

**Field Day – 2020**  
**June 27, 2020**

What is Field Day? - It is a nationwide event designed to give amateur radio operators a chance to learn and practice how to operate away from their home Ham station. The idea is to go out somewhere and setup your station without all your usual amenities. You may not have city power, you need to think about what kind of antenna you will use, you may need shelter from rain or hot sun. You also need to be as portable as possible. The idea is to practice for emergencies.

What if you are a new Ham and don't have any idea how to set up? – Come out and look at what other Hams are doing and how they set up their stations. Solar panels, generators, car batteries, wind power – who knows what will be set up for you to see. Maybe you will see homemade antennas, or new ways to hang antennas in trees. Bring your camera so you can get ideas for what you can do next year.

Where is it held? – This year our main set-up will be at Riverbend Park in Winston, on Thompson St. There may also be a satellite set-up at South Umpqua Rod & Gun Club in Canyonville.

When is it? – Field Day is always the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in June. This year it is June 27<sup>th</sup>. We run from about 8:00am to 4:00pm.

So what do Hams do on Field Day? – It is a great chance to make contact with Hams all over the country. We talk to each other, keep track of our contacts, and at the end many Hams send in their logs into ARRL. Awards are given for Hams with high numbers of contacts. Just want to have fun? Don't worry about the contest part, just talk to other Hams.

What kind of radio contacts will be made? – We'll have voice radio, for sure. Some operators may try to do digital contacting. If "Quarter Watt" is there, you can be sure there will be CW.

But what about the Corona virus? – We will be outside. Our stations will need to be separated, anyway so we don't interfere with each other. We will maintain our "social distances", if we still need to.

But what about my lunch? – Bring your lunch. Bring coffee, pop, water and whatever snacks you like. There are several lunch spots in Winston if you don't bring a lunch. But remember this is supposed to be a simulated emergency, so you should take care of yourself.

So, we all go home at 4:00pm? - We normally have a potluck after the Field Day activities. Our XYL's and other members get together about 6:00pm for our Potluck dinner. We have the pavilion inside with lights and tables, so even if it is a damp day, we can stay dry and happy.

We figure it takes a while to clean up our stations, go home and get our families and food and return. That is why we have the dinner about 6:00.

In the event we are still in lockdown during Field Day, we will not have the Potluck. Stay tuned to this channel.

-Paul Branchfield, KJ7BFQ-