hobbies. The popularity of programs like Parks on the Air proves there's a great interest in combining ham radio and the great outdoors. But as we know, Winter Field Day can bring some challenging cold conditions. Enter the world of Hot Tents.

While tents with stoves are nothing new, and pioneers would probably laugh at us for "rediscovering" something, hot tent camping has recently enjoyed increased popularity. It seems to be a natural fit for Winter Field Day. Take a look at the KG7SPL club's setup, for instance. A nice wood-burning stove not only keeps the operators warm, but it also keeps the coffee hot! There are plenty of racks for off-duty operators as well. WØKNG's setup is more of a family-size operation with a commercial-made Snowtrekker brand tent.

Of course, with anything, there's a learning curve too hot tent camping, but it may be something you might want to look into so you don't "freeze your keys off." An excellent intro to hot tent camping is available here.



KG7SPL, Corvallis Post 91, The American Legion - MT.
10 x 12 on left, 14 x 16 on right



Inside the KG7SPL tent.



WØKNG's Snowtrekker tent (on right).



BRUSH UP ON THAT

CW

FOR WFD

Whether you're a seasoned CW pro or starting out, you may need to familiarize yourself with the Winter Field Day exchange. Either way, Kurt Zoglmann, ADØWE, has you covered with his Winter Field Day Exchange and Winter Field Day Exchanges Encore on the practice page of his Morse Code Ninja site.

Kurt's approach to learning Morse Code is unique and worth your time, even if you know the code and want to increase your speed. Thank you, Kurt, for sharing this tip and a great resource for WFD!



Fight inflation and rising energy costs; heat your shack with tubes this winter and save!

**The Frozen
Feedline
Needs You!**

Got a great WFD story to share? Heating your tent with vacuum tubes this year? Let us know! We would love to share your WFD story with others. Just email us: wfda@winterfieldday.com



WFD Safety Tips



Outdoor Safety Tips:

- Listen to the weather forecast
- Listen for a wind chill warning
- Plan ahead
- Dress warmly
- Seek shelter
- Stay dry
- Keep active
- Be aware of changing conditions
- Dress appropriately
- Let others know your plans
- Drink Water
- Bring a flashlight and extra batteries

Know the symptoms of cold stress

- Cold stress refers to cold-related illnesses that occur when the body can no longer maintain its normal temperature. Low temperatures, wind chill, and wetness contribute to the body's loss of heat. Cold-related illnesses include trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia, all of which have possible long-term effects. Call for immediate help if you experience any of these cold stress conditions:
- Trench foot is a severe and painful condition of the feet caused by standing in cold water or mud for long periods. Symptoms include redness, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness, and blisters.
- Frostbite is an injury caused by the freezing of skin and tissue. Symptoms may include pain, tingling, numbness, clumsiness due to joint or muscle stiffness, hard or waxy-looking skin, or red, white, bluish-white, or grayish-yellow skin. In severe cases, large blisters may occur after rewarming, turning into hard, black skin as the tissue dies.
- Hypothermia occurs when normal body temperature decreases to less than 95 degrees. Signs of hypothermia include shivering, exhaustion, memory loss, slurred speech, jittery hands, sleepiness, and loss of consciousness.

Grab Your Gear

Winter Field day is almost here. Visit the shop page on our website to grab some all new WFD flags, apparel, patches, and more.

ClubGearOnline.Com

JSE ★★★★★
Custom Embroidery & DTG Printing
Hats - Jackets - Shirts
Est. 2009



Hot Crock Pot Chili

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- (2) 10.75-oz cans tomato soup
- 2 ½ cups water
- 2 medium yellow onions diced
- (2) 15-oz cans chili beans drained, mild or hot
- (2) 16-oz cans pinto beans rinsed and drained
- (2) 10-oz cans Rotel with green chiles
- 3 Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tablespoons garlic salt
- 6 Tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

1. COOK MEAT AND ONIONS:

2. In a large 12- inch skillet cook ground beef over medium-high heat until almost cooked all the way through.
3. Add onions and cook until soft, about 4-5 minutes
4. Drain off the grease and add the meat and onions to the crockpot.
5. Add all other ingredients to crockpot and stir will.
6. Cook on LOW for 4-5 hours or HIGH for 2 - 3 hours.
7. Serve immediately with your favorite toppings.

Are you **PREPARED?**

Winter Field Day is just around the corner, so now is the time to prepare and get ready. Unload your gear and take a look at it, gather your supplies, start making checklists, and prepare your plan.

We have included several resources on our website to help you in 2023. Check out our resources to view popular logging programs, operating aids, FAQs, past newsletters, and more.

[Check out all our 2023 WFD Resources here](#)

Thank you for an excellent event. The major snowstorm that hit this area helped emphasize WINTER! I operated at POTA site in my uninsulated car without spotting. Next time I plan to operate on more bands and modes, as well as spend more time in the contest. Need to bundle up even more. Best 73 Steve KA2YRA

Difficult conditions - poor propagation and cold and snowy. I was pleased to make the one contact I did in about an hour and a half of operating. It was fun! VY1KX - Yukon Amateur Radio Association

Using shore power, the Disaster Response Trailer (DRT), owned by St Paul's Lutheran Church of Artois was employed as the coms center for WFD. Glenn Amateur Radio Society (GARS) collaborates with the congregation providing the coms element of the disaster response mission. An IC-7300 was connected to a multi-band end fed 1/2 wave antenna strung between a flagpole mast attached to the DRT and an 80' pine tree thus providing an E/W primary signal pattern. TX power was 100W - KM6ZVR, Glenn Amateur Radio Society

A great contest that was fun to do. 15m opened but I had some fading on both 20 and 15. Thanks for all that worked me and those that stayed in there to give me a contact, even when it was niosy here in the City. Thanks to all. 73 Rick VE3BK

Rig is an MFJ-9420 travel radio with outboard frequency counter and inverted v antenna at about one quarter wavelength above ground. Operating outdoors on battery power at a public park called River Place Park, Port Saint Lucie, FL. - W2LVK

