



The Winter Field Association Presents  
**Winter Field Day 2023**

January 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

Starts 1900 UTC Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>

Ends 18:59 UTC Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>

Greetings,

At the Winter Field Day Association, our mission is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique operational challenges.

We sponsor the Winter Field Day Exercise in the form of a contest to encourage you to participate. Although we have a Class for Home stations, we highly encourage setting up remote and outdoor operating positions. Operating out in the field, away from the comforts of home, is the best way to increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operating skills in subpar conditions.

WFD is a learning experience, and we hope at the end of this year's WFD exercise, you will feel more confident about your ability to adapt and overcome adverse weather conditions. Please read through the rules thoroughly. If you have questions, contact us on our website or social media for clarification.

At the WFDA, we use the term contest very loosely around here, so don't get too hung up on our rules. At the end of the day, your total points don't matter. What you learn during WFD and your ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles is what will help you during unexpected emergencies. As we continue with another year of the WFD exercise, we want to encourage participants not to chase the contacts or the points but to test their abilities and equipment. If you want to exchange signal reports, please give each other accurate information, so the other station knows how well their station is working.

Finally, have fun with the event, talk about the temperature, meet new friends and make memories as you continue to enhance your skills as an amateur radio operator.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing you on the air in 2023!

Sincerely,  
WFDA

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# WFDA Winter Field Day 2023 Rules

## Notable Rules for Winter Field Day 2023

- All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.
- All logs must be in the Cabrillo format and submitted online at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)
- Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.
- We have added a 4<sup>th</sup> category M for Mobile / Mobile stationary stations.
- We have added an additional Antenna bonus.

**Eligibility:** All licensed amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate. Radio operators in the United States and Canada will use the designated location identifiers set up by the ARRL and RAC field organizations. Operators in Mexico will use MX as their location identifier, and all other operators outside of North America will use DX as the location identifier. All participants are encouraged to submit a log of stations worked.

**Objective:** To set up an amateur radio field station and successfully make multiple contacts. Successful participants are those who can set up their equipment and correctly log the designated exchange during the operational period explained below.

**Operational Period:** Winter Field Day is always held the last full weekend in January. For 2023, it will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The 24-hour operational period starts at 1900 UTC on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and ends at 18:59 UTC on Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup>. Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 19:00 UTC on Friday before. However cumulative set-up time shall not exceed 12 hours.

**Entry Categories:** A WFD operation, regardless of the number of stations operating under one call sign, must be in the same physical location. All station equipment, including antennas, feed lines, and accessories used, must be located within a circular area, whose diameter does not exceed 1,000 feet (300m).

You must choose which category you are going to operate in. If operating as a group under one call sign, all stations in your entry must fit the category you choose. We have added a new category this year. Many participants that would have been an Indoor or Outdoor station last year will now fall under the Mobile / Mobile stationary category.

The categories are:

H = Home: is defined as any station participating from their permanent livable residence or within 500ft of their Home regardless of operating inside or outside.

I = Indoor: is defined as any station operating away from Home but from inside an insulated, weather-protected building or structure on a permanent foundation. Indoor stations typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, and running water. Church, EOCs, a club shack, a cabin, and community centers are all examples that would be Indoor.

O = Outdoor: Outdoor stations are defined as operating from a partly or fully exposed building or shelter that does not typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, or running water available. Operating from a picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies are all places that could be considered outdoor. These are locations where you may have to provide your own heat source and/or protection from the elements.

M = Mobile / Mobile Stationary: These stations are defined as operations from a mobile or potentially mobile structure like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer, mobile EOC, ETC. These are operating positions that may offer some sort of built-in heating/cooling.

**Entry Class:** your entry class is a number designated by the number of stations in your entry that are capable of simultaneous transmission. Don't count a station where one must be left idle to make contacts on another; do not change your category or class during the event.

**Exchange:** The designated WFD exchange is your call sign, your Class and Category, plus your location identifier. US and Canadian stations will use the ARRL / RAC Section as designated by those organizations. Mexico stations will use MX, and all other stations outside of the US will use DX. You must accurately copy and record the full exchange. Do not change your section during the contest. If your station changes sections during the event, such as a long haul trucker, your section is the first section you made a contact from.

