

AMATEUR RADIO

FD★26

A NATIONAL RESOURCE

**Joint DECT/MARC
Field Day 2026**



Purpose

- **ARRL Field Day:**
 - Offers amateur radio operators a chance to practice emergency communications, operate in the field, and engage with the public.
 - One of the largest amateur radio events in the U.S. and Canada, attracting over 30,000 participants annually.
- The 2026 theme is “Amateur Radio: A National Resource”, highlighting the role of ham radio in community service and emergency preparedness.
- The event encourages radio clubs to set up temporary stations in public spaces, often using portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.
- 24-Hour contesting offers opportunity to practice emergency communications skills while connecting with other hams across the United States and Canada
- Many clubs integrate Field Day with emergency preparedness exercises, including ICS message handling, and Winlink



Fourteenth Annual DECT/MARC Joint Field Day



- MARC partners with the Damascus Emergency Communications Team of the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department
- This is our fourteenth annual DECT/MARC Amateur Radio Field Day!
- Location: DVFD Activities Center Pavilion 10211 Lewis Drive, Damascus 20872

Our Gracious DVFD Hosts



Ron KB3SYA

**President,
Damascus
Emergency
Communications
Team**



Tom N3FUL

**Board of
Directors
Damascus
Volunteer Fire
Department**





Schedule

DAMASCUS EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



- **Friday, June 26**
 - Antennas and Equipment Set up
 - Banners displayed
 - Pavilion arranged with visitor and food stations
- **Saturday, June 27**
 - Public Information Table Open
 - Get on the Air Station Operating
 - Presentation of the Colors – 10:00 a.m.
 - Scout Training 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - 24-Hour Contesting begins at 2:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, June 28**
 - Public Information Table Open
 - FCC Amateur Radio Exam – 10:00
 - 24 Hour Contesting ends at 2:00 p.m.
 - Take down, after 2 p.m.



Public Information and 2-Meter Radio Station





Get on the Air Station



- Saturday, June 27, Ellen KC3MJV will run the always popular Get on the Air (GOTA) Station
- The GOTA station gives newcomers and less-experienced operators the opportunity to experience Amateur Radio by making live contacts under the supervision of a licensed control operator. It is designed to introduce participants to the excitement, public service, and camaraderie of ham radio in a welcoming environment.
- Who Can Operate the GOTA Station?
 - Unlicensed visitors under the supervision of a licensed control operator
 - Newly licensed Amateur Radio operators
 - Licensed hams who have never operated HF
 - Licensed hams inactive on HF for one year or more



Scout Radio Merit Badge



- Saturday, June 27, registration at 9:00 a.m., instruction begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Anticipate sixty scouts
- Two hours of instruction followed by hands-on operating time
- Most scouts should be finished and lined up to get their blue cards signed by 4:00 p.m.
- MARC awarded a grant to cover costs of instructional materials from the ARRL Foundation awarded from the Alfred E. Friend, Jr. W4CF, Educational Activities Fund





How You Can Help Scouts

DAMASCUS EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



- **If you will be at the Field Day site and operating** a station on Saturday afternoon, be set up and ready by 1:00 p.m. pm to show the station to the Scouts and help them make QSOs.
- **If you will be at the Field Day site on Saturday afternoon but not operating a station**, bring a handheld radio and help the Scouts make QSOs through one of the repeaters.
- **If you will be at home on Saturday afternoon**, monitor the 146.955, 442.750, and 443.900 repeaters and help the Scouts make QSOs.
- **If you will be at the Field Day site Saturday morning**, help us with registration and distribution of materials.





24-Hour Contesting



- Practices Amateur Radio skills for emergency operations
- Contest begins at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and runs continuously until 2:00 p.m. Sunday
- Participants aim to contact as many stations as possible across HF bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters) and bands above 50 MHz, often under “field conditions” to simulate emergency scenarios.
- Open to all licensed amateurs in ARRL/RAC Field Organization areas and IARU Region 2 countries; DX stations outside these regions can be contacted for credit but cannot submit entries.
- Activities include operating radios, logging contacts, setting up antennas, and public demonstrations.



24-Hour Contesting (cont.)



