



Winter Field Day 2025

January 25 – 26, 2025

Clearwater Fire Training Center

What is Winter Field Day?

- Setup temporary antennas and radios in field
- Goal is to make as many contacts as possible
- Introduce ham radio to others
- Have fun
- Like ARRL Field Day but without heat or bugs

Joint Exercise

- CARS, SPARC and UPARC
- WFD sponsored by Winter Field Day Association
- Not an ARRL event but “similar” operating details
- Rules and other info:
<https://winterfieldday.org/>

Details

- Setup begins
 - Saturday January 25, 2025 @ 8 AM
- Operating Period
 - Start: Saturday January 25th @ 1:00 PM
 - Finish: Sunday January 26th @ 1:00 PM
- Location
 - Clearwater Fire Training Center
 - 1700 N Belcher Road (south of Sunset Point Road).

Distances to WFD

- Club Station – 10.5 mi
- Lealman – 14 miles
- 38th Ave N and 4th St – 18.3 miles
- Downtown St. Pete – 20.2 miles
- Madeira Beach – 16 miles
- Ulmerton Rd And Belcher - 8.5 miles

Meals

- Saturday - Lunch and Dinner (**bring dish to share**)
- Sunday - Breakfast and Lunch
- Sign up for food count
 - <https://sparc-club.org/WFD2025>
- Clubs provide meat, drinks
- Need count so please sign up by January 20 at 11:59 PM.
- Ideas for Dinner??? Pulled pork, pizza, pasta, Chicken, Sandwiches, etc?

Equipment

- 3 Stations
 - 2 SSB (one of SSB is PSK31/RTTY)
 - 1 CW but can also be SSB
 - Satellite Station - 9700
 - Elecraft K3 radios (All 100 watts)
- We have all gear - just need operators and setup/teardown help.
- Please no other transmitters on site.
- WFD isn't a "bring your own radio" event.

Equipment

- All radios have desk microphones, foot switch and hand PTT switch
- CW Station has a WinKeyer w/ Bencher.
 - If you want to use your own paddle or key, bring it along.
 - Computer sends CW but go manual if you like.
- Behringer Headphone splitter on each station to adjust your own volume
- **BRING YOUR OWN HEADPHONES!**

Modes/Bands

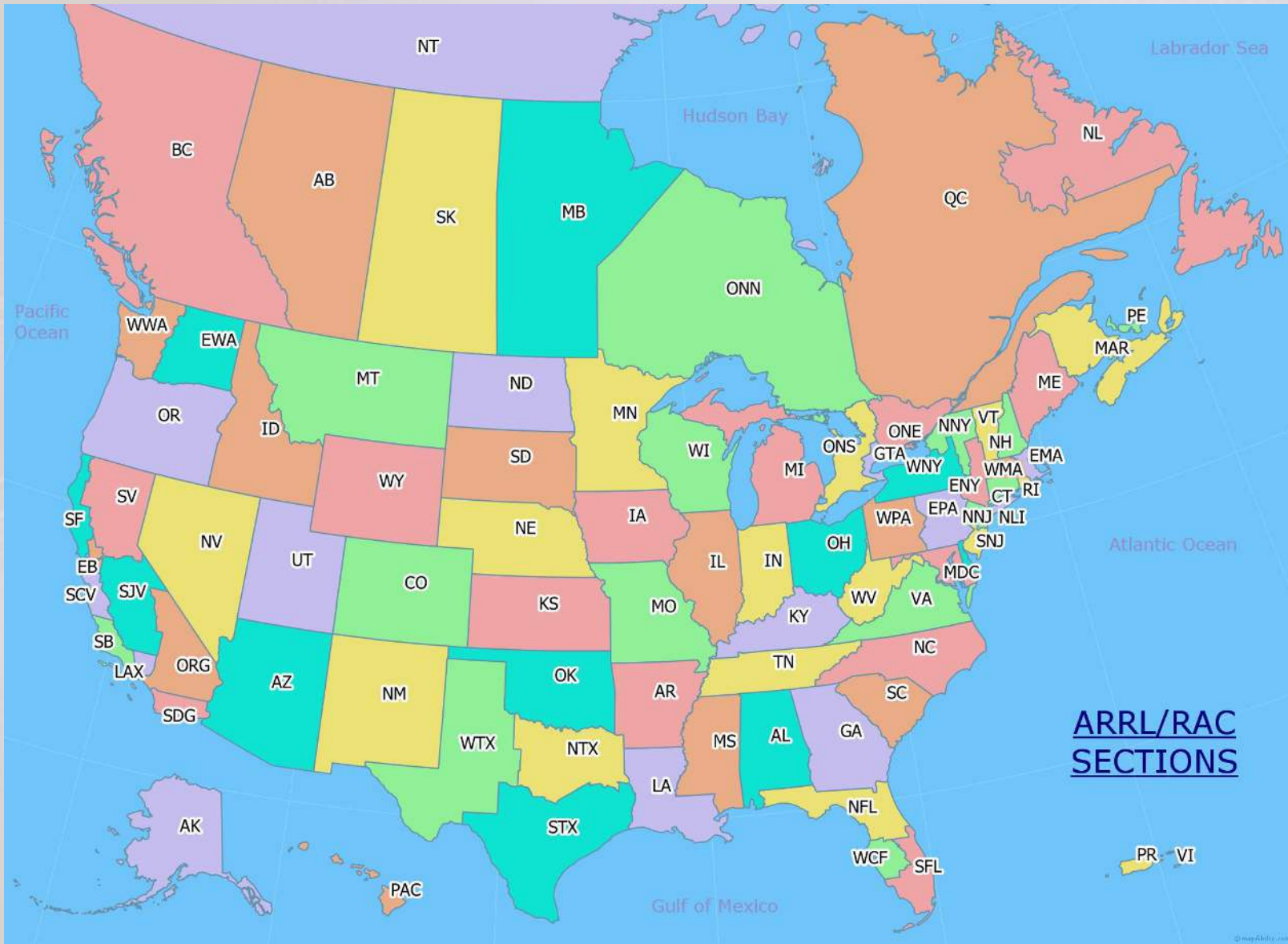
- Winter Field day allows CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 but not FT8 or FT4.
- Digital operation seems busiest on PSK31.
- HF uses 80 - 10m (no WARC bands)
- Satellite contacts attempted
 - Both SSB/CW and FM satellites.

