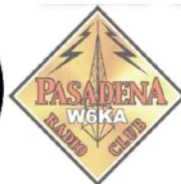




First thoughts on Field Day 2026

Carol Bruegge, 09Apr2026

- Dates:
 - June 26 (5 pm setup),
 - On the air: Saturday 11 am – Sunday 10:59 am PDT
- Who:
 - Club members from PRC, SPARC, JPLARC, and CITARC. Scores from participants not operating on-site will submit using their call sign, but associate with club N6P.





Operating classes

- A. Three or more persons
 - Independent of commercial power
- B. One or two persons
- C. Mobile, including marine and aeronautical
- D. Home station
- E. Home station with emergency power

Scoring

- Phone contacts: 1 pts
- CW and digital contacts: 2 pts

Power multipliers

- If all contacts are made using 5 Watts or less using no commercial mains or generators, multiply score by 5.
- If all contacts are made using 5 Watts or less, but with commercial mains or generators or batteries charged by either, multiply score by 2.
- If all contacts made using no more than 100 Watts, multiply score by 2.



Rules

- Can't call your own station
- Only workstations once per band per mode
- No cross-banding except satellites
- Only one transmitter at a time per band-mode
 - Except family members with different calls
- <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>

2025 results
 (as published
 Dec 2025 QST
 magazine)

Transmitter Count by Class

1A	108	4AC	26	4D	4
2A	286	5AC	13	5D	4
3A	317	6AC	2	6D	3
4A	180	1B1	303	1E	573
5A	91	2B1	4	2E	39
6A	34	1B1B	202	3E	17
7A	19	2B1B	6	4E	3
8A	8	1B1C	33	5E	2
9A	4	2B1C	4	6E	2
10A	4	1B2	48	1F	27
12A	1	2B2	26	2F	57
13A	2	3B2	1	3F	41
23A	1	5B2	1	4F	20
1AB	16	1B2B	13	5F	8
2AB	10	2B2B	8	6F	4
3AB	3	1B2C	3	7F	2
4AB	2	2B2C	4	8F	1
5AB	6	1C	42	9E	1
7AB	2	2C	3	9F	1
1AC	13	1D	1,404	Checklog	163
2AC	42	2D	46	Total	4,373
3AC	41	3D	19		



2025 FD results, cont.

Entries by Class Summary

Class	Entries	% of Total
A	1,261	28.8%
B	671	15.3%
C	46	1.1%
D	1,585	36.2%
E	647	14.8%
F	163	3.7%
Total	4,373	

2025 Field Day Overall Statistics

		% Change
Number of Participants	31,919	1%
Total Entries	4,373	1%
Checklogs	163	25%
CW QSOs	461,289	-6%
Phone QSOs	451,662	-16%
Digital QSOs	291,801	3%
Total QSOs	1,204,752	-8%

Class A&B (club) were 44% of entries

Class D and E (home) were 51%

Class C is mobile

Class F is Emergency Operations Center

CW and voice calls down due to poor HF conditions



2025 FD results, cont.

2025: Class 4A #13 of 180

#	Club	Call	Section	QSOs	No partpt	Total
1	Indy United ARC	W9SU	IN	4726	32	20272
2	Huntsville ARC	K4BFT	AL	4746	70	17289
3	Rocky Mountain Ham Radio	NØSZ	CO	3244	58	13919
4	Portage Co. ARS	K8BF	OH	3317	60	11672
5	Charlotte ARS	WX4E	WCF	2409	43	10805
6	Arrow Comm. Assn.	W8RP	MI	2252	125	10650
7	Midessa Field Day Grp.	K5RS	WTX	2603	16	10614
8	Livonia ARC/Ford ARL	K8UNS	MI	2419	70	8150
9	Westchester EmComm Assn.	N2SF	ENY	1855	15	7918
10	Sierra Foothills ARC	W6EK	SV	1545	26	7539
11	Platinum Coast ARS	W4MLB	SFL	1556	52	7404
12	Annapolis Valley ARC and Kings Co. ARC	VE1LD	NS	1871	41	7385
13	PRC/SPARC/JPLARC/CITARC	N6P	LAX	1809	30	7049

2019: Class 3A #16th of 309



2025 results, cont.