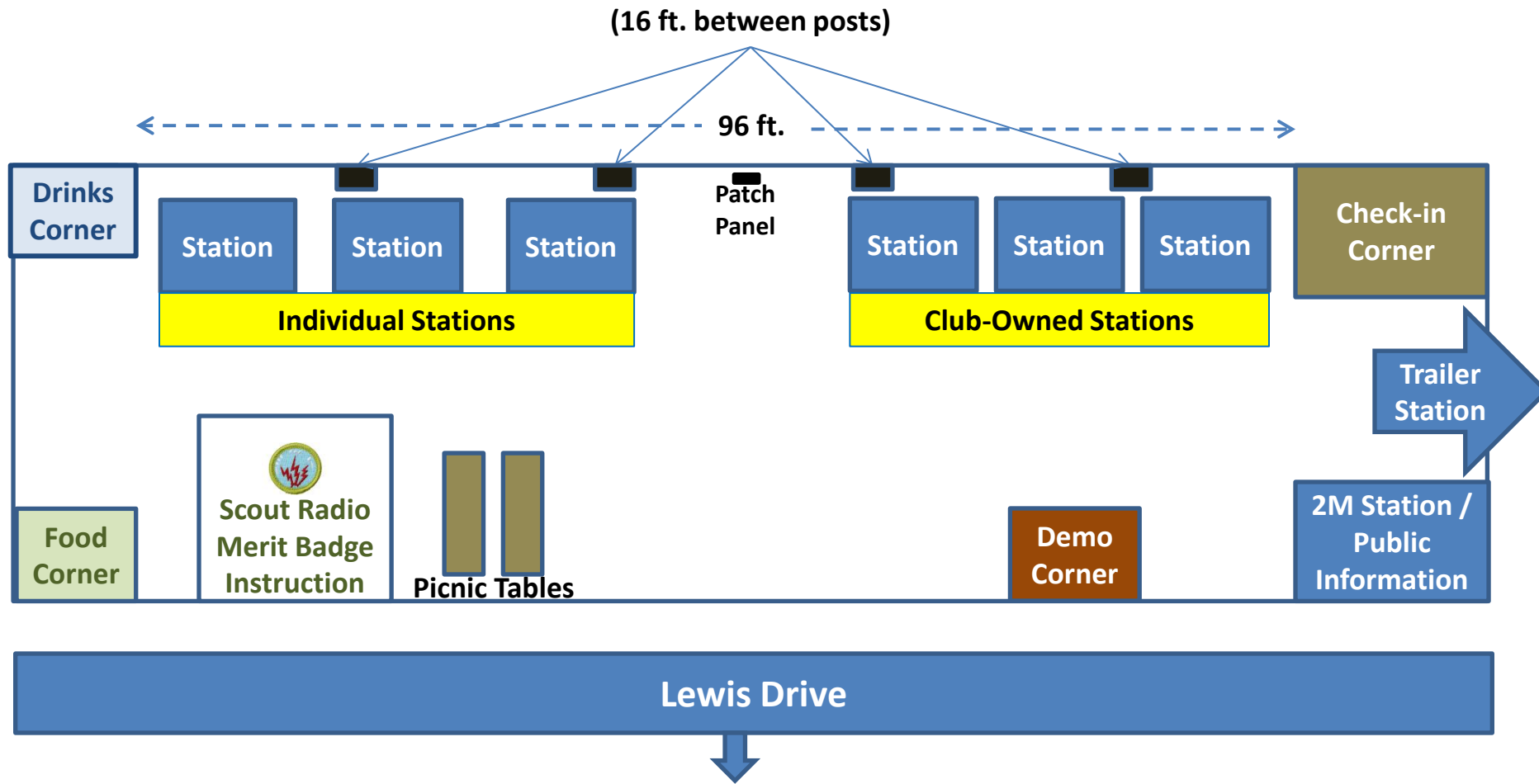
- Non-licensed visitors can observe, learn, and assist with setup.
- (Class A) Club / non-club portable: Three or more persons set up specifically for Field Day.
- Stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations.
- All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet).
- All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) **operating independent of commercial power mains.**
- ***Read more here - <http://arrl.org/field-day-rules>***



