# FIELD DAY



**JUNE 28-29** 

When we last left our heroes, they were operating ARRL summer Field Day June 28-29, 2025 from the Westport Astronomical Society Amateur Radio Club at 182 Bayberry Lane, in Westport, CT. They operated 3 stations in the D (home station) category and utilized the triplexer and the hex beam for 10-15-20 meters, the 40 meter moxon and the 80-10 off center fed dipole for 80 meters.

Set up began on Friday and continued until late Saturday morning. Our goal was to beat last years score of 956 QSO's.

We did very well is an understatement! This year we purchased our band pass filters and our triplexer for 10, 15 & 20 meters. We also built our choke filters during our March Hob-Nob. All of these items were used this Field Day to great success. We assembled 3 stations on the triplexer/filter system which simultaneously ran on the Hex beam. The filters completely obliterated our interference problems. Not only that, but the triplexer provided us with an unexpected plus (at least to the Editor), 3 bands on the beam. This allowed us to not only surpass last years total of 956 Q's, but also surpass our previous best of 1200 Q's. We made 501 CW contacts, 120 phone contacts and 894 digital contacts for a total of 1515 Q's for 5,820 QSO points.

Members of the Westport Astro ARC, Greater Fairfield Am Radio Assn., The Housatonic ARC and some members of the Greater Norwalk ARC operated K1WAS in the 2025 Field Day. We operated 3D CT.

Assisting our effort were Steve K1RF, Sam W1SMF, Jeff KB1LZ, David KB1LTW, Larry AB1JC, Gary WE1M, Rusty K4SAA, Jon AI1V, David N1DPD, Peter KC1TMT, Marilyn NU7T, Jim KC1RBG, Tom W1TFD, Marty K1MGD, and Peter K1PCN.

We were honored to host the following VIPs: ARRL New England Director Tom K1KI, ARRL Public Information Coordinator Georg K1YBO, ARRL CT Section Manager & club member Douglas WA1SFH and ARRL ARES Region 1 DEC Peter K1PCN.

### Steve K1RF FIELD DAY PRESENTATION

Club member Steve K1RF gave an Educational Presentation on Saturday June 28 for Field Day. This gave us 100 bonus points and more importantly, insight into OCF dipole antennas.



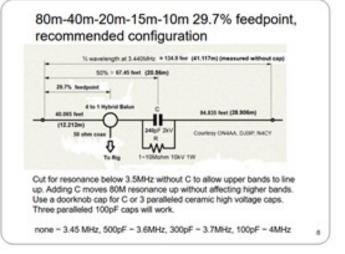
Steve K1RF

#### The Off Center Fed Dipole Revisited

presented at Field Day Housatonic ARC, Greater Norwalk ARC, Greater Fairfield ARC, Westport Astronomical Society ARC

> June 28, 2025 Steve Dick, K1RF

Originally presented at ratpac.us 4/9/2025



## Recommended OCFD antennas

- 807-XX sold by Spiderbeam (U.S. rep <u>Vibroplex</u>) \$249 for heavy Duty version -HD), \$129 for lightweight version (-L), 600W with 30M at reduced power. Or purchase directly from <u>Spiderbeam</u>.
  - 8 Bands: 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10/6m plus 30M (but high VSWR and works at reduced power and needs antenna tuner.) 40M OCFD also available.
  - 40M version: 404-UL covers 40/20/17/15/12/10/6m
  - Designed by Rick Westerman, DJØIP for Spiderbeam. Review here and here on eham.net for the 807-XX Review for the 404-UL here (begins on P52)
- Palomar Engineers also sells <u>OCFDs</u> and components for OCFDs. \$169.95 (500w), +\$30.00 1500W, +\$120.00 5000W. Covers 80-40-30-20-17-15-12-10-6 meters.
- Reviews <u>here</u> on eham.net. They also sell end connected OCFD antennas.