- Our contacts included (1 QSO) Alaska on 40m/SSB, (6) Hawaii on SSB and CW, (5) into Puerto Rico on SSB, FT8, and CW, and (1) into the Virgin Islands on SSB.

Band, m	Mode	QSOs	Total Points
15	CW	105	1162 CW
20	CW	385	
40	CW	91	
0.7	VHF	10	55 VHF
1.25	VHF	4	
2	VHF	39	
6	VHF	2	
15	SSB	42	969 SSB
20	SSB	546	
40	SSB	381	
20	DIG (FT4)	9	334 Digital
40	DIG (FT4)	16	
20	DIG (FT8)	46	
40	DIG (FT8)	78	
80	DIG (FT8)	16	
40	JT9	2	
GOTA		37	222 PH

CW points: 2324

Dig points: 668

PH points: 2122

GOTA points: 322 including bonus

Bonus points: 1935

Total: 7049

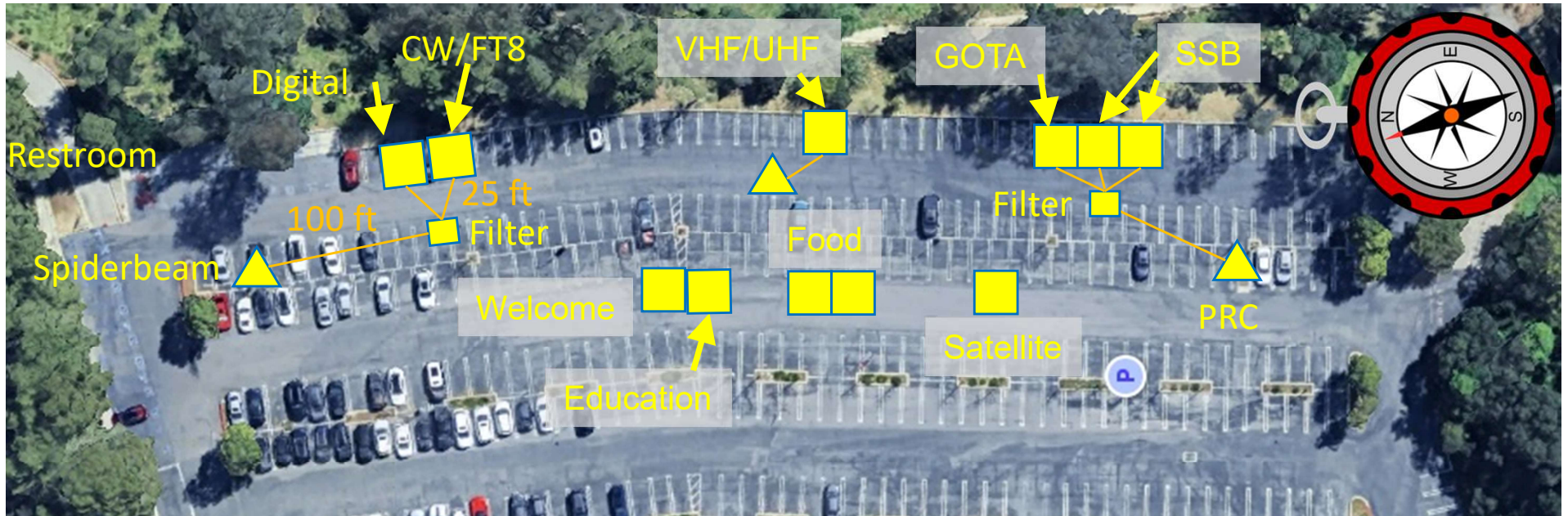
Missed bonus points: Media
publicity, Satellite



Location: Art College Hillside Campus

1700 Lida St, Pasadena

Proposed layout



We will be Class 4A Exchange

- Voice exchange: November Six Papa, 4 Alpha LAX
- GOTA exchange: Whiskey Six Sierra Papa Romeo, 4 Alpha LAX
- Club name for submission to ARRL: PRC/SPARC/JPLARC/CITARC



PRC Antenna Trailer

For SSN phone and GOTA stations

- Captain: Mark W6MES
- Trailer:
 - Texas Bragg 16 ft Classic Car Carrier.
- Tower:
 - U.S. Tower tilt-over, crank-up (~35').
 - Model TMM-433SS
- Antenna:
 - Cushcraft A3S triband (20/15/10m).
 - 75m/40m Fan Dipole.
- Antenna Rotator:
 - Kenpro KR-400
- Power Caster model PC-2:
 - For maneuvering trailer when not attached to a vehicle.

