



DCARC's 2026 Winter Field Day

January 24 – 25 2026
V1.3

From the WFD Sponsor:

“Every year, hams from across the country brave the cold, string up antennas in the snow, and put their skills to the test— and we invite you to join in the adventure. At its heart, Winter Field Day is all about sharpening your emergency communication abilities, but it’s also about fun. Winter throws curveballs that summer never does—short days, freezing temperatures, icy winds, and sudden weather surprises. It’s the perfect chance to challenge yourself, push your station to new limits, and prove that you can stay on the air no matter what Mother Nature sends your way.

This isn’t a contest—it’s an experience. We call it an Operating Event. Whether you’re operating from the warmth of a cabin, a heated tent, or bundled up outside in the snow, you’ll gain practical skills while making lasting memories. You’ll also meet other operators, make plenty of QSOs, and maybe even discover new ways to enjoy the hobby. Of course, safety always comes first. We encourage everyone to plan ahead, keep an eye on the weather ...”



<https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/2026-rules-v3.pdf>

Rich Joerger
WB4EHG
2026/02/02

We operated the 2026 Winter Field Day from
our club station on WB4BAG's property in
Davie, FL

We had ~15 People attend over the two days

This was our 10th year operating a field day
since this author joined the club. Reports from
some of our previous ARRL and Winter field
days are on-line here.

This year, Old Man Winter threw some severe
weather into the WFD weekend.

Winter Storm Chandra

January 24 to 26 2026

The USA was highly impacted by this storm. Many areas of the country had no power and even those who had power were driven indoors by the winds, cold and ice.

Some details of the storm from Google:

Highly severe: affecting over to 200 million people with a combination of heavy snow, dangerous icing, and extreme cold

Immense Scale: The storm was a 2,300-mile-long system, with 24 states issuing emergency declarations in response

Crippling Ice Storm: A major, "crippling" ice storm affected the South

Winter Storm Chandra continued

Heavy Snowfall: A massive swath of 1 to 2 feet of snow fell from Texas to Maine

Snow Corridor: CO, NE, KS, OK, MO, IL, IN, OH

Ice Zone: TX, LA, AR, MS, AL, TN, GA.

Cold/Wind: Northern Plains, Midwest

For us in SFL the impact of the storm meant:

Fewer stations on the air so the bands were not crowded at all but there were less stations to contact and that was evident when viewing the spectrum scope on our IC-7300's.

The majority of our contacts were with stations reporting their class as 1H which meant one operator operating from inside their home.

Our Stations

For this event we used the trailer (which made our class “Mobile”) for two stations and had one station in the new Annex building.

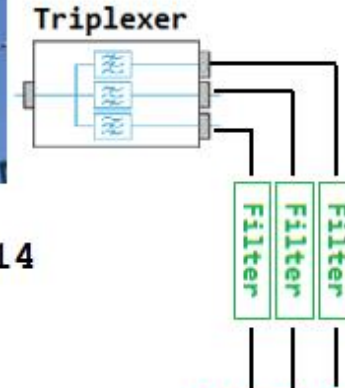
The majority of our contacts were made from the stations in the trailer.

We planned to operate digital modes in the Annex building but could not get JS8Call to install.