23

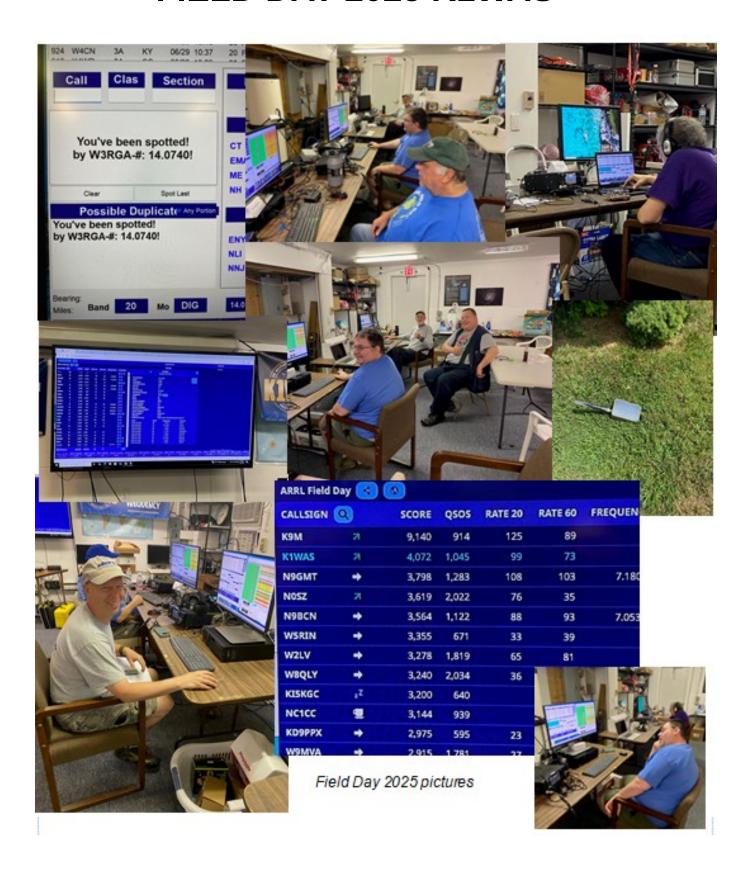
## **Educational Activity**



Ned KA1CVv cooked Saturday breakfast



Pictures from Field Day weekend





Steve K1RF Educational Activity OCF Dipoles



Band pass filters and triplexer



Sunday afternoon

### FIELD DAY ANALYSIS

Why did we do so well this year? Well let's look at several things.

#### FIRST THE NOT SO GOOD

We had logged 20 duplicate contacts. This should never happen as N3FJP checks for duplicates and lets the operator know in RED and with an audio voice saying "duplicate" when the call sign is entered and the cursor is moved to the next field. However with WSJT-x software, it loads the call sign into N3FJP callsign field, but does not tab it over. So the operator is not immediately notified. Also no audio is used with digital so speakers are probably turned off.

#### **NOW THE GOOD**

We had three bands of 10-15-20 meters on the beam pointing west via the triplexer. This allowed full power pointing west. Cross band interference was obliterated by our band pass filters and filter chokes. 40 meters was put on the mono band Moxon beam antenna. So four bands were on beams. 80 meters was assigned the OCF dipole strung between the south tower and a tree across the parking lot.

We ran 3 stations, each assigned a band or bands) based upon the antenna it was on. Each station ran an Icom IC-7300 with a computer and was setup for a keyer. Each station was capable of digital, CW or voice.

Solar flux ran about 140-145, with an A index of 10-15 and a K index of about 3. While the flux ran high, the bands were noisy. We could be heard however, with a wee bit more power.

Our crew stayed overnight. This accounted for additional QSO's we had hardly taken advantage of before. We also had plenty of operators who could take over for the weary.

#### **HOW DID WE SCORE**

Lastly, we pushed to beat last year's QSO total of 956. We also beat our record of 1200 Q's. We made **501 CW**, **120 phone and 894 Digital contacts for 1515 total Q's**. We focused our effort on making Q's worth two points i.e. CW and Digital. With digital, we ran two stations and switched one to SSB when we thought digital was played out on the band. This strategy worked well.

How did we do on bonus points?