**Bands:** All Amateur bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. To qualify as a band worked, at least 1 valid, two-way QSO must have taken place on the said band during the contest.

**Modes:** CW, Phone (*includes SSB, AM, FM, DMR, C4FM, etc. If the end result is voice, it's Phone*), and Digital (*includes PSK, RTTY, Olivia, Packet, SSTV, ATV, JS8Call and other soundcard modes. If the end result is text or a picture, it's digital*).

**QSO Points:** Phone contacts count as one point each, and all CW & Digital modes count as 2 points each. Busted exchanges will be penalized by one additional point for each missed exchange or call sign. Duplicate contacts (same call, band, and mode) will not be counted nor penalized.

**Power Output Multipliers:** The maximum permitted is 100 watts measured from the output of the final amplifier. QRP stations, as defined by transmitting less than 5 watts on CW or 10 watts on phone get a multiplier of 2. All other stations have a multiplier of 1. 100W or less = 1x, QRP = 2x

Multiple Transmitter Limitations: The use of more than one transmitter on a single band & mode is prohibited.

**Band Multipliers:** Each mode worked on each band counts as 1 multiplier. If you worked both CW and Phone on 20 & 40 meters, your total multiplier would be 4. If you operated CW and Phone on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters, CW and PSK31 on 20m, FM on 2 meters & 440 you would have a total multiplier of 12x.

**Calculating Points:** Scores are based on the total number of QSO points x Power Output Multiplier x Band / Mode Multiplier + Bonus Points.

$$\text{Total Score} = (\# \text{ of QSOs} \times \text{PO}_M \times \text{B}_M) + \text{Total Bonus Points}$$

## Bonus points:

**Alternative Power<sup>1</sup>:** You may claim 500 points if no commercial power is used in powering your WFD station. This means any power not connected to the commercial power grid. Generators, batteries, solar power, and wind are all possible sources of alternative power. You may claim this bonus no matter what operational category you are working under.

**Outdoor:** You may claim 500 points if you are operating outdoors. Every station operating in the Outdoor category should be able to claim this bonus. Any station that is operating in the Home category but chooses to set up outdoors, may also claim this bonus.

**Away from Home:** You may claim 500 points if you are operating in a location other than home as defined above. If you are operating under the Indoor, Outdoor or Mobile categories, you should be able to claim this bonus.

**Antenna:** you may claim 500 points if you are setting up an antenna(s) just for WFD. If you or any of your operating stations are using any pre-installed antennas you may not claim this bonus. Pre-installed antennas are defined as any antenna attached to anything that could be used day to day or was set up before the WFD set-up time. This includes home antennas, installed antennas on vehicles, cargo trailers and RVs, and, any other antenna that would be considered permanently installed.

**Satellite<sup>2</sup>:** You may claim 500 points for making at least one successful satellite QSO. See the appendix below for more information on satellite contacts.

**Mobile:** You may claim 250 points if you are mobile during the event. This means you are moving / roving and using a vehicle mounted-antenna that can be operated while the vehicle is in motion.

To claim any bonus points, all stations covered in your entry must qualify.

## Miscellaneous Rules:

- All rules governing amateur radio at your location must be observed throughout the event.
- All stations for a single log entry submission must be operated under one callsign.
- Any mode used must be able to faithfully transmit the exchange intact without a conversion table. Stations can be worked once per band, per mode.
- Entrants may not count for QSO credit any contact with anyone who is or was a participant in their WFD operation or is present at their WFD location.
- All voice contacts are equivalent.
- All non-cw digital contacts are equivalent.
- QSOs may only be solicited during the contest and only via the airwaves. The use of spotting clusters, the RBN, APRS, and Winlink to solicit contacts will be allowed during the contest.
- Cross-band contacts are not permitted (satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).
- The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited.
- No repeater contacts are allowed including, DMR that may be transmitted through a repeater on the receiving end.

