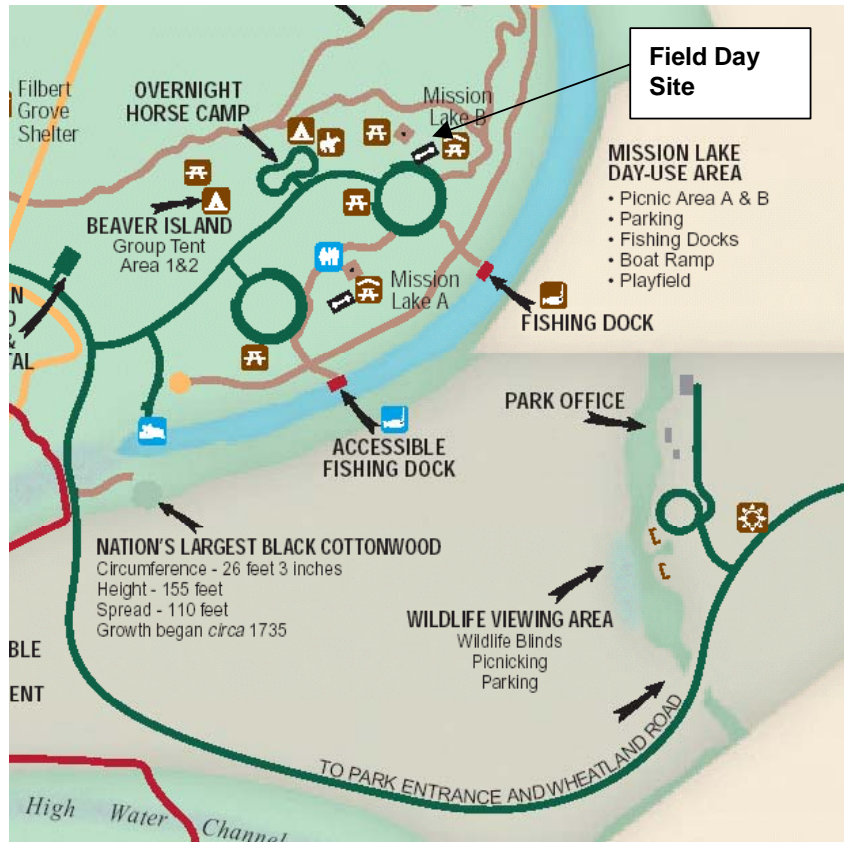




Field Day

Salem Amateur Radio Club
June 28-29, 2003



Willamette Mission State Park

This is the long and awaited Field Day package. I hope it is everything you expected. I have included maps on how to get to Willamette Mission State park (the site), check lists to better prepare you for this event, and additional material that will make this weekend enjoyable for you and your family.

Yes, folks, Field Day is THIS MONTH, and we're hoping to have another great weekend. Several members of SARC have been working diligently since Winter to put together an activity that will be fun, easy to set up and tear down, test our preparedness in the field AND give everyone who wants, the opportunity to operate in this, the "granddaddy" of ham radio activities. Accompanied by breakfast, coffee and donuts, and snacks, this group has been lining up equipment and supplies, mapping out the Willamette Mission State Park site and putting together some operating schedule formats. All we need is YOU! All of this preparation will be for naught if we don't have operators on site for the competition.

So, here's the scam: W7SAA will be operating 4A this year, which means 4 competition rigs PLUS the GOTA (Get On The Air) station and the VHF station - giving us 6 stations to operate for the 24 hour period. We can use the following people types: setter-uppers, tearer-downers, phone operators, CW operators (remember CW contacts are worth double points), loggers, control operators, hangers-on, cooks, eaters, warm bodies; in short anyone with a ham ticket or who has an abiding interest in ham radio. The schedule looks like this:

- Tuesday, June 24 – SARC Meeting (*Learn about other things we do at Field Day*)
- Friday, June 27, set-up at Willamette Mission State Park starting about 12:00 noon but getting serious around 3:30 PM
- Saturday, June 28, complete set-up and start contest at 11:00 AM
- Sunday, June 29, finish contest at 11:00 AM, followed by tear-down

What: ARRL-sponsored "Field Day" where we operate in the field, mostly without commercial power and other conveniences in order to practice emergency preparedness, trying to gain as many contacts as possible within a specific time window spanning Saturday and Sunday.

