





FD Philosophy

What is FD? What are our expectations?

- An opportunity to socialize with other hams in the great outdoors
- An opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio to the public
- An opportunity to engage Scouts and other service organizations
- A family event
- A cook-out with Ham Radio on the side
- An emergency preparedness exercise
- A competitive event with amiable bragging rights

Are these mutually exclusive, or can FD be all of the above?



Portsmouth Glen Park FD Site

Site can accommodate any and all of our needs

- One of the most desirable venues in Newport County
- Plenty of space for tents and antennas
- Covered pavilion with 13 large picnic tables
- Full kitchen with commercial appliances, cold and hot water
- Men's and Women's rest rooms
- Overnight camping is permitted (no fires)

FD at Glen Park is (by our choice) an alcohol-free event



FD Basics

FD Station Classes

- **A** Club or non-club group – Portable, emergency power
- **B** One or two person - Portable, emergency power
- **C** Mobile
- **D** Home stations - Shore power
- **E** Home stations – Emergency power
- **F** Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's)



FD Basics

Complete FD Number-Letter Class Designator

- Numeric prefix = Number of transmitters on air simultaneously
- Example: **2A** – Club or group station with 2 transmitters on air
- Example: **4F** – An EOC with 4 transmitters on air
- The number of transmitters ranges from 1 to 22 (yes, we hear 22A's)



The (free) VHF Station

Free VHF Station

- Available only to Class A stations
- VHF transmitters are “Free” – Do not count as “Transmitters”
- VHF QSO’s contribute to score same as main HF transmitters
- **A VHF station can make a very significant contribution to score!**
- Multiple VHF operating positions may be used, but...
- Only one VHF transmitter is permitted on air at any given time



The GOTA Station

- **Get On The Air = GOTA**
- Replaces the legacy Novice Station
- Intent is to get people on the air
 - General public
 - Prospective hams
 - Inactive hams
- May operate on any FD band – Does not count as a Transmitter
- Uses callsign different from main FD station
- Uses same Class Designator as main FD station (2A)
- Generous, but somewhat complicated Bonus Point system



The GOTA Station

Who can operate the GOTA Station:

- Anyone licensed since FD 2012, regardless of license class
- Any Technician or Novice class licensee
- Any member of the public, under the supervision of a licensed Control Operator / GOTA Coach
- Inactive General or Extra class licensees (1 year inactivity)
- Active General or above class licensees **may not operate** the GOTA station



The FD Contact Exchange

The easiest Exchange in any ham radio event:

- **Class designator + ARRL Section**
- Example: “**2A Rhode Island**”
- US stations use ARRL Section, Canadian stations use RAC Sections
- All stations outside US and Canada use “DX” as Section
- Many US States have multiple Sections
 - Eastern Mass, Western Mass, etc
 - Rhode Island has only one Section



FD Logging

The simplest logging requirement in any ham radio event:

- Required:
 - Band
 - Mode
 - Station worked callsign
 - Exchange Received
 - Exchange Sent (always “2A Rhode Island”)
- Time, signal report, sequence number not required
- GOTA log requires name of each operator for each contact
 - First name and initial letter of last name OK for minors
- Logs are not cross-checked at ARRL



FD Scoring

The simplest scoring system in any ham radio event:

- Stations may be worked once per band and mode (voice, CW)
- Voice contacts count for one (1) point
- CW contacts count for two (2) points
- There are NO geographical multipliers (Sections, States, etc.)
- Power multiplier – 2X if all contacts 150 Watts or less
- Elaborate and generous Bonus Point system



FD Operating Styles

Running vs. Search and Pounce

Running – Repeatedly calling CQ on a single frequency

- Intense, rapid fire operation
- Can be tiring, frustrating, and confusing
- QRM, turf wars, bad behavior (yes, it happens)
- Most productive (points), esp. in a no-multiplier event like FD

Search and Pounce – Tuning around to find stations calling CQ

- Much more relaxed than running
- Can select strong, clear stations to work
- Work stations at your own pace
- Much easier for non-Amateurs to understand
- Well suited for coaching and mentoring



Some FD Audio Clips

FD Exchanges



Some FD Audio Clips

FD Exchanges



Some FD Audio Clips

Running Can Be Challenging



Some FD Audio Clips

Running Can Be Challenging



Some FD Audio Clips

Coaching a young GOTA operator



Some FD Audio Clips

Coaching a young GOTA operator



GOTA Scoring and Bonus

- GOTA is capped at 500 contacts maximum
- Names of all GOTA operators must be submitted with FD entry
- Each GOTA operator receives a 20 Point bonus for each 20 contacts
 - Awarded in 20 contact increments
 - No partial credit (39 contacts = One (1) 20-Point bonus)
 - 20-contact bonus capped at 100 contacts per operator
 - No limit on operators who may receive 20 contact bonus
- GOTA Coach Bonus: **Doubles the overall GOTA score.**
 - GOTA Coach must be present whenever GOTA on air

The combination of the 20-contact bonus and the GOTA Coach bonus makes GOTA contacts **the most valuable contacts of any station** at FD!



GOTA Scoring Example

- Johnny Novice makes 43 SSB contacts.
 - Johnny receives 43 Points for 43 voice contacts
 - He receives a 40 Point bonus for two 20-contact increments
 - His overall score is doubled by the GOTA Coach Bonus
 - $(43 + 40) \times 2 = 166$ Points
- Mike Rafone makes 39 SSB contacts.
 - Mike receives 39 Points for 39 voice contacts
 - He receives a 20 Point bonus for one 20-contact increment
 - His overall score is doubled by the GOTA Coach Bonus
 - $(39 + 20) \times 2 = 118$ Points

Q. Can we borrow one of Johnny's contacts and give it to Mike?

A. No. This is specifically disallowed in the GOTA rules.



NCRC FD 2013

Discussion