

Highlands County Amateur Radio ARRL 2023 Field Day

WHEN: June 24 – 25, 2023

Call Letters for Field Day: K4W

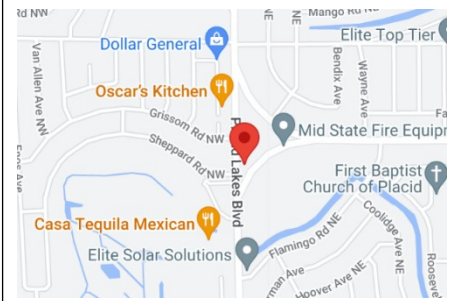
WHERE:

Placid Lakes Community Clubhouse
2010 Placid Lakes Blvd
Lake Placid, FL 33852.

GOTA: yes

Talk-in: 147.045 PL-100

Contact: Mike Forsythe



OBJECTIVE¹

To contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit but are not eligible to submit entries.

Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

GOTA (Get On The Air)²

One of the coolest parts of ARRL Field Day is watching a new licensee get on the air for the first time. Many longtime Amateur Radio operators can remember the thrill of making that first of many thousands of contacts. You can provide this opportunity by setting up a dedicated GOTA (Get On The Air) Station, where even non-Hams can experience what all of us already know: amazing things can happen with just a wire and a radio.

Plus, having a GOTA station on Field Day earns you extra points in competition against other clubs. Of course, the real reward is knowing you're doing your part to introduce Ham Radio to potential future operators. Are you planning to operate a GOTA station for Field Day 2018 (June 23-24)?

Here are the basics: Clubs competing for points on Field Day can have one GOTA station. The station may operate



¹ <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

² <https://www.onallbands.com/4-tips-for-operating-a-gota-get-on-the-air-sta>
pg. 1

on any amateur band on which Field Day operation is permitted (HF or VHF). Band privileges will be determined by the license held by the control operator, who must always be present at the control point of the GOTA station when transmitting.

Non-licensees may participate with the control operator by speaking into the microphone, sending CW, or making digital contacts. The GOTA station may contact any other amateur radio station, with a few exceptions.

Saphire is pictured here with Kevin, who sponsored her.

This year we had one GOTA, a young lady named Saphire, who did not have a Ham license, but with a licensed Ham in charge, was allowed to communicate with another Ham in another place. She did pretty good! This is one way to interest people in Amateur Radio.

We had four radios set up. One was used for GOTA, one for CW (Morse Code), one for SSB (Single Side Band Voice), and a fourth was set up to do digital. All the radios were operating on battery.



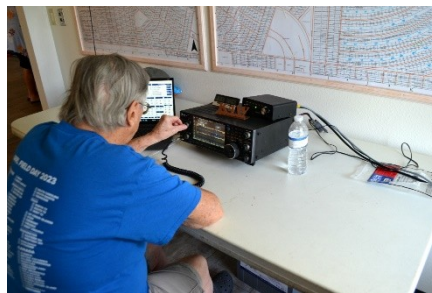
Weather Watch



Antenna Repaired



CW



SSB

Being in Central Florida in June, we also set up a weather watch to be sure we did not get caught in a lightning storm that could ruin lots of expensive equipment. We actually did have a storm on Saturday with ground winds at about 45 to 50 MPH and lightning. Who knows what the winds where at 70 feet at the top of the antenna The high winds damaged a hex beam antenna which they were able to fix and put back into use.

One side light to the Tower being down was that our President, Don Roberts, W4CBS, made 12 contacts while the inverted V was on the ground!

His other problem was he could not hear the key sidetone from his own key while he was sending. Fortunately, he was able to put the call and responses into a memory and just press a button to send them.

We all contributed toward a supper meal that consisted for pork barbeque, backed beans, coleslaw and soft drinks and bottled water. DELICIOUS!!

Highland Amateur Radio Club invite Hams throughout Highlands County to become members. We meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM and we also zoom our meetings for those who can't be there in person. Non-Hams are invited to attend. Come visit us!

Where we meet:

Dee's Restaurant
138 N Ridgewood Dr,
Sebring, FL 33870-7201

- We try to have an interesting program each time following our business meeting.
- At various time we have training classes and test people so they can be licensed.
- We are associated with the **Highlands County Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Services® (ARES)** during emergency situations to be sure communication are available throughout the county at all times.
- We are active with SKY WARN. Many of our club member are "Sky Warn Trained" so we can report Storm conditions to the National Weather Service. The initial training is free over the internet.
- We have several VHF and UHF Repeaters located in Avon Park, Sebring, and Lake Placid.
- We also meet for breakfast in a couple of restaurants each week for those who want to come.
- There are other social events during the year as well.



Visit our Club's Website: <https://www.highlandsamateurradio.com/?>