



2023 Field Day Overview

BARC General Membership Meeting

Ray Hitt, N8VMX – Field Day Coordinator
Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club
June 15, 2023



Field Day Description

- Most popular annual on-the-air amateur radio event
- Held the 4th weekend in June every year (this year 24-25 June)
- Involves the entire US and Canada (although others can call in)
- Informal “contest” to gather and practice operating under uncharacteristic situations and suboptimal conditions
- Objectives are to contact as many other stations as possible, and to have fun
- BARC will operate from Sackett Wright Park, near Shelter #1
- Arguably the best part...DOT'S BROASTED CHICKEN and potluck picnic Saturday afternoon





Field Day Rules

- Objective: contact as many stations as possible on all bands except for 60/30/17 and 12 meter bands (for us this means 80/40/20/15/10 meter bands)
- Stations are identified by Class and Section
 - We are "4A OH" (4 stations, portable club operation, Ohio section)
 - We use the BARC club call sign W8DGN
 - W8DGN will be operating "Extra Class" for all operators if at least one Extra Class operator is on site – this is a great opportunity for Technicians to try out the full HF amateur bands!!!
- Each station can be contacted only once per band and mode (voice/cw/data) for points (no duplicates). You can't contact yourself (silly)



Field Day Rules



- Voice contacts are one point each, while CW or data contacts are two points each.
- Your points are doubled when all stations are at 100 watts or less
- Bonus points are earned for: Media publicity, public location, public information table, originating a message to Section Manager, handling messages, making at least 5 contacts from alternate power (i.e. solar), copying the ARRL field day bulletin, performing an interactive educational activity, being visited by an invited government official, law enforcement, etc.
- Pandemic era rules still allow for hams to operate from home and aggregate their scores with their club, in our case "Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club"



Field Day Tech Details in a Nutshell...

- Our Field Day site will be identified as "W8DGN 4A OH" over the air
- Education tent will be set up adjacent to shelter to reduce traffic and noise near operating stations – 10' x 10' BARC logo canopy
- Two 12' x 20' canopies used to cover picnic benches for discussions and meals
- 80m dipole, 40m dipole, 10/15/20m rotatable element, multiband vertical
- 4 IC-7300 HF transceivers from BARC will be used, all CW/digital/voice capable
- Laptops will log all contacts
- N8VMX solar/battery setup to be integrated into one station



Station Setup at Shelter #1





Antenna System



HF

- 80m dipole
- 40m dipole
- 20m/15m/10m rotatable dipole
- Multiband Vertical
- 2 towers
 - 30' sectional fiberglass tower
 - 32' tilt-base aluminum tower

VHF / UHF

- One 2m/70cm vertical
 - BARC Repeater Talk-in
 - Antenna Crew Simplex
 - WINLINK



Antennas



Field Day 2023 Antenna Setup



Field Day Weekend Schedule

- **Saturday 24 June (Times are EDT)**
 - 0800 Power crew only or by invite – show up at Sackett-Wright Shelter 1
 - 0930 Other volunteers show up at clubhouse to bring tables (from BARC and from Bellbrook United Methodist Church)
 - 1000 Antenna crews show up at Sackett Wright
 - 1000 Gather at Sackett-Wright for breakfast sandwiches (setup crews only)
 - 1030 Continue setup at Sackett Wright (antennas and large canopies)
 - 1300 Lunch break
 - 1330 Final station checkout
 - 1400 START of FIELD DAY 2023 (for 24 hours)
 - 1530 Education program
 - 1730 BARC Annual Field Day Family Picnic
 - 1830 Continue Station operations



Field Day Weekend Schedule

- **Overnight Saturday 24 June/Sunday 25 June**
 - 2200 Overnight period begins (recommend a minimum of two-three people throughout overnight period for safety. Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township Police will check in on us throughout the night)
 - 0700 Overnight period ends
 - 1400 Field Day Operational Period ENDS
 - 1400 Begin station and antenna disassembly, packing of trailer
 - 1545 Transport trailer to fenced Area near BARC Clubhouse
 - 1600 Clean up Field Day site – leave it better than the way we found it



Educational Presentations

Theme: Using Antenna Analyzers



- We'll have different types of antenna analyzers or network analyzers available for hands-on use
- Several typical tasks will be taught, for example;
 - Measuring antenna VSWR
 - Determining the length of a cable
 - Finding a shorted cable, and where the short is
 - And other useful tricks...

