



WFDA

Winter Field Day

...2024...
Recap



Ray, W6QPA — 8 Feb 2024



Outline

- ○ How Did We Do
 - Participation & Visitors
 - Operating Numbers
 - Thoughts for next year (or any deployment really)

- Backup info (Original WFD Overview)
 - Winter Field Day (What, When, Rules)
 - Our Site (Where)
 - Q&A





How Did We Do

Participation & Vistors

- Participation
 - 10 TARA Members (I hope I didn't miss anyone)

Name	Call
Dick Brown	W6SLZ
John Dyer	KM6DXY
Joshua Dyer	KN6HWS
Ray Gretlein	W6QPA
Elliot Hewitt	KN6HWW

Name	Call
Micah Martin	KN6VUT
Dan Mason	AB6DM
Valerie Mason	KK6LWQ
Will Perry	WA6LDQ
Dave Walter	WA5GUL

- ~12 Visitors — Fresno, Bakersfield, KCCV Club Pres and VP
- Focused on
 - Deployment — Did we bring all we needed
 - Outreach — Time to engage with all visitors





How Did We Do

Operations (cont'd)

- Operated ~18 hours
- Stations
 - SSB Phone (100 Watts max)
 - 40-20-15 meters from the tent —
 - Dan's (AB6DM) Yaesu FT-450 — EndFed Half wave Antenna
 - 10 meters from Will's (WA6LDQ) car
 - Kenwood 706MkII G — 10 SS Whip antenna
 - CW/Digital (12 Watts)
 - 40-20 meters — Ray's (W6QPA) travel trailer
 - Elecraft KX-3 — Inverted-Vee linked-dipole
 - VHF/UHF FM (25 Watts)
 - Micah's (KN6VUT) Btech UV-25x2 — J-Pole





How Did We Do

Operations (cont'd)

- Power
 - 100% Alternate power
 - LiFEPO4 Batteries
 - Dan — 200 Amp/hr
 - Ray — 12 amp/hr
 - Will — 20 amp/hr
 - Goal Zero power bank — Micah
 - Solar
 - Dan — 120 Watt Panels
 - Ray — 60 watt Panels
- Generator
 - Dan — 2200 Watt
 - Ray — 2000 Watt





How Did We Do

QSO & Objectives

- Still tabulating QSO results, so far
 - SSB 10 Meter — 25
 - Longest — YE9BJM
Indonesia — 8,500 + miles
 - Will's (WA6LDQ) Mobile!
 - CW — 24
 - 40M — 8
 - 20M — 16

- Objectives:
 - ✓ • 1) 100% Alternative power;
 - ✓ • 2) Operate away from home;
 - ✓ • 3) Deploy multiple antennas;
 - 4) ~~Make satellite contact;~~
 - 5) ~~Operate on six bands;~~
 - 6) ~~Exchange 1 WinLink email;~~
 - ✓ • 7) Operate 6 continuous hours





How Did We Do

Thoughts for Next Year

- Consider catalytic heater for tent — extend operating time
- **EXERCISE** everything before arrival — in the exact configuration to be deployed
- Visualize layout of site and placement of stations, antennas, batteries and solar — insure cables are long enough to meet need
- Be familiar with shelters and setting them up.
- Bring spares and tools
 - Perennial issue, no matter what I bring from last trip, it isn't exactly what I need for this trip. However, I continue to add stuff as long as there is room for more.



**Back-up slides —
Overview of WFD 2024**



Winter Field Day What & When is it

- Communications Exercise — Disasters don't always wait for good weather
 - Sponsored by Winter Field Association, not ARRL — Started 2007 see <https://www.winterfieldday.com/history.php> for details
- Use HF, VHF, UHF — except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters
- Use any mode "...that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact" ... excludes the WSJT modes FT8, FT4
 - Basically any free-form mode — Phone, CW, RTTY, keyboard-to-keyboard digital modes
- Not "Bonus points" this year, they're **Objectives**. 1) 100% Alternative power; 2) Operate away from home; 3) Deploy multiple antennas; 4) Make satellite contact; 5) Operate on six bands; 6) Exchange 1 WinLink email; 7) Operate 6 continuous hours
- Saturday January 27 — 1100 hrs PST (1900 UTC) thru Sunday January 28 — 1059 hrs PST (18:59 UTC)





Winter Field Day Rules

- Setup
 - can begin 1100 hrs Friday 26 January — cumulative time no more than 12 hrs
- Power \leq 100 watts
- Categories
 - H — Your normal operating location
 - I — Indoor — away from home but insulated, heated, permanent structure
 - O — Outdoor — picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies
 - M — Mobile — like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer (3M this year)
- Class — number of simultaneous transmitter capable of operating
- Exchange — call sign, Class and Category, ARRL section abbreviation
 - example for me — W6QPA 1M SJV





Winter Field Day Rules

- Scoring
 - QSO points — Phone 1 — CW/Digital 2 — busted exchange losses 2— dupes no penalty or count
 - Power multiplier — 1x if > QRP =< 100W, 2x if QRP (CW <=5 w; Phone | digital; <=10W)
 - Band Multiplier — 1x for each mode worked on each band
 - No Bonus Points this year
 - Score = (QSO Points X Power X Band)
- SPOTTING is ALLOWED! via clusters, APRS, Winlink, and other Amateur radio-related communication paths
 - — however no social media or messaging ... no cell-phones ... or Internet?