- Also stored with the trailer are the 2 Jim Marr filter boxes





Spiderbeam, 80/40 m dipole used in 2025



Spiderbeam

Bands: 10/15/20m

Owner: Matt Bennett AC6X

Dipole

Bands: 40/80m

Owner: Mark W6MES

Isolation filters provided by Jim Marr





CITARC antenna

Previously used for CW and Digital stations



- Used prior to 2019
 - Many issues related to using it for 2026 (needs tires, need a place to stage, unavailability of custodian)
- David Hodge N6AN is CalTech liason
- Mike Tope is custodian
- Antenna
 - Force 12 C3S triband Yagi (20/15/10m)
 - 80/40 m fan dipole
 - Antenna rotator (guide rope)





Jim Marr Filter boxes

- One box tuned to low end for CW/ Digital. The other box tuned to high end for SSB.
 - Boxes are not interchangeable!!!
- During setup, place coax caps in baggie to replace during takedown
- Cap 80m connector if not available
- **SWR must be <2 at the frequencies being used at a given station**
 - **SWR<2 at low end of band for CW/ digital filters**
 - **SWR<2 at high end of band for SSB/ GOTA filters**
- Filter box care including in training handout at each station:

Operator checklist

Filter box restriction

- → Digital/ CW stations are not to use SSB
- → SSB/ GOTA stations are not to use CW/Digital