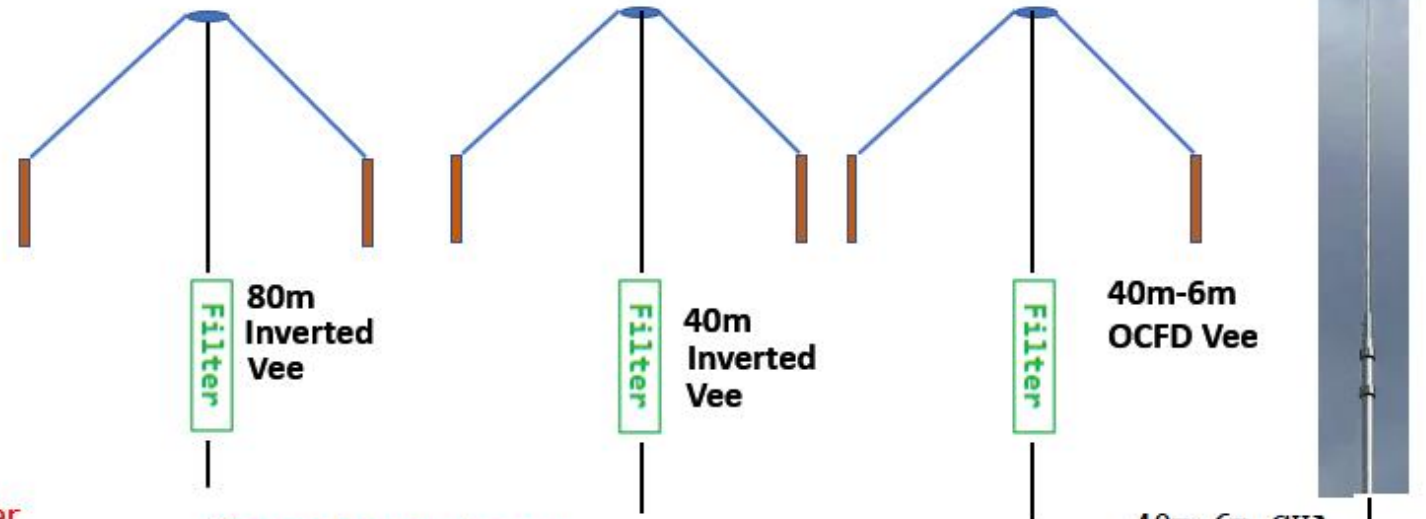
The next slide is a block diagram of our stations and antennas.



Tri Band Beam
Hy-Gain Explorer-14



Unused Triplexer
connectors **must**
have a 500hm
dummy load
attached



Connect any antenna
to any radio. Using the
filter is required

40m-6m CHA
Vertical on
tower top

Filter



From Solar Power System

WB4EHG 2026-01-29



This station is in
the new Annex
building



HF Antennas

160m Vee (not used)

80m Vee

40m Vee

40m, 20m, 10m, 6m OCFD Vee

40m – 6m CHA Vertical on the tower

20m, 15m, 10m EXP-14 4-Element Beam (assembled for WFD)

For over a month before WFD Tony W6TNY worked on the antennas and feedlines. He found and fixed many problems. We owe him a HUGE thanks!

During the last few weeks before the event several other members (George N8XH, Rich KD4JKQ, Rich WB4EHG) worked with Tony on the antennas

Sections Worked

DX	3	5	7	0
DX MX	DE MDC	AR NTX	AK NV	CO MO
1	EPA WPA	LA OK	AZ OR	IA ND
CT RI	4	MS STX	EWA UT	KS NE
EMA VT	AL SC	NM WTX	ID WWA	MN SD
ME WMA	GA SFL	6	MT WY	Canada
NH	KY TN	EB SCV	8	AB ONE
2	NC VA	LAX SDG	MI WV	BC ONN
ENY NNY	NFL VI	ORG SF	OH	GH ONS
NLI SNJ	PR WCF	PAC SJV	9	MB PE
NNJ WNY		SB SV	IL WI	NB QC
			IN	NL SK
				NS TER

