

Providing a Field Day Station for BARC

General

BARC has equipment which will provision one FD station. That equipment, with the addition of member-provided accessories and a full shift of volunteer operators comprise a complete station.

Requirements

If you want to provide a station, there are certain requirements which you must consider. First of all, each FD station is a team project, so the division of labor will make each task doable and fun, rather than a daunting, nearly impossible undertaking.

BARC will take care of obtaining the site, coordinating locations within the site, coordinating the sharing of generators, providing food, sharing operating logs, and many other common tasks.

Here are some essential items for providing a station:

radio gear and peripherals powered by ac

This could be your regular station or a designated portable station. A first-generation digital rig is probably a poor choice, as they are infamous for close-in and far-out phase noise, which hinders both receive and transmit if you are near transceivers on other bands. A later model digi-

tal or an old analog transceiver will probably work okay.

Don't forget headphones that can be Y-ed so that 2 or more can hear at the same time.

ergonomic furniture for operating position

You'll need a table and two chairs, minimum.

N3FJP FD software and laptop computer

The software costs \$5 over the internet. A Google search will get you to the site. Several of us have spare computers that you are welcome to use for FD.

Also see the file n3fjp_software available from the BARC website. In addition to installing and using the software, it is essential that you be able to share the .adi file that you generate. See the topic "Making the .adi File Available to Others" in the above-mentioned document.

antenna

The antenna should not be an afterthought but a highly effective one. You are running about 100W; you need to have a readable signal. The antenna should be in the class of a full-size dipole or a ground plane. Don't even think about using a shortened

antenna for 75/80m. And please use an external antenna tuner (in addition to one that might be built into the rig) even if you think that your antenna is resonant. This helps for wide excursions and filters far-out phase noise a bit so that you should interfere less on other bands. It also helps to compensate for a less-than-perfect result after you string up your antenna.

setup labor

Please don't plan on doing everything yourself. Arrange to get two or more to help schlep equipment, set up antennas, and so on.

tear down labor

Same thing as setup

operators

If possible, make and stick to a written operator schedule. Plan on an all-nighter, not quitting until Sunday at noon.

If anyone pokes their head into your tent, try to get them to operate, especially if it is a young person. If it is a youth 18 or younger, get their name if you get him/her to make contacts, as the club gets points for getting youth to operate.



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shelter

Plan on getting someone to help you pitch a tent.

Bands and Modes

Rigs can be used for more than one band, but the bands should be matched so that the shared bands are complementary for daytime/nighttime operation. For example, a 75/80m station could also be the 10m station.

The 40m station can probably be used both day and night as the conditions change from day to night.

The 20m and 15m bands can probably be used to make contacts during daylight and until about 9 p.m.

A 6m VHF station is important, as sporadic-E skip is likely. The requirement is about 100W of SSB and CW to a dipole. There is little FM activity on 6m during the contest.

A 2m FM station can be used to make local contacts. Contest rules apply so that repeaters must be avoided, and 146.52 must not be used.

The 10m and 6m stations are especially important if we get new operators, as these bands have ample room for accommodating lots of stations, and beginners should be able to do very well without having to fight QRM. Because 10m and 6m are likely to be open at the same time, there

need to be totally separate stations for these 2 bands.

The best mode to use for FD is CW. Not only does a CW QSO count for more points, making contacts is much easier. If you don't do CW very well, practice and learn. Broaden your skills. Being able to operate only with an ht is for beginners and boring people.

Digital modes, especially PSK31 and RTTY, also count double points over voice. Since the club has had few people try digital in past FDs, this would be something new, so that we're not just repeating what we did on previous FDs.

Satellite and other special stations can earn points for BARC. See the FD rules and "Field Day Chores" on the BARC website for details.

