

Hello all stations:

This is a special Field Day message. I wish that you truly enjoy yourself in our annual technical and operating “marathon” in the field. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to those you who have shouldered the burden to get your club out there!

I think the best way to summarize our annual effort is to repeat the wisdom of many hams before us; “Field Day is not a contest, it's a demonstration, with points awarded from our ARRL sponsor, of our ability to provide communication service under complex and sometimes adverse conditions.”

I believe your club’s ability to set up and operate with safety, support your operators logistically, and leverage the social opportunities are key to your real success. While I realize that the contesting portion is a driver for many of our members, please don’t overlook the opportunity to turn this into a major social event for your club members. Use your phone trees or radio nets to extend an invitation to get them out to your site. Encourage them to bring friends and neighbors as well. You know how “infectious” our hobby is! A terrific compendium of information can be found on our special FD website, <http://fd.ema.arrl.org>.

The weather looks encouraging for the weekend, with the exception of those of you staging on Friday night. If weather is an issue at any point during the weekend, KD1CY and his fabulous SKYWARN team are available to you on your nearest SKYWARN repeater.

➔ Please remember, though, that the final responsibility for you and your weather site safety lies jointly with the National Weather Service and with your efforts to acquire any pertinent information from them, and acting accordingly. SKYWARN stands ready to assist you in that effort, but IS NOT responsible for your safety.

Rob has provided some additional information to his vast network of “weather consumers”;

===== Begin Quotation =====

Field Day sites are encouraged to bring a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio and a dedicated Ham Radio that can monitor their local SKYWARN Frequency for their area or if they have mobile Internet capability, that is also a way to monitor for weather information if thunderstorms, even that are non-severe, approach your area. Please see the link below for the latest SKYWARN Frequency information for the region: <http://www.wx1box.org/node/37>.

SKYWARN Activation with Ops at NWS Taunton is likely on Friday. SKYWARN monitoring for non-severe thunderstorms and their lightning risk will be done throughout the weekend to protect Amateur Radio Field Day sites.

For the weekend, there will be the potential for isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms on Saturday with lesser chances for this activity on Sunday. Details on how the weekend will evolve are still not certain. As stated previously, the weekend is not expected to be a washout and conditions away from the immediate coastal areas should be better than the past 4 days or so with warmer and more summer like conditions but there will be the potential for an isolated to scattered shower or thunderstorm activity. Future coordination messages will better define the activity for this weekend.

Remember that non-severe thunderstorms can pose a threat to Amateur Radio Field Day sites due to the threat of lightning. Please keep this in mind if you have an outdoor Field Day site. This week is Lightning Awareness Week and the National Weather Service in Taunton has posted information on Lightning Safety Awareness Week. See links below for this information:

NWS Taunton Latest Lightning Safety Awareness Week Statement:

<http://kamala.cod.edu/ma/latest.nous41.KBOX.html>

NWS Taunton Wednesday 6/24/09 Lightning Safety Awareness Week Statement:

<http://kamala.cod.edu/off/KBOX/0906241320.nous41.html>

NWS Taunton Tuesday 6/23/09 Lightning Safety Awareness Week Statement:

<http://kamala.cod.edu/off/KBOX/0906231724.nous41.html>

NWS Taunton Monday 6/22/09 Lightning Safety Awareness Week Statement:

<http://kamala.cod.edu/off/KBOX/0906221445.nous41.html>

NWS Lightning Safety Awareness Home Page: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>”

==== End of Quotation =====

My staff and I will be touring as many sites as possible during the weekend. As I tour FD sites and support the CCG MS ride this weekend, I will be available for contest contact on FM simplex, and the receipt of regular and Winlink emails. NTS format gets you points!

I look forward to seeing you, and good luck!

de W1MPN