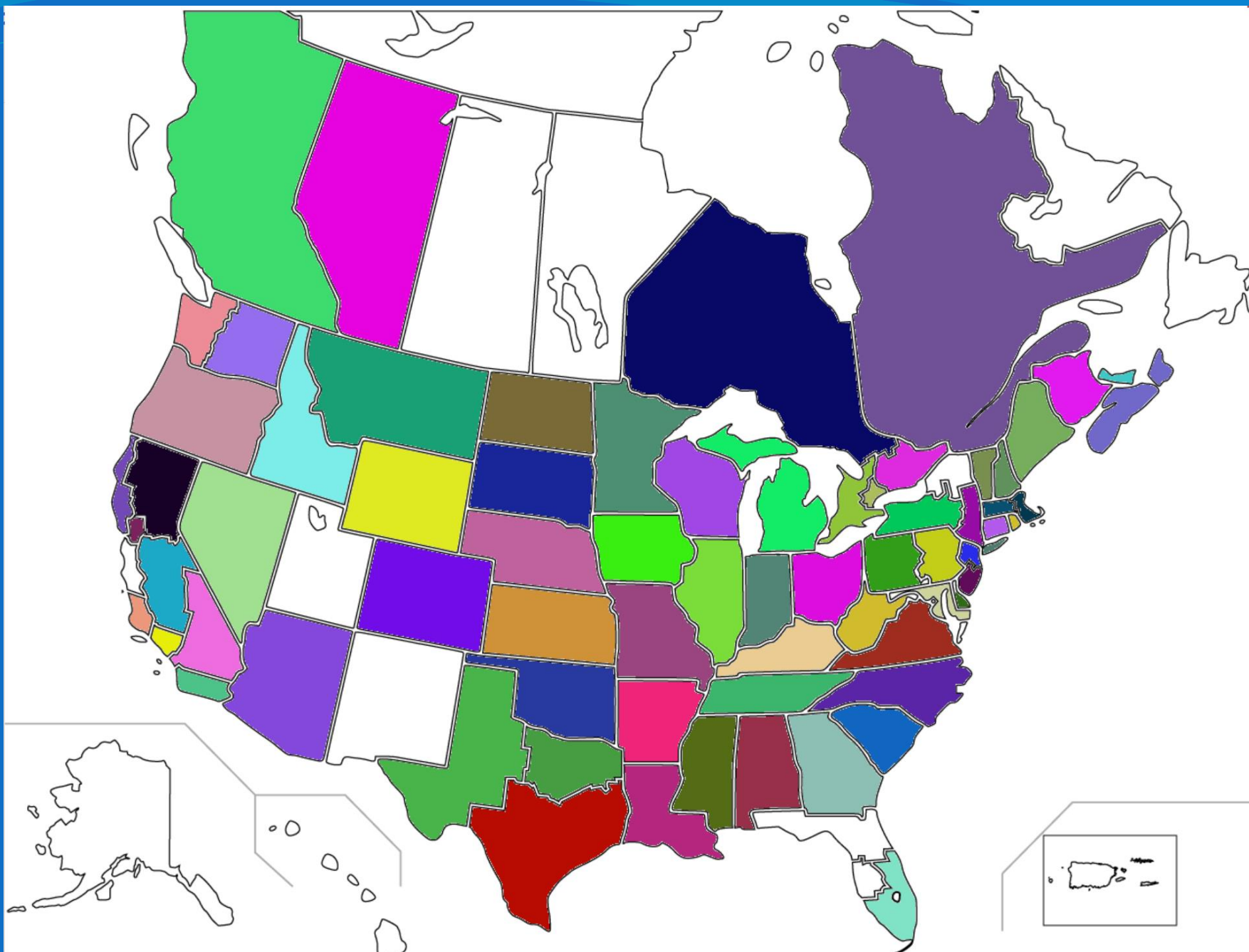
We worked all
but:
Alaska*
Hawaii*
New Mexico
Utah

Manitoba
Newfoundland
Saskatchewan
Newfoundland &
Labrador

ARRL/RAC Sections Worked. Blue were worked, red were not

Rich Joerger
WB4EHG
2026/02/02

Map of Sections Worked



We worked
the sections
colored in

Not Worked:

Alaska*

Hawaii*

New Mexico

Utah

Manitoba

Newfoundland

Saskatchewan

Newfoundland &
Labrador

*Alaska &
Hawaii are
considered
countries
not states

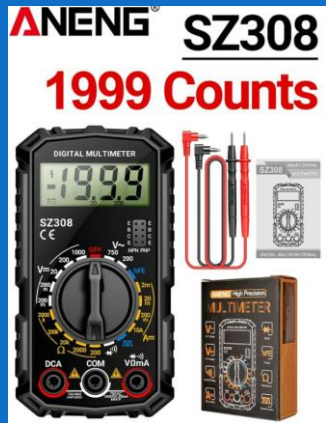
Rich Joerger

WB4EHG

2026/02/02

Total Contacts by Operator

Fred had a prize for the 10 operators that made the most contacts. Since we only had 8 operators each received a Digital Multimeter



Operator	Total	%
-----	-----	---
W4OX	292	43
WB3ISP	116	17
WB4EHG	110	16
K4BZ	66	10
KQ4JKQ	46	7
WB4BAG	25	4
N8XH	24	4
W6TNY	2	0
NA4DC	1	0

Contacts by Band & Mode

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
40	0	18	0	18	3
20	95	186	0	281	41
15	200	61	0	261	38
10	111	11	0	122	18
	--	-----	---	-----	---
Total	406	276	0	682	100

