

Ozark QRP Banner



The Official Newsletter of the Four State QRP Group - WQ5RP Special Field Day 2020 Edition

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This was certainly the strangest FD ever. One for the books. But it was great to see so many get out and operate, even if it was from the back yard. It proves Hams are ready and can adapt to any emergency. The bands seemed to be as busy as usual even with the sad Solar Flux numbers. Hope everyone had a great time no matter how you operated.

KCØPP, Editor

Pre-Field Day Plans

I'll be 1E NNJ.

Setting up in the back yard with the PAR END FEDZ for the daytime. Too close to the house to be considered 1B.

The set up will be the KX3 attached to my deep cycle battery, which in turn will be connected to my Harbor Freight solar panel.

For the night time, I'll transfer the KX3 down to the shack and use my permanent wires for 80 and 160 Meters. When those peter out, I'll hit the sack. No full 24 hours for W2LJ this year - not with a comfortable mattress so close!

Larry
W2LJ

**

I'm doing something similar - putting up my screen house and a temporary antenna in the backyard. A sane person might ask - Why not just stay in the house? But camping in the back yard awakens the ten year old boy in me. Plus I've invested in that screen house and that generator so why not use 'em?

My faith is not strong enough to go with QRP though. But I know a lot of people will make 100s of QSOs as QRP.

I've been K5PXP on FD most of the past 30 years or so. This year I'll be WA5BDU.

73,
Nick,
WA5BDU 1B AR

**

Dave Benson

Keith and multitudes-

Here's hoping there's decent activity levels. I'm guessing there'll be a lot more class-D and -E stations.

I've shot a line over a big pine- it's up 65 feet and I'll use either a 20M vertical dipole or an inverted-Y for 40M. I'll put a screen tent up this morning in a shaded spot in our woods. The weather will be an unknown- a 60% chance of T-storms both days. If need be, I can move to our small 'cabin'. It'd be tempting to skip the tent and set up there instead, but that'll mean mosquitoes (Praise the Lord and pass the DEET!)

When I wrap up Field Day, I'm exhausted, bug-bitten and sunburned. You know- a complete success! Best of luck to all, and hope to work you this weekend.

73- Dave,
K1SWL
1B- Battery

**

I'm going to give it a try from the shack and my 65 ft converted TV antenna tower!
Hope to cu there.

72
Johnny
ACØBQ

**

I may not make a ton of contacts, but it will be fun. I will be 1E IL, from home, and my goal is to use every QRP rig I have in the stable, including crystal controlled and milliwatt rigs, making at least one contact with each and checking off a fresh W.A.S. map as I go. Please listen WIDE when on the QRP frequencies cuz most of my crystals are slightly off center frequency. I will use my 6BTV and my 85 foot inverted L. Great Field Day to all!

72! / Woody / WD9F

**

KØFHG and I will be operating from a small park in St. Peters, Mo. Running KX3's and Mag Loop antennas. NØA for the St. Louis QRP Society; 2B Mo.

Keith,
KCØPP

**

AAØVE will be operating from a small bedroom, running a KX3 at 5W and a radio-controlled mag loop antenna. I'll be 1E MO.

As an aside, the NWS shows a moderate chance of lightning/thunder between now and 1:00 Sunday afternoon - perfect timing!

During the contest, I will be snacking on grapes, in memory of Randy, WA0OUI.

73 and Good Luck in the Contest,

John,
AAØVE

Field Day Reports

OK. I'm done. Had fun. Spent a total of about 6 hours in the effort. Lots of time switching rigs, finding connectors, hooking things up, etc. Total of 35 states (CONUS) all 5W or less. Highlight was a contact in VA with my Rockmite 20. Low point was discovering my beloved HW-8 is not working (winter project I guess). Other rigs used with success MTR 2, 3 & 5 with 9V battery, SS40/NS40, SST 40, KX3 (5W), FT817ND. Rigs used with no success Pixie, Cricket 80A, Ham Can and three different "Rex" rigs built at FDIIM buildathons. Naturally, the KX3 and FT-817ND were the work horses accounting for 80% of all contacts with the MTRs doing a great job too. 6BTV & 85 foot inverted L. 10M, 15M, 20M, 40M. Good time!

72 all!

