

Field Day Questions & Answers 2021

Alachua County EOC Club Field Day (NF4AC)

North Florida Amateur Radio Club (NF4RC)

both supporting Alachua County ARES(R) --

ARES is not a club, and all licensed amateurs are welcome within ARES(R)

What is our Exchange?

On every contact, our HF, VHF, and GOTA stations will send 2F NFL as our exchange. You really can't "change" the number of transmitters midway thru! Every station except the GOTA station (if activated) will use the callsign NF4AC, licensed to the EOC club.

I would prefer to operate from home, can I use your callsign and be part of the EOC group?

You can certainly operate from Home as Class D (home, normal power) or Class E (home, emergency power) and you're even eligible for various Bonus Points, but you must use your own call sign and operator license class privileges, and file your own Field Day submission. You can assign your points to any one club if you wish when filing. We haven't pressed this because most of our folks have now had a vaccination and there are so many benefits from getting together and learning from each other and getting used to all of us. No matter which club you prefer to support, if you contact us, we will be happy to help you out if you wish to operate from home. We have multiple how-to documents for different modes of operation and those may be helpful also. Our website is:

<https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/>

Are you offering any CLASSES to help me operate more effectively?

YES -- Friday June 25 at 10AM and onward, there will be live training at the EOC by Leland Gallup (and others). When you get there, you can speak to the person at the door, or call Leland, or the number posted there to gain admission to the secure facility. SATURDAY (Field Day) set up will begin at 8AM and is expected to be finished by 10AM -- so we'll run more classes then too, until Lunch at Noon.

Why are we entering Class F -- when most clubs are Class A?

We are class F because we are located at an emergency operation center. Because Emergency operation centers already have equipment in place, we are allowed to use that gear & antennas and there is not the normal limitation on setup time. (4.8) A class A station cannot use pre-existing radio equipment/antennas (4.1) or start earlier than 0000 Friday (3.3)

If we use the EOC wall electricity, how can we get the Emergency Power Bonus?

We are allowed to utility power inside the EOC because there is emergency back up. (4.8.4) We are allowed to claim emergency power points because we had it tested and the EM obtained a decision of ARRL agreeing that our testing was adequate (4.8.4.1)

If we are entering as 2F, why are you planning a 6 Meter Station? And a GOTA Station??

We can have one free VHF transceiver (at a time) 4.1.2. Because we are 2F we can have a GOTA station if we want— which will use the exchange 2F NFL—But it has to use its own call sign and that same call sign throughout the event 4.1.1.1. Under supervision, non-licensed persons may operate the GOTA station. Persons licensed within the last year may also operate it. We have to turn in a list of everyone. 4.1.1.2

What Section do European Stations claim?

DX stations use "DX " as their section.

Are all contacts counted the Same?

NO! Here are the rules on points per contact (before power multiplier):

7.1. QSO Points:

7.1.1. Phone contacts count one point each.

7.1.2. CW contacts count two points each.

7.1.3. Digital contacts count two points each.

Why are we throttling our amplifiers back to 150Watts Output?

By keeping our power at 150 W output or lower we get an additional multiplier of two.

We did the entire Safety Officer last year, but got no points, why?

Safety officer bonus is only available to class A stations 7.3.17

We had a thunderstorm last year -- are you protecting antennas?

We will make every effort to have lightning arrestors and suitable grounds on every elevated antenna.

What about proper grounds, neutrals on generators?

We will make every effort to ground the frame and neutral wire of each generator where possible.

What's this about BANDPASS Filters?

We have created several bandpass filters primarily to help our receivers avoid problems from nearby strong transmitters on different bands. These are of modest construction and our plan is to use them at the exciter power level rather than at the output of the amplifier. *They go between the transceiver and the amplifier.* We do have one filter for the low end of 80 m and one filter for the 75 m phone band that potentially allow simultaneous operation on each end of this band

Can you have two stations both doing digital on 20 meters, or two stations both doing Voice on 80 meters at the same time?

Field day rules do not allow for operating on the exact same band and mode as another station in the same group. So for example you can't have two stations both doing 75 m phone.

Where can I read all the Field Day Rules?

At the ARRL Field Day Rules <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules> or as the last Appendix in our carefully worked out plans: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2021/NFARCDraftICS201.pdf>

Where are your HOW-TO pages for each mode?

SSB Voice: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2021/SSBContactSuggestions.pdf>

CW: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2021/CWContactSuggestions.pdf>

Digital: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2021/FT8FT4ContactSuggestions.pdf> -- and we have one for RTTY / PSK also on our web page.

I'd like to try logging on a computer. Where do you get the logging system you are using?

Start here: <https://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html> There is a nominal fee to use it for more than 30 contacts.