Headed up by Paul Sharp, Education Coordinator, with several distinguished BARC instructors



In Case of Bad Weather...

- Monitor BARC repeater prior to setup (147.045+) Saturday morning of Field Day
- My cell phone: (937) 974-6781
- Alternate site would be the BARC Clubhouse
- Any changes will be announced on BARC repeater Saturday morning around 0800 after assessment of ground conditions and weather forecasts
- E-mail will be sent to BARC distribution list around 0900 Saturday morning if venue changes



Extra Points Credit for BARC Members

- You can help out, EVEN if you're not taking part in Field Day
- Copy the ARRL Bulletin and send it to me!
- Message is sent in CW, Digital, and Voice modes from Friday 9pm EST through Sunday 1230 pm EST, so take your pick or try all modes!
- Schedule and frequencies are posted at https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2023/4_37-2023%20W1AW%20Sked.pdf
- Or Google "2023 W1AW Field Day Bulletin Schedule"

We missed out on this 100-point gift last year, so I need your help on this!



2023 W1AW Field Day Bulletin Schedule

Day	Mode	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern	UTC
FRIDAY	CW	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	0000 (Sat)
	Digital	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	0100
	Phone	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM	0145
	CW	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM	0300
SATURDAY	CW	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	1400
	Phone	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	1500
	CW	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	0000 (Sun)
	Digital	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	0100
	Phone	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM	0145
SUNDAY	CW	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	1400
	Phone	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	1500
	Digital	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1600

W1AW will operate on the regularly published frequencies.

CW frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350 and 147.555 MHz.

Digital frequencies are 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, 50.350 and 147.555 MHz. (Note: W1AW will transmit the Field Day Bulletin using 45.45 baud baudot, PSK31 {BPSK Mode}, and MFSK16 in this mode order).

Phone frequencies are 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590, 50.350 and 147.555 MHz.



Logistics/Miscellaneous

- Picnic Tables (heavy) need to be moved Friday night 8pm out from the shelter – I need 4 volunteers who can lift a table corner
- If you're not part of a setup team, I request you don't come to Sackett Wright until after 2:00 pm
- Allow power crew and IT crew uninterrupted access to the shelter until cables are run and checked out
- Antenna and Canopy setup crews – show up at 10am for breakfast, then start setup at 1030
- Coolers – we typically need a few coolers for all the water and varieties of beverages available. Coordinate with Tink if you have any
- Box Fans – We need several box fans, coordinate with Tink on that as well if you can bring one



Logistics/Miscellaneous

- Courtesy – Use headphones when operating station
- Others – Don't carry loud extraneous conversations within 10 feet of any station – It is QRM
- If you are unassigned on any category but want to help, get with me, or another BARC officer/coordinator – they can assign you if they still need people and inform me after the fact
- Please be safe while on site, or when driving to/from site. Fatigue is a factor if you are heavily involved in setup or overnight activities