## Log Submission Requirements

All logs must be submitted in the Cabrillo format and contain the proper exchange data. Logs must be submitted by 11:59 UTC on March 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered. Late entries cannot be accepted. If you find an error in log after submitting, just correct your log and resubmit. The corrected version will replace the original you submitted.

You must submit your logs online at [www.winterfieldday.org](http://www.winterfieldday.org)

Once you click submit a log, you will receive a confirmation email.

Results will be posted on the Winter Field Day website.

## Appendix

<sup>1</sup> To claim the Alternative Power bonus, batteries in use may only be recharged using alternate power. When not in use, batteries may be charged by any means available. WFD operations claiming the “alternate power” bonus must run all station equipment and accessories from an alternate power source, with the exception of the logging-only computer which may be connected to the power grid or any power source available.

<sup>2</sup> Groups are allowed one dedicated satellite transmitter station without increasing their entry category. Satellite QSOs do not count as a regular QSOs credit. Satellite contacts do not count as a new band / mode multiplier. You only get the 500 Bonus points. You do not receive any additional bonus points for contacting different satellites. A simple CQ (versus CQ WFD) is sufficient, and you should be prepared to give a signal report and your VHF Grid Square to the other station versus your normal WFD exchange. It's likely the other station will not be a WFD contestant, and he will likely want a confirmation of the contact afterwards, especially if your location is remote. Please be considerate and comply.

## Cabrillo Formatting Example

There **MUST** be at **LEAST** one or more spaces between fields. Each line in the log must end with a carriage return and line feed. There must be at least one or more spaces following a colon in a line. The frequency for HF must be in kilohertz rounded to the nearest kilohertz. 3753 is fine, 3753.20 is not. Frequencies above 50 mhz are specified as the band .

Examples: 50, 70, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1.2G, 2.3G, 3.4G, 5.7G, 10G, 24G, etc.

The mode should be one of the valid Cabrillo modes. CW, PH, FM, RY, DG. The code we have used in the past for the digital contacts of DI is currently supported but not needed. It is preferred that you use RY or DG. In the next couple of years, the DI code will no longer be supported. Most log programs already use the right codes for this.

If your logging software is **NOT** connected to your radio, any in-band frequency is fine.

Date and times need to be in UTC and do not need to be exactly accurate.

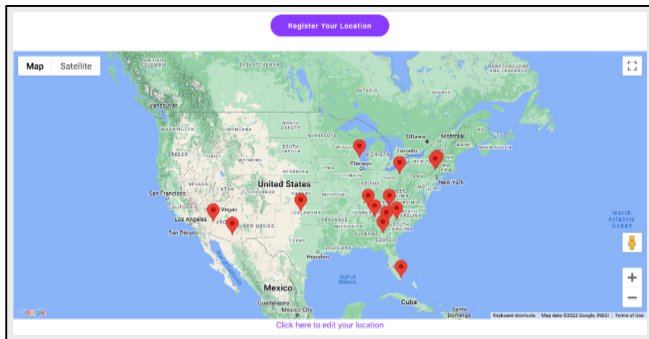
The old process of adding the information about the bonus points claimed and the modification of the claimed score is no longer needed or supported. The soapbox should be used for the purpose it was intended. It will not affect your score. But the soap box comments will be reviewed by the team after the event and used to improve the contest for next year

The callsign in the file name for the log **MUST** be the same as the callsign **USED** in the contest. If your event call is N8LOG, make sure your file name is N8LOG.log or N8LOG.txt

The main body **must** follow this format:

START-OF-LOG: 3.0  
LOCATION: **WTX** (Arrl Section) or **MX** or **DX**  
CALLSIGN: **N8LOG**  
CLUB: **K4ARC - Riverdale ARC**  
CONTEST: **WFD**  
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: **SINGLE-OP** or **MULTI-OP**  
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: **ASSISTED** or **NON-ASSITED**  
CATEGORY-BAND: **ALL**  
CATEGORY-MODE: **MIXED**  
CATEGORY-POWER: **HIGH** or **LOW**  
CATEGORY-STATION: **FIXED** or **MOBILE**  
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: **ONE** or **TWO** or **UNLIMITED**  
CLAIMED-SCORE: **xxxx** (your calculated total score including bonuses)  
OPERATORS: **W1CALL, W2CALL, W3CALL**, etc.  
NAME: **Mike Smith** (contact person)  
ADDRESS : **123 Main Street**  
ADDRESS-CITY: **Anytown**  
ADDRESS-STATE: **TN**  
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: **13791**  
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: **USA**  
X-EXCHANGE: **10**  
SOAPBOX: **set up and operated for 4 hours. It was 72 degrees in Texas.THX**  
SOAPBOX: **operated from K-1235 using a wire antenna.**  
EMAIL: **mike@gmail.com**  
QSO: **3750 PH 2017-01-07 1911 N8LOG 10 OH WB9X 2H IL**  
QSO: **14070 DI 2017-01-07 2131 N8LOG 10 OH K6XXX 14I LA**  
  
END-OF-LOG:

# Winter Field Day



**Best practices  
for adding your  
WFD location to  
our map system.**

When you know where you will be operating from and what category you will fall under, consider adding your location to our map. If you are operating from a public site and the general public is invited to stop, this is an excellent way to publicize your location.

Follow these general guidelines to get the most out of the WFD location map.

## **Get your GPS coordinates:**

Know the exact location where you are going to set up! The mapping system will ask you for your GPS coordinates. To get your coordinates, go to [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps) and zoom in on the location you will be operating from. Right-click on the map, and it will give you the Latitude and Longitude. Copy these down because you will need them when you register your location. Our form will ask you for the following information.

## **Required Questions:**

Our location system will ask you for the following information: Email Address, Name of Individual or Group, Callsign, Category, Latitude, Longitude & is your event open for the public or visit\*?

\*If your event is open to the public, we will email you a link to provide additional information. More about this later.

**Email Address:** Provide an email you can access. We will send you a confirmation email with a link in it. This link allows you to edit your site in the future if needed.

**Name of Individual or Group:** Consider providing your first and last name. If you are registering for a club, spell out as much as you can. Clay County Amateur Radio Club is better than CCARC.

**Call Sign:** Enter the call sign you will use on field day. If you are adding a club location, use the club call, not your personal one.

**Category:** Select your Category from the list. If you are unsure what category you are in, pick the one you think you might fall under.

**Latitude & Longitude:** Add the GPS coordinates for your location. The GPS coordinates tell the mapping system where to place the pin on the map. Try to be as accurate as possible.

**Is your site open for the public to visit?** Check the appropriate box.

Finally, click [Add Location!](#) You should see this success message:

**Location Added! [Click here to view on map](#)**

You will also receive a confirmation email. **Keep this email, as it will provide you with a way to edit your listing if any changes occur.**

If you click yes to a public location, you will receive a second email asking for information. Click the link in the email to edit your additional information.

### **Additional Information for Public Sites**

To best promote your public site, consider the following.

**Set up and operating times:** Let people know when you will arrive and leave. When is the best time for people to visit? Are you spending the night? Will you have more people available to be ambassadors during the day? Are they welcome to stay for dinner? Would you like advanced notice if someone wants to stop by?

**Directions:** Is your location hard to find? Consider adding directions or a description of the place. Do they need to know that they have to turn down the 2nd dirt road? Are you at the pavilion at the top of the hill? Do you have a campsite number or other identifying feature that will let people know they are in the right place? Be sure to add all of these details to your page.

**Contact information:** A talk in frequency is great, but what if an unlicensed person wants to visit and see what WFD is all about? Do you have an email or phone number of a person they can contact? How good is the cell phone service where you will be operating from? Do you have a website or Facebook page with additional information on how they can get a hold of you?

Two to three paragraphs of what is happening at your WFD location, not only helps the public find you, it helps them make an informed decision on when to stop by and what to do if they can't find the location. It also helps us here at the Winter Field Day Association. We look at the participation levels and use them to set future objectives. Knowing how you operate your WFD station helps us promote the event and make improvements each year. Thanks for your participation!



# WFD Club Challenge 2023

Once again, the WFDA will sponsor a Club Challenge to go along with the WFD event. The Club Challenge has been evolving for the last couple of years, and this year is no different. Please note that the Club Challenge is separate from the Winter Field Day event but coincides with it.