When: From 11am Saturday June 28th through 11am Sunday June 28th ... see the [ARRL Field Day WebPages](#) for official rules. The SARC event is NOT going to be a killer, max-point type of contest ... we're going to have fun and make it a learning exercise for all. We'll be gathering around 12 pm on Friday, set up antennas and camp. The actual event starts at 11:00am on Saturday and the objective will be to work different bands throughout the afternoon, night and Sunday morning. We will probably break camp around 2pm Sunday.

Food: Meals will be part the clubs responsibility and partly yours. The club will provide continental breakfast (muffins, fruit, cereal) on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. The club will host the Saturday evening dinner which will be spaghetti. All members who will be at the site for dinner are asked to bring either a side dish or a dessert. We will also provide around the clock coffee, hot water (tea), and lemonade for our operators and guests. You will need to bring any additional refreshments you desire. It's really only your lunches you need to deal with, with lots of munchin' in between.

Field Day Pins: We have a limited number of ARRL Field Days pins available for purchase at \$5.00 from Dean Davis. An example of this pin is the logo on the top left corner of the front page. These pins will only be available to members who attend our Field Day at the park. The ARRL creates a new pin each year to commemorate Field Day.

Club Simplex/Talk In: We will be using the 145.29 repeater for talking and as a general frequency for the Field Day activities. So bring your HT and set it to this frequency.

Stations: At the time we went to press with this guide we project to be operating 4 transmitters along with the VHF/UHF and GOTA station. The transmitter breakdown includes: CW Station, SSB/CW 15m, SSB/CW 20m, SSB/CW 40m, and a VHF/UHF station. I think we have enough equipment for the event.

Miscellaneous:

- We are allowed to camp at the site so bring what ever you need for camping (see attached check list). Don't forget a pillow.
- There is running water in the pavilion
- There is electricity in the pavilion
- Chairs & Tables – Bring along any comfortable seating for your self.
- Lights – Low wattage lamps are best. Don't forget batteries. Coleman lanterns are also great. It could get very dark at night.

Directions/Location:

Driving in Interstate 5 take the Willamette Mission State park exit No 263

Head west towards the ocean.

At the end of the road (Brooklake road) is Wheatland road

Turn right and follow the signs to Willamette Mission Park

Turn left into the park and follow the signs

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Checklist

Here is a suggested check list of items to bring. Adjust it to suit your needs. It would also be a good idea to mark all equipment with your callsign. We haven't had a problem with items getting lost. But, it would help the tear down and set-up crews to know what needs to go where.

In no particular order...

Item to Bring	Item to Bring
key, keyer, or BUG	cooler with ice
headphones	cups
tuner	cot or sleeping bag
power supply	wash cloth
coax	light jacket (early morning gets cool)
coax jumpers (radio to tuner, etc)	hat
RF connectors and adapters, assorted	ID badge or hat with callsign
soldering iron and solder	jacket and/or T-shirt
antenna	Medications
mast or poles	snacks
radio	food (grill and smoker provided)
microphone	paper towels
guy rope	small desk light for station
guy stakes/anchors	flashlight + extra batteries
hammer/mallet	garbage bag
adjustable wrench	
screwdrivers, assorted	mult-outlet strip
lawn chair, make sure it is comfortable	Pillows
table	Food and pot-luck items
accurate watch or clock	Utensils, plates, cup
tarp or other shelter from elements	Cooking stove
plastic to protect equipment from rain or dew	Rain gear including umbrella
pens & pencils	Toiletries
notepad or scratch paper	Gas lantern
sunscreen	Matches
sunglasses	First aid kit
insect repellent	
aspirin	Camera with film
electric fan	Swiss Army knife
water	
soft drinks	XYL
Extension cords	Kids, kids and more kids
Hand held radio w/batteries	
Extra fuses for ALL radios	Tools:
Antenna feed line	Screw driver (Phillips and Flat Head)
Extra connectors, barrel connectors	pliers, side cutter
Sledge hammer	crimping tool (including wire stripper),
Tool box	assortment of crimp connectors (nails, brads, tacks)
Duct tape	crescent wrench, fence pliers
Computer	electrical tape, Volt-Ohm-meter
3.5" computer diskettes	

Did I leave anything out? Please let me know via phone at 503.540.3270 or email deandavis@alpinesoft.com.