Total QSOs Running = 434, Minutes = 420, Rate = 62.1
Total QSOs Search and Pounce = 248

When dups are removed, we have 393 CW and 274 Phone contacts for a total of 667 contacts, lowering CW contacts by 13 and phone by 4

Contact Statistics

Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
-----	-----	---
USA	651	95
Canada	31	5
Total = 2		

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
-----	-----	---
W4OX	292	43
WB3ISP	116	17
WB4EHG	110	16
K4BZ	66	10
KQ4JKQ	46	7
WB4BAG	25	4
N8XH	24	4
W6TNY	2	0
NA4DC	1	0
Total = 9		

Total Contacts by Unique Call = 598

Doug really hit the ball out of the park, on CW. Thanks !!!

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 21:01:49

Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 21:40:20

Avg Qs/Hr (breaks > 30 min deducted): 32.4

Multipliers

- ❑ We operated using our solar charged batteries
- ❑ We were not in a home
- ❑ As shown in the station configuration our 7 antennas were:
 - 80m Vee
 - 40m Vee
 - 40m, 20m, 10m, 6m OCFD
 - 6m beam
 - 2m/70cm vertical
 - Hy-Gain Explorer 14 tri-band beam
 - Comet CHA-250 vertical

Multipliers

Some events offer bonus points for meeting certain conditions.

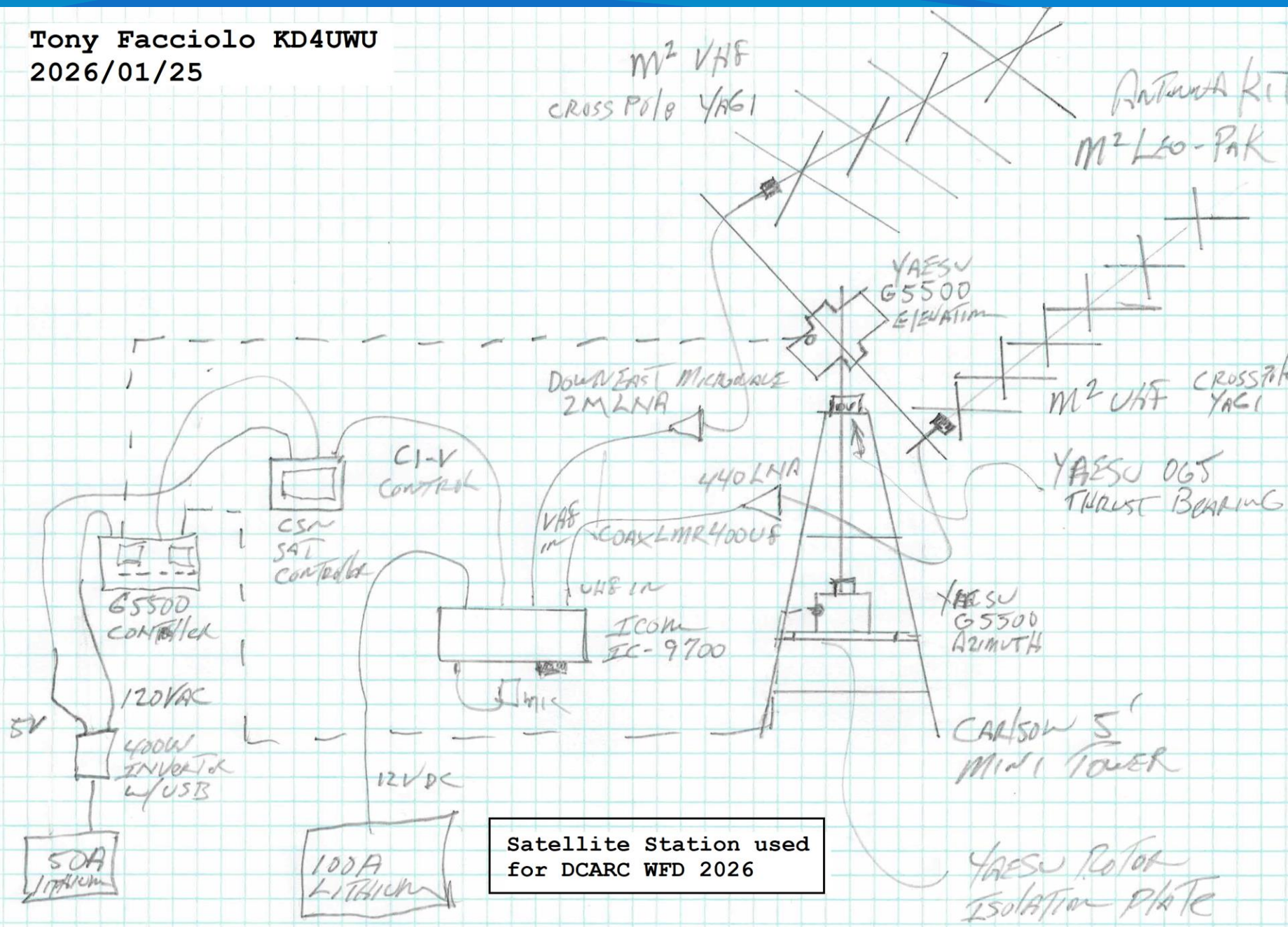
WFD gives multipliers for meeting criteria.