Outline

- Winter Field Day
 - What
 - When
 - Rules
- Our Site
 - Location
 - Facilities
 - Site Map
- Q&A





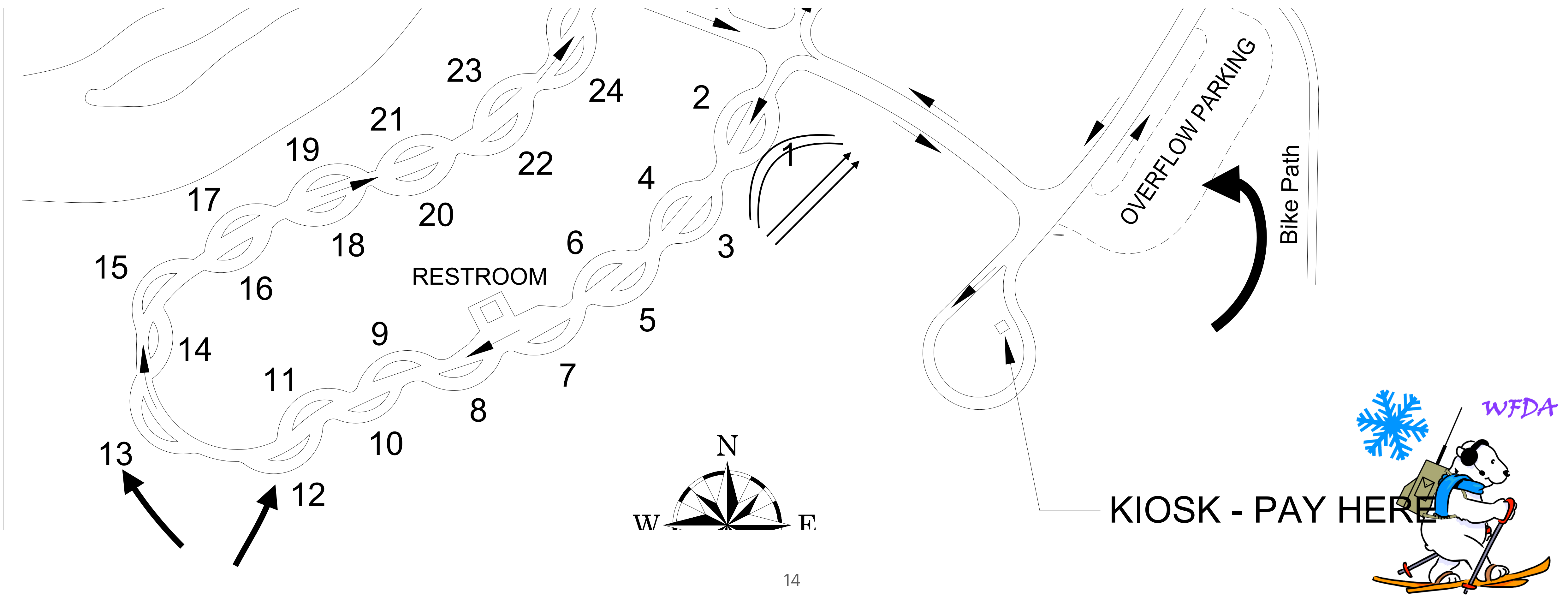
Our Sites

- Kern River Campground Site 12 & 13
 - 48' & 55' combined length
 - Trees for antenna support — no leaves!
 - Maximum of 8 people per site
 - Picnic tables and fire rings
 - Restrooms and showers (~ 100 yards away)
 - Drinking water spigots; trash barrels throughout the campground
 - Sewage dump site on the road near the campground exit
 - The campground is dry camping only. Generators are allowed.
 - Quiet Hours from 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.



Our Site

○ Kern River Campground Site 12 & 13





Our Site Operating Plan (sort of)

- After 1400 hrs on Friday 27 January W6QPA arrives site 13. With 18 ft trailer, solar, 2KW Honda generator, 17 Ft mast Inverted Vee. Site 12 setup the tent.
- Saturday morning setup SSB Phone station antenna, solar and generator at site 12
- Saturday 1100 Operate
 - 20 & 40 Meters CW and Digital — QRP'ish (max 15 watts)
 - Site 12 Operate Phone or alternate bands
 - W6SLZ has provided filters for all HF bands to improve isolation
- Advice from Field Day folks welcome!
- Sunday
 - Club breakfast on site.
 - Teardown and pack, depart NLT 12:00





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Misc

- Google view of sites

- https://www.google.com/maps/@35.4342052,-118.8792077,3a,75y,202.62h,87.07t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sNhn4200l-pt0luQZkXEe5Q!2e0!6shttps://streetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com/v1/thumbnail?panoid=Nhn4200l-pt0luQZkXEe5Q&cb_client=search.revgeo_and_fetch.gps&w=96&h=64&yaw=93.00565&pitch=0&thumbfov=100!7i13312!8i6656!5m1!1e4

- Winter Field Day

- <https://www.winterfieldday.com/index.php>

