



# **WINTER FIELD DAY 2023**

## **Deployment Proposal**

This year's Winter Field Day will be held from Saturday, 28 January, 2023 beginning at 1900 UTC (1300L) and ending Sunday, 29 January 2023, at 18:59 UTC (1259L).

This year it is being proposed to have OBARC participate in a fashion that gives our local Hams a venue to demonstrate their ability to self-deploy a station that can be used for emergency communications, independent of any outside infrastructure or energy sources.

The idea comes from an article written in QST magazine some months after hurricane Sandy devastated the northeast back in 2012. The storm knocked out most of the communication infrastructure in many communities for several days or weeks. The article gave an account of an Amateur Radio Operator who lived in the affected area. After the storm had passed, he set up a station that consisted of an HF transceiver, some batteries, and an improvised 40-meter inverted vee antenna in place of the antennas the storm had destroyed. For the next several days he was able to relay health and welfare traffic on behalf of his neighbors who wanted to get word out to their relatives about their condition, or find out about friends and relatives who lived in other areas impacted by the storm. This is the type of scenario we are looking to mimic in this year's deployment.

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Objective: To demonstrate the ability to put together and operate an effective station for a prolonged period of time using only equipment and materials on hand at your residence, and using only alternative power sources EXCLUDING any type of fossil fuel powered generator.

Scenario: The Big One has finally hit. An 8.0 magnitude earthquake was occurred knocking out power and severing lines of communication in the region. All homes in the affected area have sustained some level of damage, and roads are impassable. Emergency services are overwhelmed and unable to assist. All you have is what you can salvage from your own damaged home. It doesn't take long before your neighbors, knowing you're a Ham Radio guy, come around to see if you can get in touch with the rest of the world. You assess your options and piece together a basic station in a tent in your front yard and begin to pass health and welfare traffic to Hams in unaffected areas, who then relay your messages to the outside world.

### Simulated Constraints:

1. You don't own a generator, or if you do it is unusable.
2. Your only power sources available are any batteries you had on hand at the time of the earthquake. These batteries can be fully charged by any source, but once put into

operation, can only be charged/maintained by an alternative source (solar, wind, stationary bike, hamster wheel, etc.) but not a gasoline powered generator.

3. Any computer used to key a radio will be under the same power source constraints as the transmitter it is keying.
4. If you choose to use your vehicle's battery, you cannot run the vehicle's motor to keep it charged. This simulates that your vehicle is damaged or rendered inoperable, but you are still able to use its battery in its current state of charge.

#### Implementation:

1. At the time of this writing, the location for group deployment will be the Pleasant Hill Elementary School parking lot.
2. Any Ham wishing to deploy a station will need to bring everything necessary to get on the air, just as you would if you had to set up an outdoor station at your home (transceiver, batteries, feedline, antenna, lighting, table, chairs, shelter, etc.). Two or more Hams can pool resources if needed to make a complete station.
3. Generator power will be available but can only be used to power the laptops that are used for logging.
4. Each station will be operated independently using the station owner's own callsign and operating privileges. This also means that each operator can use any band they wish at any time. To minimize interference, all stations will be spaced as far apart as possible and restricted a maximum of 10 watts transmitter power on SSB and 5 watts CW (in other words, everyone will be QRP). The upside to this is that batteries will last longer, which is part of the goal anyway.
5. Each station will maintain its own WFD log under that station's callsign. In other words, all stations will not be operating under the club call.
6. Any Hams that do not wish, or are unable to deploy a station, can participate as relief operators. All are welcomed to come and play, even if you aren't providing any hardware.
7. The club will present a "Last Man Standing Award" for the station that is most effective in making contacts during the lifespan of their power source. The proposed scoring criteria is as follows:
  - a. One point for each minute of operation (as timed by the logging software).
  - b. One point for each phone contact.
  - c. Two points for each CW or digital contact.
8. Each station log will also be submitted to the Winter Field Day organization for scoring according to their rules.