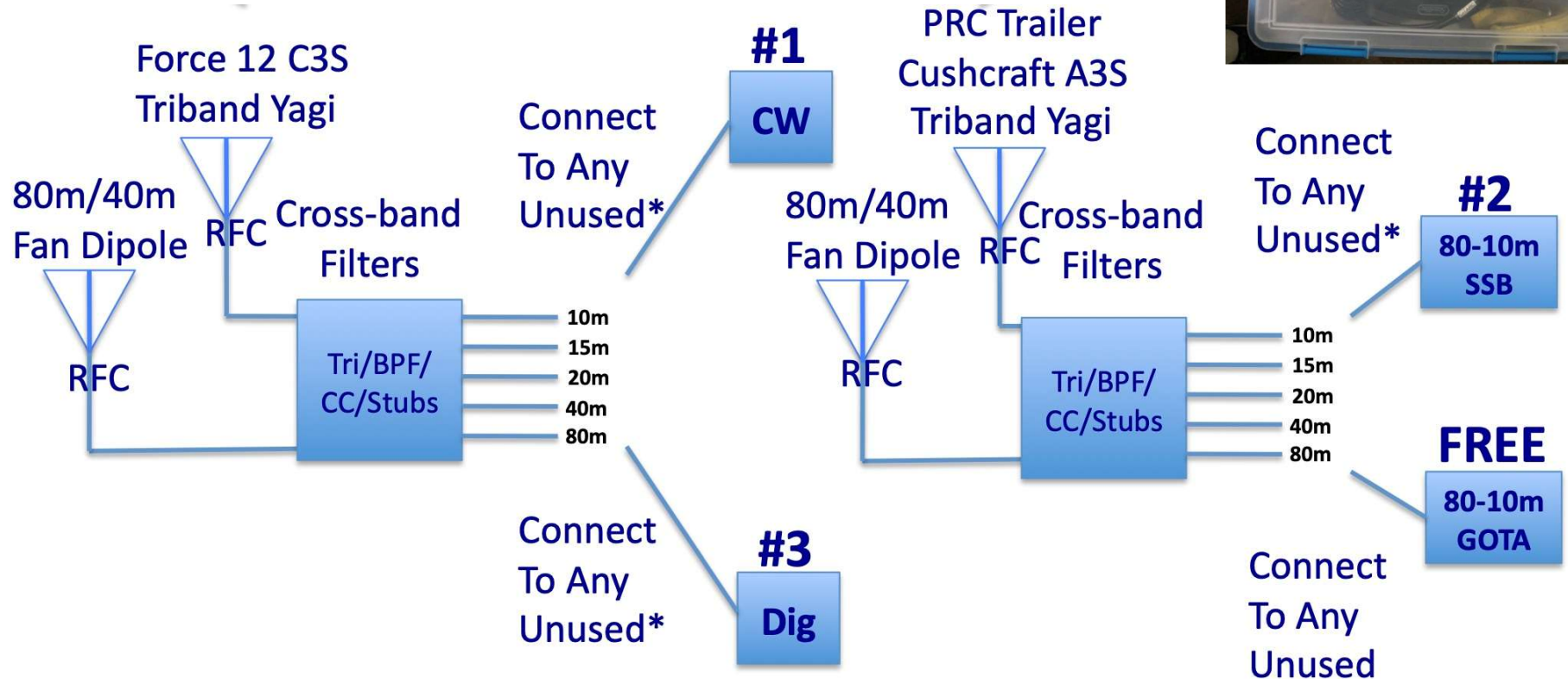
Change of operator

- → Add your call sign and initials in N3FJP app (Operator menu item on top bar)

Change of band

- → <Ctrl+F> on N3FJP will bring up menu to change band/ frequency. Software will control the ICOM.

Jim Marr Filters, cont.



Filter PRC RFC#1 = Two chokes in series, each 4 turns RG8X coax around 6 mix 31 cores giving ~8k ohms on 20/15/10m

PRC RFC#2 = 14 turns 12 gauge NM wire per each of two 2.4" mix 31 cores in series yields 12k ohms on 80m & 40m

References: K9YC "A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing", Rev 7, Jan 2019 and "A New Choke Cookbook for 160-10m Bands", 2018



2026 Station Leads (4A class)

CW/ Digital antenna

Leads: Steve Tovali KN6ZOO

1. CW: Tom Bruegge KE6SRO. David N6AN primary operator.
2. Digital (FT8/ FT4): Frank O'Donnell K6FOD

PRC antenna trailer

Lead: Mark Seigel W6MES, Towing: Steve Newquist KO6DTY

3. SSB: Mark Seigel W6MES
 4. SSB: Justin Linam KN6EJG
- GOTA station: John Aboud KK6ZVQ
 - Hal Frank KF6RRR brings his Scout troops (best effort)
 - GOTA requires unique call sign, use W6SPR

Station unique antennas

- VHF/ UHF: Stan Tahara KR6CV
- Satellite: Rick Besocke KI6ZKM



Bonus points and misc. tasks

100% emergency power (no commercial line voltage): **Yes**

Media publicity: **John KK6ZVQ**

Public location (welcome) & Info table: **Carol KE6SRN**

Messages to ARRL and others: **Jeff Liter W2JCL via Winlink**

Satellite QSO: **Rick KI6ZKM**

Alternate power: **Jackery & solar**

W1AW bulletin: **Frank K6FOD**

Educational activity: **John KK6ZVQ & Jeff W2JCL**

Site visit, elected official (**Pasadena and/or South Pas official**): **John KK6ZVQ**

Site visit, agency rep: **John KK6ZVQ**

GOTA (100 pts/ op): **John KK6ZVQ**

Report submission via web: **Carol KE6SRN**

Youth participation: **Hal Frank (BoyScts)**

Social media: **John KK6ZVQ**

Safety: **Steve KN6ZOO**

Site checklist: **Carol KE6SRN**

Band propagation: **Jim Marr**

Hospitality: **Steve Newquist KO6DTY**

Setup/ tear down: **All**



Winlink

- 200 bonus points available for sending messages to the ARRL section head and 10 other recipients . Winlink is the best way to do this.
- Winlink is a worldwide radio messaging system that allows licensed amateur radio operators to send and receive emails, including attachments, using radio frequencies instead of the internet. It is highly reliable for emergency communications, operating independently of the internet via a network of volunteer-run gateway stations.
- Best Winlink training is the YouTube series by Wave Talkers. They have a YouTube playlist called “Winlink Basics”
- A map of Winlink *Gateways* can be found on [Winlink Global Radio Email](#). Display Packet or VARA FM for VHF sites



Winlink, cont.