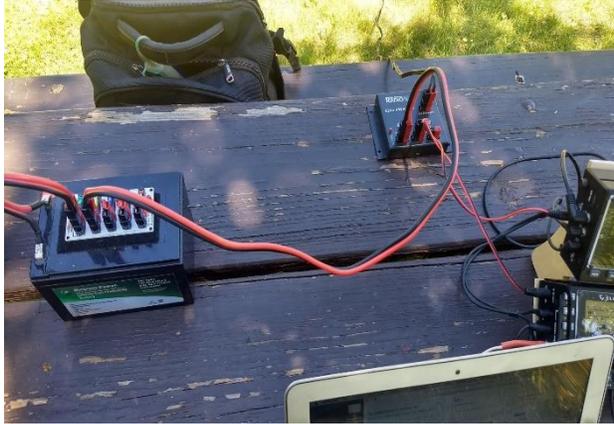
Woody/WD9F

##

I was able to get out for a couple of hours today to operate, from a park in Minnesota near St. Paul. It was not a terribly serious effort, but it was a beautiful day, and I was able to make some contacts. S&P was the order of the day. I was able to work a surprising number of 1D stations, although there were a fair number of "alligators," all mouth and no ears.



KX3 & PX3. Macbook Air running RUMlogNG contest log



Epic PWRgate switch and 12 Ah Bioenno battery



30 watt foldable solar panel

My station was my KX3/PX3 combination, running at 5 watts. I worked with a wire vertical up in the tree next to my operating position, and used a 30 watt solar panel, that would have done a nifty job of keeping things charged, had I operated into the night. Nonetheless, it was a good day.

QSO count 51, no dupes, multiplier = 10, bonus = 100 for solar. There may be a few extras, such as filing online.

73,
Charles - NK80

##

Hello All,

This was the first time I operated FD from home! That was strange! I setup my K2 on our deck after I saw the forecast.

I also had an information table setup since I had invited some neighbors. I had a total of 5 neighbors that signed the visitors log.

One of the neighbors is an elected official (City Councilman). Oh Boy, extra points!

I operated 40 meter CW for a total of 12 hours. First time I slept overnight for years at FD! I ran 5 watts with my K2.

I used two antennas with a coax switch. Used a 40 meter dipole N/S and homebrew W5GI mystery antenna E/W.

125 CW QSO's x5 Power multiplier = 1250 points.

Emergency power 100 points

Public Info table 100 points

Natural power (solar) 100 points

Site visited by elected official 100 points

1650 points

My neighbors were very interested and asked lots of questions!

73,
Rod
WA9GQT

##

For the record, I operated just a few hours. At first, I tried using my mag-loop in my son's room. The noise was horrendous. Despite that, I was picking up all kinds of FT8 signals. Since I am unfamiliar with the WSJT-X software, I didn't want to show my ignorance during Field Day, so I put away the loop, erected my outdoor end-fed antenna (10-20-40M), and used that for the duration of the contest. I had 21 CW contacts (20 and 40M) and 1 SB contact (on 10M). I had 250 bonus points (100% emergency power, W1AW bulletin, and pending web submission). So my total was 465 points.

I realize 465 points is pretty meager, but I really haven't operated during Field Day for the past two years (at least), so these are 465 more points than I normally get.

73
John,
AAØVE

##

I just entered my measley log submission for FD c/o SLQS. I was only on the air for a very short time and made only 15 CW contacts with my KX2 as a lazy 1D. My first FD operating. Not many points. I was pleased to hear activity on 15 and 10 meters and make some contacts there. "Sunspots? We don't need sunspots!"

Dave
WØDCX

##

I operated from home sporadically. I made 160 QSO's on 40, 20 and 15 and 10, all CW, all 5 watts, commercial power and on my 6BTV vertical.

Dave,
WØDF

##

Well, here at KKOU we got off to a slow start as WOMJ (Whatever Matt's newest callsign is) stopped over at 1800Z and we shot the breeze for a few hours. Once I got on, I ran 2D using FT4 and CW sort of simultaneously. Only ran about 5 hours on Saturday, and about that much on Sunday. Overall, 178 QSOs, split between the two modes. I'll have to figure a score later. The FT4 station was my KX2 and SOTA 20m 1/4 wave vertical. CW was the KX3 and my trusty 40m dipole. Ran 40-20-15-10, didn't get on 80 meters at all. 15m was really quite active on Sunday at the end!

Certainly a Field Day for the books.

73,
Jim
KKOU

##

I had a meager QRP operation from the lake property.
I used the 250' Horizontal loop (after I repaired one corner that blew down sometime over the past two weeks...) then made 95 contacts 80-40-20-15 meters.
I was surprised how long 20 stayed open on Saturday evening.
Snagged a couple of Hawaii stations and Rhode Island.
Added Barbados as a "DX" QSO too.
Did not break out the solar panel and I forgot to copy the Field Day Bulletin.
So - it was fun, but certainly not back breaking work this year.
Glad to see so many 4SQRP operators made it on the air.

72,
-Ed, WG5F-
(1E OK)

##

NØA - KØFHG and KCØPP operating in the field for The St. Louis QRP Society. Other members operated from home.

