

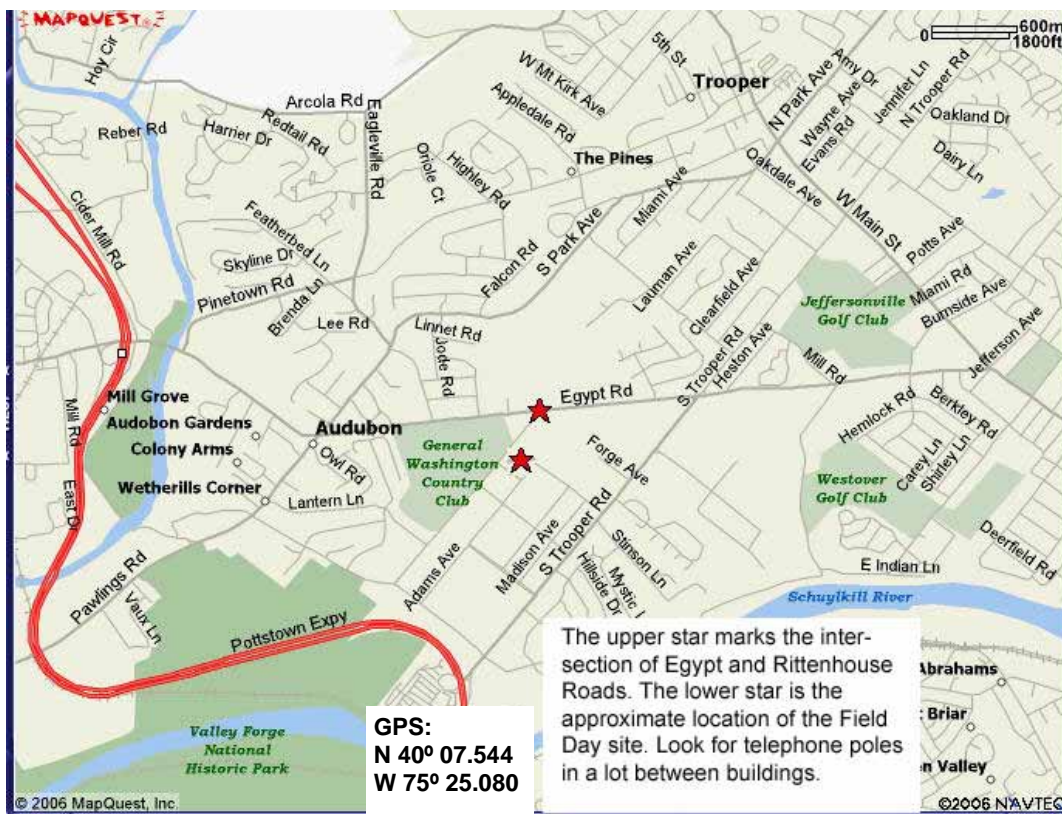


FIELD DAY 2006

# REMARCS

[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)

## FIELD DAY 2006 – NEW LOCATION



The new Verizon training site is on Rittenhouse Road, 0.3 miles south of the intersection of Rittenhouse and Egypt Road. The lower red star is the rough location of the site. For orientation, the old site was approximately where the words “Egypt Road” appear on this map.

### WHERE TO TURN

The field lies between the Muzak (Independence Communications) office building and the Aramark office building. From Rittenhouse Road, turn into the Muzak (Independence Communications) parking lot.

### WHERE TO PARK

**Do not park near the street!**  
**This will cause trouble with the office building tenants!**

Go to the back edge of the Muzak parking lot, where there are piles of cinder blocks and telephone poles. Park **BEYOND** the pile of cinder blocks, near the pile of poles. Your cooperation is appreciated!