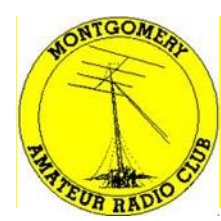
DECT/MARC Field Day 2025

Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Visitor's Center Pavilion

10211 Lewis Dr, Damascus, MD 20872



Open space across street for camping and additional ham stations



DECT/MARC

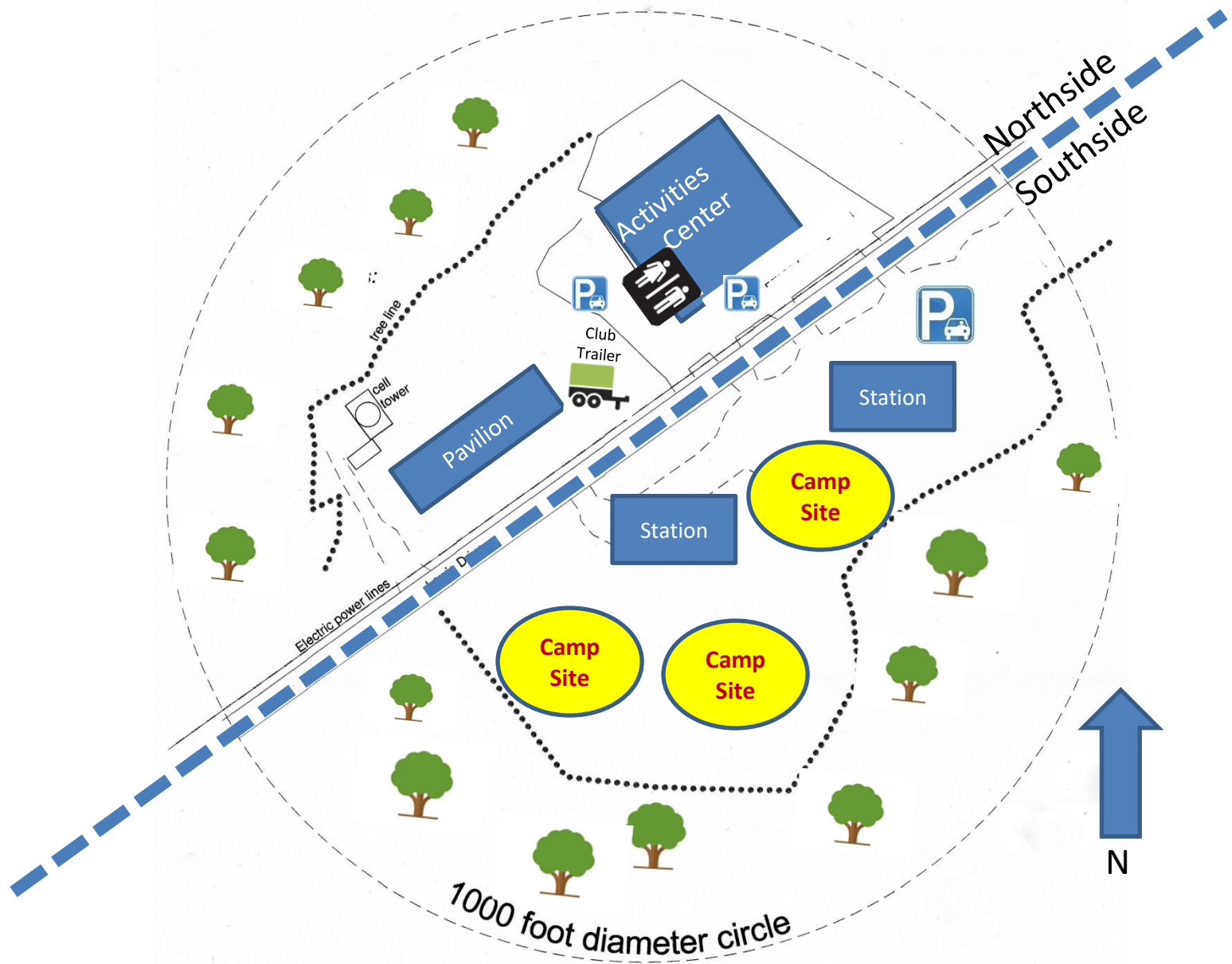
More Rules and Details



- Special Event Call sign is Whiskey 3 Mike
- 1,000 foot diameter circle includes all of pavilion area and across the street (additional operating space)
- Operating class will be determined by the final number of stations transmitting simultaneously
- Our ARRL section is Maryland/DC, abbreviated **MDC**.
- Two or more stations cannot work same band and mode
- No “dupes” – cannot log a station more than once



1000 Ft. Diameter Operating Area





Individual and Club-Owned Stations



- FD participants can either:
 - Bring personal radio equipment, or;
 - Operate one of the club-owned radio stations in the pavilion and the club trailer, which will be available 24-hours of contesting
- Individual and club stations will coordinate in advance band/modes to be used
- Contesting area will be roped off to keep public at safe distance



Club Radios



- MARC owns five club radios that will be available to those who want to use them for the 24-hour contest (including three Yaesu FT991's)
- Training on the FT991's by Marc N4DR available on YouTube at W3JAG, title, "Yaesu FT-991A – Quick and easy steps to getting started."





Still Need



- **Volunteers for:**

- Set up Friday and take down Sunday
- Scout mentoring at club radios to:
 - Explain the station equipment
 - Help scouts make their first contacts as part of the FD contesting
- Visitor's station to greet public

- **Supplies:**

- 1 table for club stations
- Cooler for drinks
- Extra generator
- What else??



Schedule Radio Time

DAMASCUS EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



- **To get your first choice,** contact Paul N3RQV in advance to reserve a club radio, band and mode
- **You can also reserve time starting Friday** of Field Day, but no guarantee the times/mode/and band you want will be available.
- **Sign up will be on the “white board” of the trailer** (next to the door).





**Marc N4DR operating the
Yaesu FT-991A**



Amateur Radio FCC Exam Session



Free Exams: Technician, General and Amateur Extra

- When: Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Where: MARC/DECT Field Day site at Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activity Center
- Registration: only advanced registration by email to
- education@marcclub.org:
 - Current hams: send via email your callsign and a phone number that receive text messages
 - Prospective hams: send email requesting information on obtaining an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and submitting a Form 605

Free Lunches, Snacks and Drinks

- All food and drinks free of charge both Saturday and Sunday.
- It will be hot, so we will insure everyone stays hydrated.
- Eat, relax and enjoy the camaraderie at one of the shaded picnic tables.



Purpose of National ARRL FIELD Day



Educate the Public

Practice Operational Skills



HAVE FUN!