You add up the number of multipliers for each of the criteria that you meet, add 1 for operating and then multiply your total score by that number.

Objective	Who Met This	Multiplier	Comment
Operate 100% on alternative power	All operators	1	
Operate away from home	All operators	3	
Deploy and make at least one contact on multiple antennas	All operators	1	
Make an FM satellite contact	KD4UWU	2	
Make a SSB or CW satellite contact	KD4UWU	3	
Send and receive at least one Winlink email	WB3ISP	1	
Copy the Winter Field Bay bulletin	W6BXQ	1	
Make three contacts on at least six (6) different bands:	No one	0	Only 4 bands
Make three contacts on at least twelve (12) different bands	No one	0	Only 4 bands
Use multiple modes	All operators	2	CW, SSB
Operate the event QRP	No one	0	
Operate six continuous hours during the event	All operators	2	
Just show up and do something	Everyone	1	
Total multipliers	Everyone	17	

Satellite Station

Tony Facciolo KD4UWU
2026/01/25



Satellite Station used
for DCARC WFD 2026

Tony's hand drawn sketch shows the true spirit of ham radio. He had an idea, sketched it, built it and used it. Everything starts this way. Never in ink, always pencil.

Rich Joerger
WB4EHG
2026/02/02

Satellite Station

Tony KD4UWU set up his satellite station and made 4 contacts, 2 SSB, 2 FM getting us 5 multipliers

Winter Field Day Satellite Contacts by KD4UWU for NA4DC EL96

DATE	TIME	UTC	SATELLITE	MODE	FREQ	CONTACT	LOCATION
1/24	6:18P		ISS	FM	145.800/437.8PL67	W5A	EM44fs
1/24	6:19P		ISS	FM	145.800/437.8PL67	WA1JAY	FM05gi
1/24	8:02P		AO-73	SSB	435.944/145	ZF1DM	EK99ig
1/24	9:32P		AO-07	SSB	432.18/145.92	FY4BC	GJ34sx

All contacts Voice by Tony KD4UWU Logging Assistance provided by Ed KO4UZI
Times are Eastern +5

WinLink

Winlink is a worldwide radio messaging system, often called “email for amateur radio” that allows users to send and receive messages with or without an internet connection. It operates on ham radio and government frequencies, making it critical for emergency disaster relief and maritime communications when standard infrastructure fails

Jeff WB3ISP installed, configured and operated it on our station. The Winlink message got us 1 multiplier.

WinLink

This is the message we received from Lance VA3LP a friend in Canada. We sent a similar message to him. Jeff WB3ISP handled the installation, configuration and operation of WinLink

Received Message:

Message ID: PM0ZIXN2LFBH

Date: 2026/01/25 14:13 (UTC)

From: VE3PRD

To: NA4DC

Cc: WB3ISP

Source: VE3PRD

Downloaded-from: RMS:K5FIT

Location: 45.270833N, 75.291667W (GRID SQUARE)

Subject: WFD 2026

A message from the PR-ARC group at the Larose Forest WFD site in Ontario East, Canada. Presently the temperature is -27C and cloudy. Expecting snow later today. We are 2 I ONE. Hope you are having a great WFD.