## THE EDITOR’S JUNK BOX: FIELD DAY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

As the 20th century ended, many hams scorned Field Day as being ridiculously irrelevant to modern emergency preparedness. Camping out, putting up makeshift antennas, operating HF outdoors, in fact operating HF at all, eating cold pizza -- that had nothing to do with modern emergency communications, which was all about short-range tactical work on FM from nice clean emergency operations centers or trotting about with an HT on the heels of emergency managers. Who did the ARRL think they were kidding with this antiquated Field Day thing?

Let them sneer at Field Day no more! When Hurricane Katrina and her ugly sisters Rita and Wilma beat the living daylights out of the Gulf coast, the conditions and challenges experienced by Amateur Radio emergency communicators resembled nothing so much as Field Day -- if your Field Day site is 10 miles south of downtown Hell. Hams used HF as well as VHF/UHF -- many repeaters were destroyed -- and some even worked a little CW in addition to voice and digital. They camped out in tents, slept in Red Cross shelters, slept in storage closets. They slung up portable antennas. They swatted bugs in 90 degree heat and off-the-scale humidity and chowed down on MREs. They did formal messaging as well as tactical communications. They worked together, endured together, and together they got a hard job done.

Amateurs who worked the 2004 Florida hurricanes and the 2005 Gulf coast disaster tell me that Field Day is profoundly relevant to ham radio emergency preparedness in the 21st century. It is also a lot of fun and good fellowship. See you there! -- **73, Kay N3KN**

**Field Day Set-Up starts at 10 AM Saturday, June 24**

**Field Day Tear-Down starts at 1 PM Sunday, June 25**

**Members with trucks or vans who can help move gear between the club’s storage locker in Oaks and the FD site, contact Carter N3AO (610-993-9623 or [n3ao@comcast.net](mailto:n3ao@comcast.net)). Help is needed for both set-up and tear-down.**

## ABOUT FIELD DAY

- **Is it true the FCC's Rules don't apply on Field Day?** No.
- **Field Day is an organized event.** It's not a random gaggle of hams all doing their own thing out at the site. Please do not just show up unannounced with a car-load of gear and expect to set up a station and operate. If you want to get in on Field Day planning and organization, contact **Carter N3AO**. Your help will be welcome.
- **What does the Field Day exchange mean?** The exchange is the information you send to others and the information they send to you. This information must be accurately logged for every contact. The Field Day exchange is the station callsign, the maximum number of transmitters on the air at any one time from the Field Day site, the category of operation, and the ARRL Section. For example, our Field Day exchange -- what we send to the stations we contact -- might be "W3NWA 3A EPA." That's our callsign (W3NWA), the maximum number of transmitters we have on the air at any one time (3), our operating category (A, which is club or



non-club portable), and our ARRL Section (EPA - Eastern Pennsylvania).

- **Why can't I just pack up my car and go home on Sunday?** You can do that, but it's a great way to put an end to Field Day for MARC. How would you feel if everybody just went home and stuck YOU with cleaning up the site and taking all the club-owned gear back to storage? Sometimes in the past, two or three people have been left to do all the clean up because everyone else just vaporized when the operating ended. Field Day captains felt very resentful towards other club members who left them holding the (trash) bag. This year, let's make certain that doesn't happen: show up for clean-up.
- **Why does the club sign W3NWA at Field Day instead of WB3JOE?** A founding member of MARC was **Bob Young W3NWA**, whose callsign was used at the very first MARC Field Day in 1977. **Gene N3HG** once referred to him as "everybody's Elmer." Bob became a Silent Key in 1982. When club callsigns became available again in the 1990's, the MARC obtained **W3NWA** to honor Bob's memory.

ARRL held the first Field Day in 1933. The announcement in June *QST* said if Field Day was a success, it might become an annual affair. In those days, portable operation was uncommon and difficult. Equipment was bulky, you had to have a license for portable operation, and you had to notify the Federal Radio Commission in writing ahead of time. Fifty entries were received for the first Field Day. That qualified as success, in those days. The future of Field Day was boosted later in the year, when the FRC announced new ham radio regulations which deleted the special license requirement for portables. You still had to notify the FRC in writing in advance, however, and ham radio operation from automobiles remained illegal. Today, Field Day is the most popular operating event in North America, and 2,202 entries were received in 2005.

