



RDXA 2021 Covid-19 Field Day

Links, News, and Proposals

All you'll need for 2021 Field Day

This is a 2021 updated version of the 2020 FD options – only minor changes have been made, such as updated links, etc. But the spirit is the same. GL. CQ FD!

Herein are

- Key Links to FD info specific to ARRL rule modifications for this year's FD, plus online entry form
- **"Breaking news"**
- A condensed version of the June 16 (2020) General Meeting **FD program**
- Link to the **FD Packet** pdf with complete **rules** and information on everything FD

Key links:

- [2021 FD rule waivers](#) Key points:
 - Class D/E (home) stations again may work other Class D for points. (2020 carry-over)
 - **New 2021:** 150W Class D/E max power limit
 - Club names will be published for all classes in QST results (normally only Classes A and F)
 - Make sure you enter RDXA as **"Rochester (NY) DX Assn"**
 - The sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club will be published (an aggregate club score).
 - **Where will RDXA place with our combined efforts? (We were #7 Overall last year!)**
- [2021 FD Packet](#) (pdf download) Everything you need to know about FD
- [2021 FD FAQ](#) (pdf download) related to above waivers (6/9/20). Key points:
 - Be aware that you can claim certain bonus points in your individual effort. A list is provided further down, with class applicability. At minimum, if you run emergency power, you get the 100-point bonus. And you get 50 points for using the online entry form. *Several members last year earned the W1AW message and other bonuses.*
- [Submitting your entry](#) (Web link) Click "Go to Data Entry" button to view form details – it doesn't commit you until you're done.

“Breaking news” (well, in 2020 anyway – but still very relevant)

I got this info directly from *Bart Jahke W9JJ, Radiosport & Field Services Manager*, at the League in reply to two questions that I sent them:

- **Question: Does the “club circle” apply for FD?**
 - **Answer: “As Field Day is not a contest, member club-circle location is not applicable.”**

Club circle is the 175-mile circle surrounding the center of a club’s area that all members must be within for their score to be considered in an overall club score. E.g., for ARRL DX.

This means that members who have moved out of the area may submit their FD scores for the club (2020 & 2021 only)

- **Question:** We have regularly invited non-members to participate in our FD. Will they be allowed to submit their score for the aggregate club competition?
 - **Answer: “Whoever submits a score using your club’s exact name will contribute to your club score.”**

This means that anyone who has participated, supported, rooted for, or who just supports our FD can use the club name in this year’s entry for their FD effort if they so choose.

Condensed version of June 16 (2020) FD Meeting

This is essentially some suggested approaches you can use to optimize your efforts, while also increasing the fun of this ~~one~~-twice-in-a-lifetime FD.

Side note: You’ve perhaps heard of W3AO, the PVRC mega-FD station who generally have 20 or more transmitters. E.g., 28A. I realized that this special FD is, in a manner of speaking, similar. If we submit 20 or more logs, it’s **akin to us doing a 20A+ effort**. Think about that – **you are operating in a mega-FD event!**

So, what can we make of this FD?

- Prime opportunity to **hone skills**
 - Hone CW – will pay off when you run at FD ’21 (now ’22)
 - Hone FT4/8 – Check it out. It’s also a valuable addition to our FD

- Hone CQing – mostly it's attitude. FD is almost completely a low power event. You have the best chance of running. Just believe that you can do it.
- Prime opportunity to **expand skills**
 - Expand VHF – activity hours are under consideration (including 10M)
 - Expand digital -- try 10M, especially when it's "dead" – FT4/8 suggests itself here
 - Expand your band/mode experience – try contacts on each mode in a band
- Prime opportunity for **something "radical"**
 - New antenna
 - Try a BOG (Beverage on Ground) (query reflector on this – there was quite an effort a while ago)
 - Or a EWE or Pennant rx antenna
 - Vertical in tree in addition to your dipole
 - Try back yard 1B (more later)
 - Try back yard 1A (Dan N2DD is planning on (did) this)

How make these happen?