Lance VA3LP

Rich Joerger
WB4EHG
2026/02/02



WFD Message

W6BXQ copied a partial PSK message sent by the WFD organization.
Copying this gets us 1 multiplier

itions like snow, ice, wind, and extreme cold. Always prioritize operator safety. Dress warmly, watch for frostbite or hypothermia, stay hydrated, and monitor changing weather. Try to contact Europe on 10m before the bottom of the cycle. Join the fun, make contacts across North America and around the world, and help strengthen readiness in the event of a crisis. Full rules and resources are available at www.winterfieldday.org. This is WØMET in Pepin, WI. The 2026 Winter Field Day Bulletin now repeats.

WB4EHG: I can make out enough text to reconstruct the message:

The annual Winter Field Day emergency preparedness event is underway and runs through Sunday, January 25 at 2159 UTC. This annual emergency preparedness exercise challenges amateur radio operators worldwide to test equipment and skills in winter conditions like snow, ice, wind, and extreme cold always prioritize operator safety. Dress warmly, watch for frostbite watch for hypothermia, stay hydrated, and monitor changing weather. Try to contact Europe on 10m before the bottom of the cycle. Join the fun, make contacts across North America and around the world, and help strengthen readiness in the event of a crisis. Full rules and resources are available at www.winterfieldday.org 73 This is WØMET in Pepin, WI. The 2026 Winter Field Day Bulletin now be repeats

Our Score

Contact points*:

393 CW contacts * 2 points per contact = 786*

274 Phone contacts * 1 point per contact = 274*

Total contact points = 1060

Total Multipliers: 17

1060 contact points * 17 multipliers = 18,020 points

Final Score: 18,020

* For submission I had to remove the duplicate contacts, they would not be counted if I left them in the submission. I left them in this report because those contacts were made and I want the operators to get credit for making them, they just don't count towards our score.

Food and Drink

Our members brought food and Tony did some shopping and cooking for us

- Diane KC4BAR: Sandwiches chips, cookies, Ice
- Tony W6TNY : Hot dogs, burgers, buns, ...
- Fred WB4BAG : Soda, coffee, water, ice
- George N8XH : Soda, ice

If I missed anyone please email me with your name, call and what you brought

Safety Officer

WFD doesn't offer points or a multiplier for having a safety officer but Tom N4MEO ensured we met the requirements of ARRL Field Day to keep everyone safe

- Fire extinguisher on-hand
- First Aid kit
- Access to weather alerts
- Neat and orderly site with no tripping hazards
- Proper grounding of equipment
- Means to contact police and fire readily at hand
- Minimize risks and control hazards to ensure no injuries
- Monitor participants for hydration and sufficient water is available

Trustee

The FCC requires that the trustee of the club's call sign or his designated second, be on site for the entire time the club station is on the air.

No trustee means no operation with the club call.

Tom N4MEO who holds an Extra class license* is listed with the FCC as our trustee and was there for the majority of the day.

