

## MARA/VARA 2021 Field Day Committee Recommendations June 26 and 27, 2021

This year, the VARA club is providing the chair for the 2021 MARA/VARA Field Day Committee. VARA co-chair individuals consist of Fred Castello KF4FC, Norm D'Allura KN4YFI and Erika Kancler K4NOV. The 2021 MARA Field Day Committee consists of Bradley Boyd W4BVB, Pete Fundinger AA4PF and Ray Albers K2HYD. Both committees recently reviewed the alternatives for Field Day 2021 and recommend the following:

### **Recommendations:**

In light of present COVID restrictions which we feel will continue in some form through summer, we recommend the same alternative Field Day as we had last year. After consulting with several seasoned participants, we do not think we can safely and adequately staff the station trailers for the duration of Field Day. Relocating the stations under a pavilion was also considered but we believe that it was not a good idea to expose the equipment and operators to the nighttime temperatures and variable weather, even under the pavilion. In addition, the set-up and tear-down task would be significant assuming we could get enough volunteers.

As of February 16, the official ARRL Field Day 2021 rules packet and forms have not been released. However, on February 10, ARRL did release the following information essentially stating they will continue the same pandemic rules “waivers” as they did last year:

*For Field Day 2021 <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>*

- Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.*
- An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.*

Of note, ARRL reports that last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

Please note we would like to encourage as many people as possible to participate in whatever way they would like this year. For those who desire a camping experience and setting up according to the traditional rules of Field Day, this certainly could be an option following state and local COVID recommendations. Or maybe one could try running the home shack on a generator. Or, maybe one could put a pop-up canopy in the back yard and operate out there for a few hours during Field Day. Maybe you want to just stay put in your shack and help others that have decided to get outside or operate with emergency power or QRP.

Once ARRL releases their official 2021 Rules, Entry Forms and Information Packets, we will send out an additional “Invitation to Field Day 2021” document.

Also note that MARA/VARA Field Day has a Facebook page. Just search for Vara/Mara Field Day and you should be able to find it.

A committee member had a terrific idea suggesting that between now and Field Day, club members could suggest helpful hints gleaned from last year’s “alternative” Field Day. Would someone like to volunteer to solicit and organize these for all members? Or perhaps do a club presentation? Perhaps someone wants to form a Field Day Education Committee? Please send your names and ideas to any 2021 Field Day Committee member. We certainly welcome your input! If you send your hints/guides to [webmaster@varava.club](mailto:webmaster@varava.club), they will be put onto the VARA website.

Thank you!