The class and category you operate as during WFD will not affect your club's performance during the Club Challenge. Your effort while participating in WFD, however small, can help your club rank higher in the WFD Club Challenge. So we encourage you to participate in WFD even if you can't get out and be at your club's physical location.

To help your club in the Club Challenge, you will use your call sign during your effort and enter the Clubs Call sign in the designated spot in the Cabrillo formatted log you submit at the end of the event.

We use the ARRL and FCC definitions of a club, so your club must have at least four members to compete in the Club Challenge.

To enter, we are asking that one person from your group pre-register your club's location on our WFD map. The link is: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/register-location.php>. This is optional but it helps us collect the Club Call signs prior to WFD.

As stated above, to help your club during the Club Challenge, simply submit your own log with your own information. In the Cabrillo formatted log, where it asks you for CLUB: enter your Clubs pre-registered Club Call sign, and if you wish to add your club's name enter it like this

CLUB: K4FUN --- Stones River Amateur Radio Club

Make sure to use the three --- as a separator between the Call Sign first and the name. If you don't enter the name, that is okay as well. We pull the name data from our map.

You are only allowed to participate in one effort. If you operate at your clubs, location your clubs log should include you as an operator in their Cabrillo formatted log under OPERATORS:

You should not go home, use your own call and classification, and then submit your own additional log.

One would expect that most clubs will have all of their efforts in a specific geographic area, but that is not required. A few clubs have highly distributed membership. Many clubs may have members who are not in the area at the time. As an individual, you can participate from anywhere and have your effort go to help your club out during the Club Challenge. If you belong to multiple clubs, you can only choose to help out one of those clubs during the Club Challenge.

As long as you follow the WFD rules, stations within the same club may contact other club members for points. This includes any simplex operation but remember operators may not count for QSO credit, or any contacts with anyone who participated in "their" WFD operation.

The two main logging programs used for WFD are N3FJP and N1MM+; both have a place to enter the club name. Simply enter the club call in that field, and you are good to go.

The WFDA publishes a separate ranking for Club Scores. Your individual effort does not help your club rank higher in the WFD rankings. It will help your club rank higher in the Club Challenge.

So to be clear, you and your club will have individual rankings in the WFD Event. Your club could be ranked 30th. However, with the club members' combined efforts, your club could rank in the top 10 for the Club Challenge.

If there are any problems, the email address of the person who registered the Club Call Sign on the WFD map will be the person we contact first. We have developed the map so that you may register more than one Call Sign if you are a part of a club or multiple clubs.

The Soap Box in the Cabrillo log only needs to be used for its intended purpose; add comments about your setup, what you ate, weather reports, band conditions, and things of that nature. We do enjoy reading the soapbox information and take the comments into consideration while planning the event. Let us know how we are doing, what you did, and what you would like to see in the future.

Good luck in the 2023 WFD Club Challenge

WFDA

# WFD Club Challenge FAQs

**Can my log still be used for the Club Challenge if I operate from another state?**

Yes! Many clubs do have highly distributed membership. No matter where you participate from, you can still help your club rank high in the Club Challenge.

**Can I enter the Club Challenge If I am an individual or its just me and my buddy?**

No! We feel ARRL and FCC definitions of a club apply to the Club Challenge portion of WFD. You must have a minimum number of individual members participating to join in on the club Challenge.

**If I make a QSO with my club during the event, do those contacts count toward the Club Challenge?**

The WFD rules state: Entrants may not count for QSO credit any contact with anyone who is or was a participant in "their" WFD operation or is present at their WFD location.

If you are at home and will be submitting your own log, you can contact other members of your club who may be at home, operating in a public location, or maybe in another state. If you and a friend are operating 2H, and he contacts you via simplex on his way over, that QSO does not count because you are participating in the same effort.

**If I start off working at my club's site and then go home to operate as 1H, can I submit that log and have it used for the Club Challenge?**

No. You should not even do this. Your club should list you as an operator in the log they submit. You should only participate in 1 effort.