Antennas

- Hex Beam
 - 20, 15 and 10 meters
- OCF Wire and ZS6 Antenna
 - 80 and 40 meters
- Satellite
 - Arrow antenna on AZ/EL rotator controlled by S.A.T. Controller.
- Patch Panel
- Triplexer for 20, 15 and 10 meters.

ARRL Sections

- Most states are just the two-letter state
- 8 states divide up the state more
- Each operating position has the list as well as a window on the computer



Exchange

- “3 Oscar, Whiskey Charlie Foxtrot”
- 3 is the number of transmitters
- Oscar is class
 - Outdoor, Inside, Home or Mobile
- 3O means we have 3 transmitters and are outside
- 1H would mean 1 station at home
- WCF is our ARRL Section

Calling CQ...

- Using W4TA as our callsign
- Calling CQ on phone
 - Pick one
 - "CQ Winter Field Day"
 - "CQ Field Day"
 - "CQ Contest"
 - "Whiskey Four Tango Alpha"
 - "CQ Field Day, Whiskey Four Tango Alpha"

Search & Pounce

- Let's say W1AW is calling "CQ Winter Field Day"
- You respond with just your call one time: "W4TA"
- They say, "W4TA, Three Oscar Charlie Tango"
- You say, "QSL, Three Oscar Whiskey Charlie Foxtrot"

Effective Communication

- WFD is fun but also a field exercise to help practice emergency operations
- Communicating efficiently is a good skill to learn
- In the prior exchange, notice what I didn't say?
 - Filler Words, “This is”, “Please copy”
 - I never said W1AW. They know their call so no need to repeat. Same for us, Unless they ask for repeat, assume not needed.

TR4W

- Based on TRLog from 1998
- Ported to Windows
- Powerful but easy to operate
- Big difference for N1MM users:
 - One exchange window
 - Doesn't matter which order exchange is entered
 - 3O EPA or EPA 3O
 - Can update callsign in exchange window

TR4W v.4.140.0 - 2025 WINTER FIELD DAY NY4I

File Settings Windows Alt- Ctrl- Commands Tools Net Help

05:07:30	160	80	40	20	15	10	All	42 Pts	QSO needs for W8HJ :			
CW -				1			1		CW: 160 80 40 20 15 10			
SSB QSOs				3			3		SSB: 160 80 40 20 15 10			
DIG QSOs				1			1		Mult needs for W8HJ :			
Dom Mults							5		3oth:			

Band	Date	UTC	QsS	Callsign	DX	Cl.	QTH	Pts	M	Id	\$	D	Freq	Op
20DIGI	23-12-...	07:44	1	W4ED		2I	SFI	2	d	A				NY4I
20SSB	23-12-...	08:09	2	W8DD		2I	Oh	1	d	A				NY4I
20CW	23-12-...	08:10	3	W9UH		2H	Wi	2	d	A				NY4I
20SSB	03-01-...	05:06	4	W1AW		3O	Ct	1	d	A				NY4I
20SSB	03-01-...	05:06	5	W7YH		3O	EPA	1	d	A				NY4I

20SSB	03-01-25	05:07	6				United States	00:06	Fri	INSERT
		A		W8HJ			00:00:48	00:00:34	CQ: 5	SP: 0
K4	IC705			OH 3H_			This hr = 2	Rate = 120	CQ total: 0	
DVK Dis.									Paddle	Footsw.
					OFF	CQ	EN81		WK	NY4I

Winter Field Day class must be H, I, O or M.

W8FJ W8HW W8JJ

- If you enter wrong class, program lets you know.

Other Software Notes

- TR4W does a great job for SSB and CW
- N1MM does Digital like PSK31 and RTTY better.
- Hence, PSK31 and RTTY contacts will use N1MM with MMVARI
- TR4W programs are networked together for dupe checking and backups.
- OPON – Change operators.
- TR4W.NET to download...Now a demo

Take Aways

- Sign up <https://sparc-club.org/WFD2025>
- Bring your own headphones
- OPON
- Plan for the weather
- Detailed email to everyone that signs-up
- Come early for setup, stay for teardown
- Register for operator spots (at site)
- **Have fun**, come to learn (or teach)

Questions?