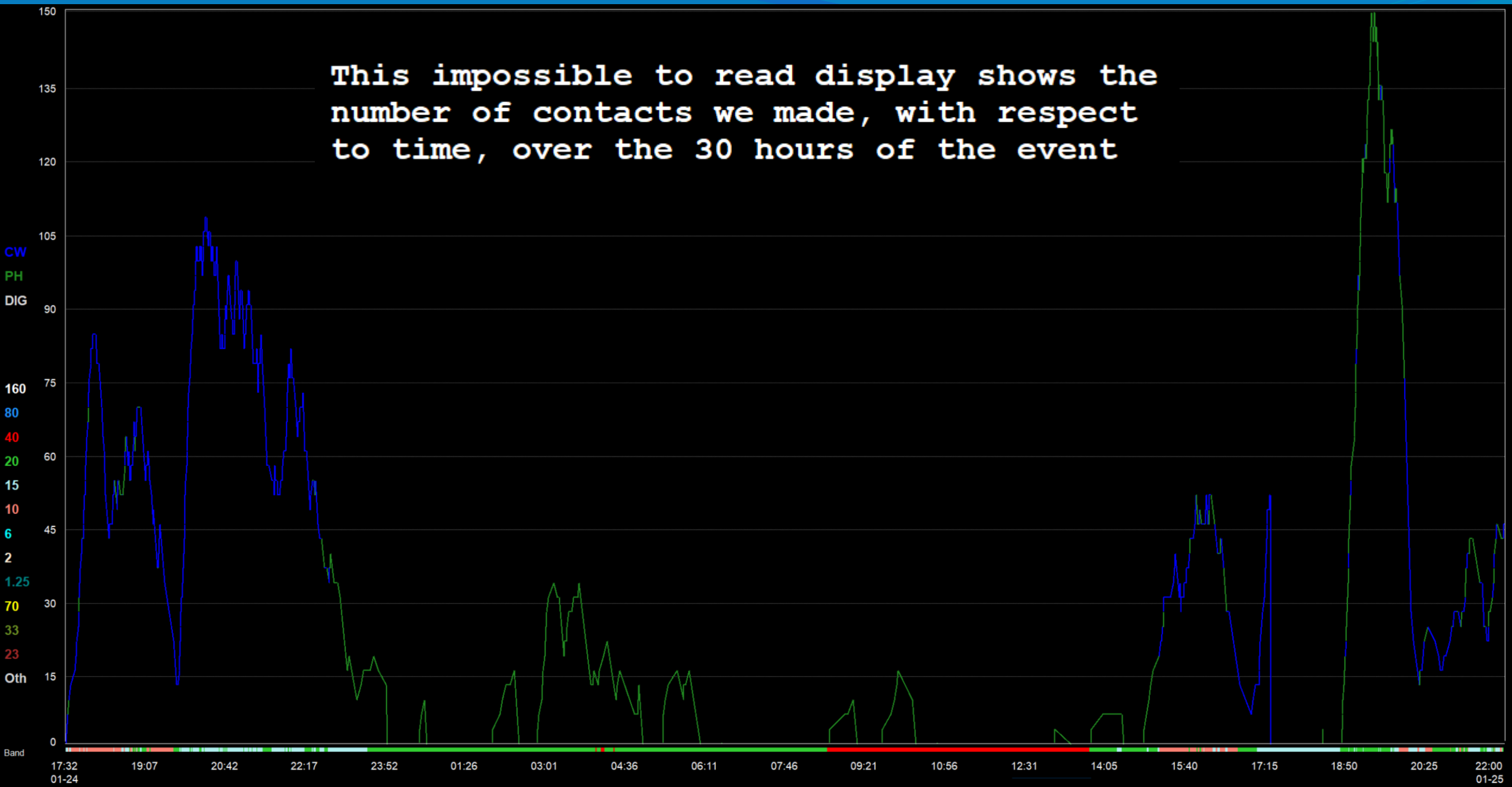
When he was not there designated Fred WB4BAG, also an Extra class, as his second since Fred is on-site whenever anyone was operating

* We operate with the privileges of the trustee's license class

Rich Joerger
WB4EHG
2026/02/02



This impossible to read display shows the number of contacts we made, with respect to time, over the 30 hours of the event



Log Submission

- I submitted our entry and log to WFD site (2026-02-02)
- Here's a copy of the reply with our final score:

Callsign: NA4DC		Exchange: M3 SFL								
Scoring Summary										
Total Contacts 667	=	Phone * 1pt 274	+	Digital * 2pt 0	+	CW * 2pt 393	×	Multiplier 17	=	Final Score 18020

What We Can Do Better Next Year

- The annex station was configured with a different logger for Saturday causing dups since all the stations were not sharing contact information (which warns a contact is a dup before you work them). WFD does not penalize for duplicate contacts, but those contacts do not accrue points. Next year get the logger configured early – the .ini file from one station can be copied to the other stations. We could save .ini files from the different events for reuse.
- Digital mode contacts are worth 2 points. We planned to operate JS8CALL but the software would not install and stations running RTTY (which is very easy to config and operate) were operating in a different contest causing confusion – those contacts would not have counted toward WFD. We used phone (1 point per contact) and CW (2 points per contact) instead. Next year get all the software installed early.
 - We would have gained 6 multipliers if we had made 6 more contacts on 2 more bands.
6 contacts on both 80m and 2m would have done it!
Next year stress operating 6 bands, 160m & 80m will suffice, 2m FM is a poor second choice
- As mentioned elsewhere, participation was light because of the winter storm, the bands were less crowded (good) but we ran out of stations to work (bad).
- [Link to the 2026 rules](#)

Our thanks to everyone who participated or just dropped by.

These events are a great opportunity for you to experience HF operating

This is the amended version of the report and unless you find errors it is the final one

73, Rich WB4EHG