117 QSO's, KX3's running 5 watts into mag loop antennas. About 8 hours of total operating time Saturday and Sunday. We got lucky and missed most of the rain. Operated on 40, 20 and 15 meters.

20 meter mag loop



40 meter mag loop

6 meter mag loop

Keith, KCØPP

##

this was a fun event..learned a lot about power budget management with solar panel and battery as power source. I waited until after 18:00Z on Saturday to throw my dipole up into a couple of trees in the yard and set up the radio and computer on the patio. It took all of 15 minutes to set up and that short delay bought me an extra 3 hours in the contest that allowed me to operate Sunday afternoon when the bands were more QRP friendly. 226 Q's, plus w1aw fd message, 100% emergency, natural power bonus points..oh, an dont forget the 50 free points for submitting logs online.

Brian
K9WIS

##

Worked 16 stations over 2 hours operating CW on 15, 20, 40 from the patio table using a K1-4 into a wire thrown into a pine tree. Attached is a picture of the setup. Ignore the clutter please lol. I quit smoking years ago but the stone ashtray is useful for anchoring the station end of the wire. The flyswatter is appropriate this time of the year here.



72,
Curt
KB5JO

##

Plans to operate from the back yard were scrubbed after looking at the weekend forecast. This old guy doesn't do well in 90 plus temps and thunderstorms. I operated 1E with the K2 and gelcell power. Total Q's 217 ducking the storms and getting sleep. Details, 57 on 40, 78 on 20, 47 on 15 and 35 on 10 all on CW.

Total submitted to ARRL for 4state was 2320. Online submission was super easy and quick.

72
Mike,
W9QS

##

Bill Lamm

It was an experiment day.. new endfed wire in the trees, a 'yun yun' multitaun and an untested uBITX v5 so I setup on the deck but had to go commercial power, buck converter problems.. Had a few contacts on 40m. In the evening and Sunday morning I worked 20m on my IC-718 same wire in the trees but used the mfj tuner. Made most of my points by filing report on line but it was a good day...



##

Four State QRP Comfortable nets

meet each Wednesday night beginning at 20:00 Central Time.

Add anything to the exchange that you wish, temp, rig, ant, etc.

Checking into all, sessions is encouraged. We call it the "Clean Sweep".

- 20:00 CT ... 40M CW Net on 7122 - WQ5RP/ACØBQ/KV6Z NCS
- 20:30 CT ... 80M CW Net on 3564 - WQ5RP/WAØITP NCS
- 21:00 CT ... 80M PSK Net on 3580.5 - WQ5RP/NØTGR NCS

All are welcome!

Second Sunday Sprint -

Occurs on the second Sunday of each month, 7 to 9 PM Central

Any mode, any band (except WARC & 60 mtrs) -

- Suggested frequencies: standard calling freq. plus 7122 and 3564 (CW), and 3985, 7285, and 14285 (SB).
as well as the usual QRP watering holes.

QSO's with the same station on different bands are allowed. CW and SB portions of a band count as two bands.

- Calling CQ is suggested to be "CQ 4S"
- Exchange is "RST, SPC, member number (power if non-member)"
- 5 Watts max CW, 10 Watts PEP max SB.

The station with the most contacts each month will be emailed a certificate. Furthermore, the top three stations with the most SSS contacts during the year will also receive certificates via email.

Scores are submitted via the grpcontest.com/4sgrp website (compliments of W8DIZ).

For full details, please download the [complete rules \(PDF\) here](#).

For questions, please contact John (AAØVE): jonigro@gmail.com

*** NEW! *** Wednesday evening **DMR Voice Net** will be at (Thursday) 0300 UTC (9:00PM Central Time Wednesday/) Four States QRP has a Brandmeister DMR Talk Group (TG31654). Join us to discuss QRP, ask questions, or just ragchew. The Wednesday net is a directed net but any other time you may use the Talk Group to chat with other QRPers. Net Control operator is **Bert NOYJ**.

For information and help, check out the DMR subgroup on 4sqrp.groups.io
<https://4sqrp.groups.io/g/DigitalFM>

Thursday Morning

The Four State morning net has been convened for members who like to start the day on the air.

We meet each Thursday morning at 8:00 AM Central on 7122 kc.

7122 has become the Four State 40M hangout frequency, and often members can be found there on any morning.

Editors Note:

Articles are needed to make every Banner issue successful. If you have something of interest please send it to the editor at the email address below. It is not necessary to send a finished article. You can send some comments, notes, etc. and I can put it all together for you. Pictures are always of interest. Some of the items of interest would be outings and /or operating events by yourself or a group, any construction whether it is equipment, antennas, accessories, QRP Field Day, SOTA, etc. Anything QRP is welcome. Submit your article to editorqrpbanner@gmail.com

Keith Arns,
KCØPP,
QRP Banner Editor

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