- **Pick your FD class**
 - **E – Home station**, "emergency power"
 - Emergency power ONLY has to power your transceiver,
 - and computer if it controls the rig in any way (e.g., cw messages, grab a spot, etc.)
 - **D – Home station**, commercial power
 - **C – Mobile** – get on a hill and go for it!
 - **B – 1 or 2 ops only**, portable, emergency power, no existing antennas or supports (other than trees)
 - "Portable?" Back yard if meets all requirements?
 - "Spirit" of Class B (and A):
 - FAQ: *"Convenient access from one's backyard to home station facilities is not in keeping with spirit of Class A or B portable operations."*
 - They say back yard should be D or E. But that means all existing antennas, etc.
 - **My take only** (not a recommendation): To me a complete station setup per above bullet ("B – 1 or 2...") is within the spirit. It's training for portable operation. Also, many groups use park facilities with many of the benefits of home. *It's your call.*
 - **A – Same as B above** with 3 or more people
- **EXPERIMENT**

- Do you usually stay too long on one band, one mode? Try varying bands and band/modes
 - What will happen with QRP?
 - This is an almost completely low power event, which gives you a chance. Try it!
 - Bonus: QRP battery gives you a 5-point power multiplier (if you use it for the entire event for rig/computer)
 - Batteries may be charged while **in use**. Except for Class D stations, the batteries must be charged from a power source other than commercial power mains. To claim the power multiplier of five, the batteries must be charged from something other than a motor driven generator or commercial mains.
 - Contact points: PH, 1 point; CW and digital, 2 points
 - Power multiplier:
 - HP >150W: multiply above by 1 (*not allowed 2021*)
 - LP 5-150W: multiply above by 2
 - QRP ≤ 5W: multiply above by 5 So PH=5 pts, CW/dig = 10 pts **per contact**
 - Again, try running
- **SET PERSONAL GOALS**
 - Most contacts, points, states or ARRL sections
 - Most <whatever> by Band, Mode
 - Target 100 Q's
 - Target 50 Phone, 50 CW, 50 Digital
 - Most band/modes with 10 contacts each
 - Most club members!
 - Any combination/modification of above in x hours
 - **Potential club recognitions**
 - **100 Contacts – Corona Century?**
 - **50/50/50 – Triple Play?**
 - **Most members **
 - **???** Help me out

When it's over...

- Post your score (and contact breakdowns) on 3830scores.com
 - Why 3830? Cuz it's immediately published; offers band/mode breakdowns, which in turn provide data for potential club recognition awards.
 - Also, has club pull-down menu

- Use Comments for details, tell stories, share this once-in-a-lifetime experience
- Send in your entry to ARRL. Use the FD Webform (link at top of page) (gives you 50 points)
 - This is how we associate RDXA in 2020 FD and get an overall club score.
- In both, enter club name as **“Rochester (NY) DX Assn”**

EXTRAS

Since you’re sending your score to the ARRL, while on the entry form, you get to claim **Bonus Points**. There are a couple that could add a couple hundred points to your score. Except for 7.3.14, all are 100 points. Here’s the list (**2021 update: A lot of these were in fact used in 2020 (highlighted in red) – Go for it!**) D & E are highlighted. Read the rules.

Field Day Bonuses

A	B	C	D	E	F	Para	BONUS
x	x	x		x	x	7.3.1	100% Emergency power
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.2	Media Publicity
x	x				x	7.3.3	Public Location
x	x				x	7.3.4	Public Info Table (Irv’s table)
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.5	Message to Section Manager
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.6	Message Handling (10 msgs)
x	x				x	7.3.7	Satellite QSO
x	x			x	x	7.3.8	Alternate Power (batteries charged by natural means)
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.9	Copy W1AW Bulletin
x			x	x	x	7.3.10	Educational Activity Bonus (read rule details for class D and E)
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.11	Site Visitation, elected govt official
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.12	Site Visitation, agency rep
x					x	7.3.13	GOTA
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.14	Web submission (50 pts)
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.15	Youth Participation (separate info for class B)
x	x	x	x	x	x	7.3.16	Social Media (clubs/groups that welcome visitors)
x						7.3.17	Safety Officer

OK, that’s it. This is effectively a real emergency exercise. All classes can be considered relevant, even home Class D stations would play a role as relay stations in a different type of emergency. So this is an actual exercise. How can we do?

The League cleverly added some excitement by instituting ~~one~~-two-time pandemic waivers. The biggest, of course, are Class D stations can work everybody, and the club aggregate score listing. So this is a double bonus – let's see how we can do

CQ FD!