- To get started: You need a Winlink account, then software
 - For a PC, install the [Winlink Express](#) client software and register during the initial setup
 - You must use your account once a year, otherwise the account is deactivated
 - There is client software for Linux and Mac computers as well as apps for iOS and Android phones
- You need a way to get data from your computer to the radio
 - Some radios have built in sound cards (IC-7300, IC-705, IC-9700, ..). For these you just need a data cable to interface from your computers to the radio. For others you need to purchase an external digital interface device (DigiRig, SignalLink, ...)
- Winlink Wednesday is a good way to maintain your skills and account



W1AW bulletin

ARRL will publish a 2026 West coast schedule

- Will send via voice, CW, and digital
- Preferred time to copy is Friday, prior to FD setup
- Record CW and transcribe later

2025 W1AW schedule

- Friday: CW 5 pm, Digital 6 pm, Phone 6:45 pm, CW 8 pm
- Saturday: CW 7 am, Phone 8 am, CW 5 pm, Digital 6 pm, Phone 6:45 pm
- Sunday: CW 7 am, Phone 8 am, Digital 9 am

See bulletin schedule for frequencies and digital modes



Who can operate GOTA?

- Any generally in-active licensee
- Any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class
- Non-licensed person (under supervision, of course).
 - Must observe 3rd party traffic rules with DX stations.

Notes

- A control operator must be present if the GOTA participant is operating outside their license class
- The GOTA station must use a different call than the principal station
- Only one GOTA station can be on the air at a given time, but one of our four stations can be temporarily assigned to be the GOTA station
 - Useful if the radio for the GOTA station leaves at 5 pm
 - Note change in call sign (and operator) in N3FJP



Preference for ICOM IC-7300



Per Jim Marr:

- Phase noise caused by radio's internal oscillator
 - raises noise floor of nearby radios impacting ability to receive weak signals
- IC-7300's have low noise floor
 - Yaesu FT-991 and Yaesu FT-891 have a higher noise floor
- Standardize radios and logging software to simplify training



N3FJP logging software

<http://n3fjp.com>

Both PRC and SPARC have licenses that can be used for FD

Digital station will log using WSJT-X. Will check for Dups prior to delivery to Carol

**Unlicensed GOTA operator
Enters first name & initials**

Rec	Call	Class	Sec	Date / Time	End Mode	Country	Initials
-----	------	-------	-----	-------------	----------	---------	----------

Score Statistics

- Total CW Contacts: 0
- Total Phone Contacts: 0
- Total DIG Contacts: 0
- Total QSO Points: 0
- QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min): 0
- QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min): 0

Operator

Operator: AASQI
Initials: JCM

Ready to begin!
Please select your band and mode from the menu options!

Possible Duplicates Any Pattern
Maryland-DC Total = 0

Band: 15 **Mode:** CW

W6KA **6A** **LAX**

4:58:54 PM
23:58:54 UTC



Notes for 2026 FD

- Make sure to take photos of VIPs, Station Leads, and participants
- Engage with visitors.. Make sure ham operators and other guests, who are not from one of our 4 clubs, sign the Visitor Log and say how they heard about the event. Get their story!!!
- Make sure operators who qualify as GOTA operators use the GOTA call sign
- Bruce Nolte: Nice job on the signage. Need a list of what he will provide
- In addition to the Google Spreadsheet for operating time slots, keep a sign-in sheet at each station. Include band and coordinate with any other station using the same filter box.



More info

- Contact

cjbruegge@gmail.com

Cell: 818-862-1677

for more information or to offer suggestions/ volunteer for Art Center FD

[Google spreadsheet for signups](#)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NLc6F9n4Gigsfwl_Un5ObpCBk1DD-LGsbuhoR2HTAtY/edit?gid=607074796#gid=607074796

Carol's blog (2025): <https://radioandrides.com/2025/06/30/field-day-2025/>

Bruce Nolte YouTube videos

- <https://youtu.be/I2JhKOWkPkk?si=5y70--vW6a05M2LR> (2019)
- https://youtu.be/N564yTOKv38?si=GW9R9nT8SnjuUv_V (2024)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0ucOwlQsOo> (2025)