



JAMAICA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FIELD DAY

WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise; it is the most popular annual amateur radio event of the year in Jamaica. It is an emergency communication preparedness exercise among amateur radio operators, which is conducted at the start of the Hurricane season. The annual Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1st and ends November 30th. As ham radio operators; it affords us the opportunity to practice the maintenance of our portable communications equipments and development of our technical and operating skills. Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a disaster or severe weather.

Although there is a serious side to Field Day, the actual fun activities of setting up an emergency communication camp sometimes turns into a battle with Murphy's Law. However, the camaraderie that develops, far outlast the Field Day operating time and members are encouraged to bring along their families and make it a gala occasion.

In the United States, Field Day is held annually the fourth weekend in June, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year. To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and of each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component, and many clubs also engage in leisure activities (camping out, cookouts, etc.). Operations typically last a continuous twenty-four hours, requiring scheduled relief operators to keep stations on the air. Additional contest points are awarded for experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts via satellite, and involving youth in the activity.

WHEN IS FIELD DAY?

Field day in Jamaica is held annually the fourth weekend in June or first weekend in July, it is held from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

An advance party usually departs Kingston on Friday evening with the entire camping equipments, field generator, batteries, radios, antennas, tents, camp cots, stove and cooking utensils. Their responsibility is to set up camp in preparation for other club members and their families that will arrive on Saturday.

WHERE IS THE FIELD DAY SITE?

A camp site is usually selected in advance of the date somewhere out of town. A beach front or river side camping ground is carefully selected; in choosing the location basic sanitary amenities must be in place.



Solar-powered Emergency Amateur Radio Station.

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers “something for everyone.” **Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new.** While CW may no longer be a popular mode, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many. Tens of thousands of operators worldwide are embracing digital technologies.

Phone operation, probably the most used mode of the hobby, also has new frontiers to be explored with digitized voice, VOIP, and IRLP. This is why Field Day the largest annual on-the-air operating event is so exciting. It gives the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer assisted operator the chance to share and practice the broad range of modes and technologies we have in our hobby.

Field Day is truly the time in which we expose amateur radio to the community. By setting up Emergency Operation Stations, amateur operators practice their skills that will allow them to better serve their communities during times of disasters.