## FLEA MARKET

**TRADE:** Radio Shack 10m mobile transceiver, 25w output, SSB, FM, manual, 5 frequency memory with auto scan, mike & RF gain controls, noise blanker, automatic noise limiter, condenser mike, car mounting bracket. New Radio Shack 10m antenna. Only received on the radio, never transmitted. Will trade for 2m 15 to 25 watt output radio. **Bill Kane N3OOL** (dutch3 @starpower.net, 610-296-8575.)

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu VX-5R triple band (6M, 2M, 440 MHz) handheld with accessories, including manual, leather case, wall charger, original antenna and dual-band antenna for car. \$195. **Itamar Gonen KB3LCI** (itamargonen@yahoo.com).

**GIVE AWAY:** Drake HF station, including amp; Swan SW-240 (3-band HF rig); ICOM HF rig (model info not available). Pick them up and they're yours to use or sell. **Marvin Andersen K3TVI** (302-354-4086).

## KIMBERTON FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Kimberton Fire Company allows us to use their fairgrounds rent-free for the hamfest in return for providing volunteers for their annual fund-raiser fair. It's fun to do and saves MARC \$900. We need people to sit in air-conditioned booths and sell carnival ride tickets. Booths lock from the inside and the money-handling is safe and easy. You have a fire-company radio in the booth. We also need people to collect voluntary donations as cars drive up the entry road.

No ham radio communications are involved, so your non-ham family members can participate. In fact, we welcome and encourage them to help out. Though we do not recommend bringing young children, teenagers have been very helpful in past years.

The fair is July 24-29. Right now we don't know which dates they'll want our help, but we expect evening shifts on some weeknights and both day and evening time slots on Saturday. Please contact **Kay N3KN** (610-993-9623, n3kn@arrrl.net) NOW if you may be able to help or want more information.





Bob Young W3NWA (SK) operating at the second MARC Field Day in 1978.



Dave WB3JOY also at the 1978 Field Day.



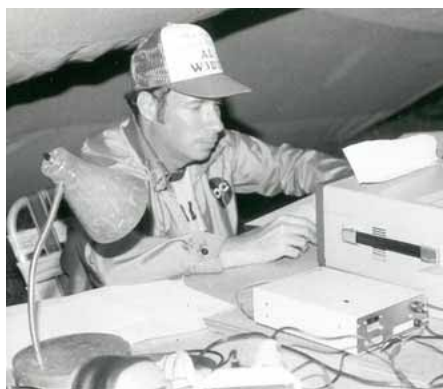
Bob W3SA and Jim KD3NI (SK) watch the proceedings from the shade at a 1990s-era Field Day.



Circa 1982, MARC FD ops held a funeral for their dead generator. Don't even ask about 1983, when the infamous ice cream truck generator blew up and fried an HF rig! L-R in this photo: unknown, Al W3DZI, Carter KA3IME, Dennis N3AVI, ?Steve WA3EYD, Don WB3AYT, Steve WB3KNB, Paul WA3YZL, and David KA3HBK.



Bob WA3PZO, early 1980's.



Al W3DZI, early 1980's.



Josy WQ3E (left) logs for Carter N3AO in the 1990's.

Kay N3KN logs contacts on a laptop. Computer logging was new in early-1990's ham radio. This picture dates before computers and rigs were interfaced.



## FIELD DAY SCENES

Views of Field Day through the decades were recorded by club members. Records don't indicate who took which photographs, so we'll simply thank all the members who documented Field Day over the years.



Field day is working together. L-R, Bob W3ZQN, Mitch W3MBA, and Ron W3ZV raise the beam.