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Operating Procedures

Before reading this document, please keep in mind that this was written for Amateur Radio Operators who have some knowledge of Ham Radio terms. If you are new to Amateur Radio, or don't know many of these terms, don't feel discouraged. Everybody who knows what CW is (it means "Continuous Wave" but refers to Morse code) had to learn it too!

This is a brief primer for those that have never participated, or have not been out in some time. It is an attempt to let you know a little bit of what to expect, and how to operate properly. Don't worry though, there will be operators available and willing to help you get started during Field Day. But, maybe reading through this you will feel better prepared and more at ease. If you do find yourself feeling a bit nervous the first time, congratulations. You are normal! You'll get over it quickly and start having fun before you know it.

You may be wondering what exactly you will be saying or talking about to other stations that you make contact with. It may not be what you think. Your conversation (QSO) will be a brief one, and over before you know it. It is not a time for "rag chewing". There is certain important information that you must obtain from the other station, and vice-versa for the contact to be deemed valid for contest points. Remember, one of the objects is to contact as many stations as possible within the 24 hour timeframe.

So what kind of information do you need to get from other stations? Quite simply the only thing you are in need of is their callsign, classification and [ARRL section](#).

The classification is determined by several criteria as stated in the [ARRL Field Day Rules](#). For example, we will be classified at least as a 4A station. In brief, this means we have (4) stations in operation and the (A) signifies that we are a club using commercial power. Our actual classification will be determined during setup on Saturday once we know for certain the number of stations we will have in operation.

Our ARRL section is Oregon and is abbreviated as OR.

So, now that you know what to exchange, how do you go about doing so properly? First, you have the option of calling "CQ" which is an invitation for other stations to contact you. Or, you may tune around listening for someone else calling "CQ".

Let's say you decide to listen for other stations. One way to save your voice, by the way (CW is another!). You will no doubt hear other stations answering and making the exchanges. It might be wise to listen for a few minutes to get the hang of what is taking place. This also gives you the opportunity to go ahead and write down the station's callsign, classification and section on some scratch paper. Do not enter it on the log sheet though until you've made contact!

Making contact is really quite simple. Wait until you hear the station finish their "CQ" call or until you hear them say "QRZ" (pronounced "QR,Zed"). Press the transmit button and give the club callsign (W7SAA) [phonetically](#), or at least the suffix. Wait to be acknowledged! The other station will say something similar to the following: "W7SAA, this is (station callsign), please copy...3A...Oregon...QSL?" If you haven't done so

already, copy this information down along with the time (in UTC) and date. Then Reply: "(station callsign)...please copy ...#A...Oregon...QSL?" Wait for the other station to acknowledge they received your information.

Then comes the most important part. Even though this is considered a "contest" there is no reason not to be courteous and friendly. Wish the other station "73" and/or "Good luck in the contest". You will hear this from most stations during Field Day. Some of the die-hard contesters may not take the time. Don't feel insulted, go on to the next contact.

Make certain to enter the information you just received on the log sheet right away and that it is *legible*. By the way, there is one other bit of information that needs to be recorded. Make sure to put your own callsign in the log in the appropriate column showing you were the control operator that made the contact. This may be needed if there is a question about any of the information (illegible, wrong section abbreviation, etc.).

As mentioned earlier, you may call "CQ" and have other stations contact you. First, find a clear frequency. Listen for a moment to make sure it is not in use. To make certain ask: "Is the frequency in use?" Pause for a few seconds to allow any station that already has the frequency to reply. If it is in use, move on to another.

Once you've found a frequency, get prepared to call. Make sure you have pen/pencil and paper handy. When you're ready, press the transmit button and proceed to call: "CQ...CQ...CQ...this is Whiskey, Seven, Ocean, Tango, Victor calling CQ...W7SAA calling CQ and listening." Pause a listen carefully for a few seconds. If nothing is heard call again and listen.

Depending on the band and it's conditions, you may encounter silence. Keep trying. Remember that operators are tuning up and down the band and it may take awhile for them to find you. On the other hand, you may find yourself working a "pile up". This tends to get your adrenaline going at first when you hear what sounds like dozens of stations calling you at the same time. Pick one out and make the exchange. After you are finished with that station, simply call: "QRZed?" More stations will answer. Just continue until band conditions worsen, or you get tired!

Hopefully this has given you some idea of what to expect. Again, more information and help will be available at Field Day should you need it. Like most events, it's something you really need to hear and participate in to appreciate and increase your comfort level.