### **BONUS POINTS WE ACHIEVED**

- · Message Origination to Section Manager 100 points
- · Message Handling 10x10 = 100 points
- · W1AW Bulletin copied CW bulletin 100 points
- · Educational activity bonus Steve Dipole presentation 100 points
- · Web submission 50 points
- · Field Day Youth Participation 3 youths for 60 points
- · Social Media 100 points
- · Field Day Site Responsibilities Bonus 100 points

### **Total bonus points = 710**

### **POINTS CALCULATION**

501 CW + 894 digital = 1395 x 2 points/contact = 2790

120 SSB x 1 point/contact = 120

2790 + 120 = 2910 points. 2910 x 2 power mult. (100 watts) = **5820 QSO points** 

5820 + 710 = 6530 total points.

This is the best we have ever done. Congratulations to all involved.

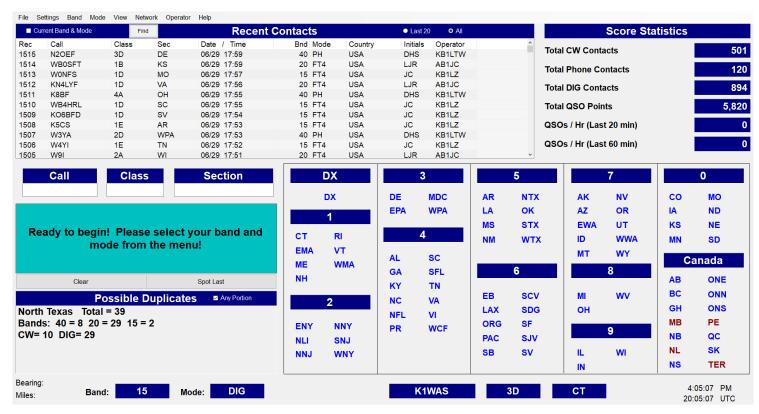
Score Statistics				
Total CW Contacts	501			
Total Phone Contacts	120			
Total DIG Contacts	894			
Total QSO Points	5,820			
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0			
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	0			

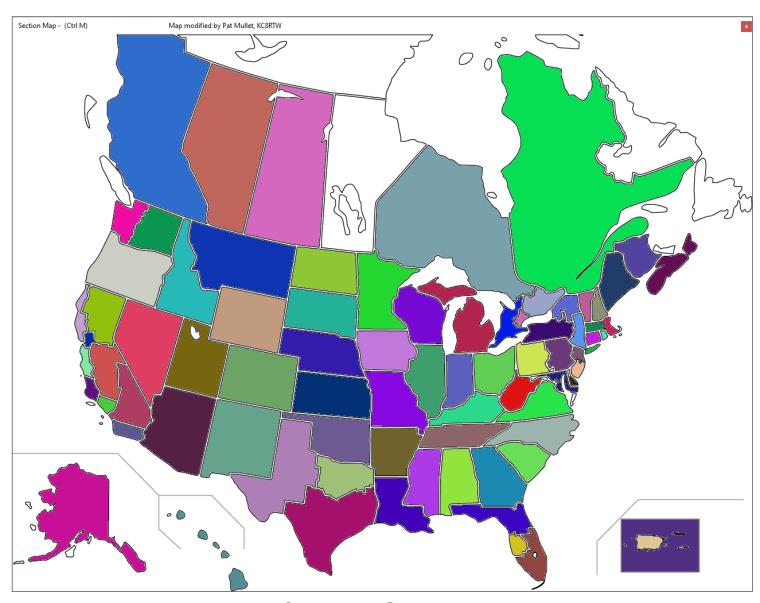
Q breakdown from N3FJP

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	ુ
80	0	0	44	44	3
40	269	82	181	532	35
20	227	15	345	587	39
15	0	12	282	294	19
10	5	11	42	58	4
Total	501	120	894	1,515	100

Band breakdown

Total Conta	cts by	Operator:
Operator	Total	9
K1RF	503	33
W1SMF	208	14
KB1LZ	194	13
KB1LTW	166	11
AB1JC	133	9
WE1M	60	4
K4SAA	45	3
AI1V	42	3
N1DPD	38	3
KC1TMT	37	2
NU7T	36	2
KC1RBG	29	2
W1TFD	11	1
K1MGD	10	1
K1PCN	3	0
Total = 15		





N3FJP WAS Map We worked 50 states and made a clean sweep of the ARRL Sections in the USA

**Rev 1.2**