Survey Results

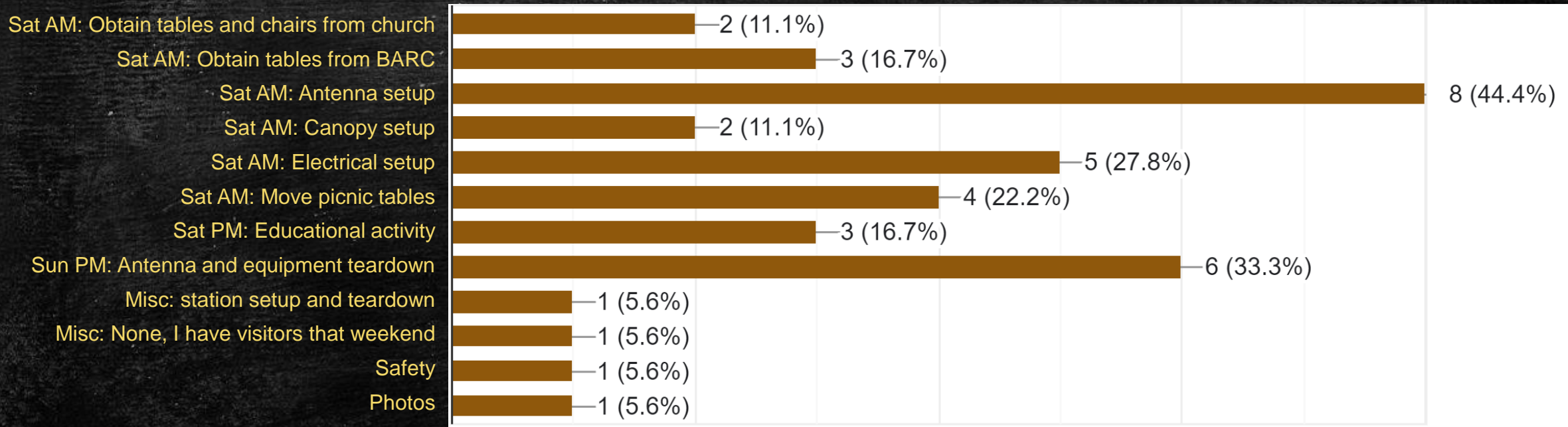


- Survey response was extremely low (14%)
- Not very useful as a planning tool
- Investigating a better way to manage how we cover Field Day next year
- However, with that preface, here are the results...



Question 1

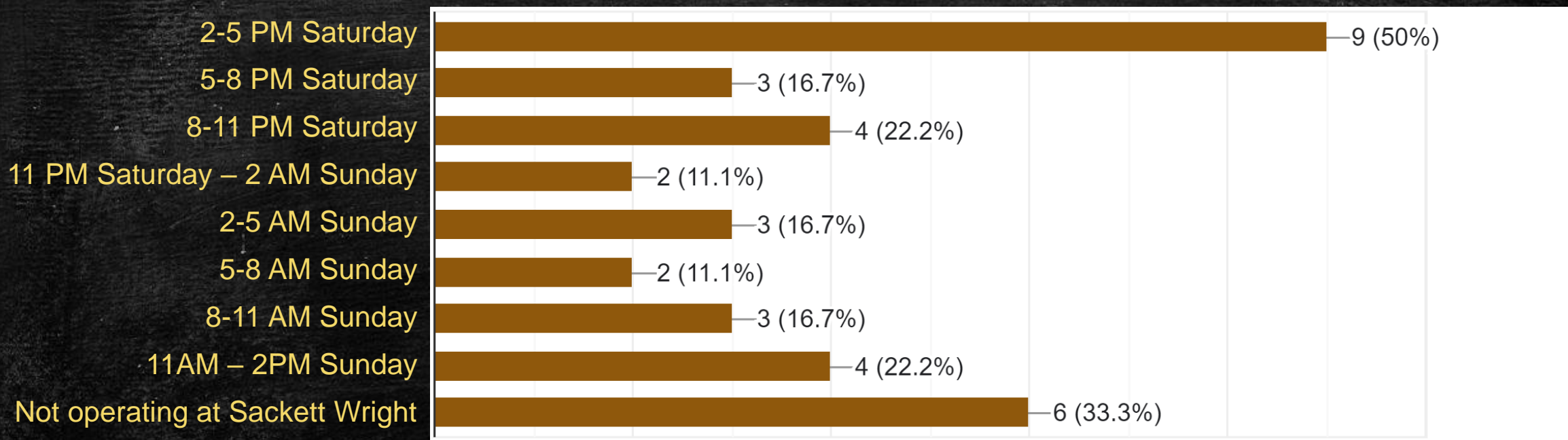
In which areas will you be able to participate?





Question 2

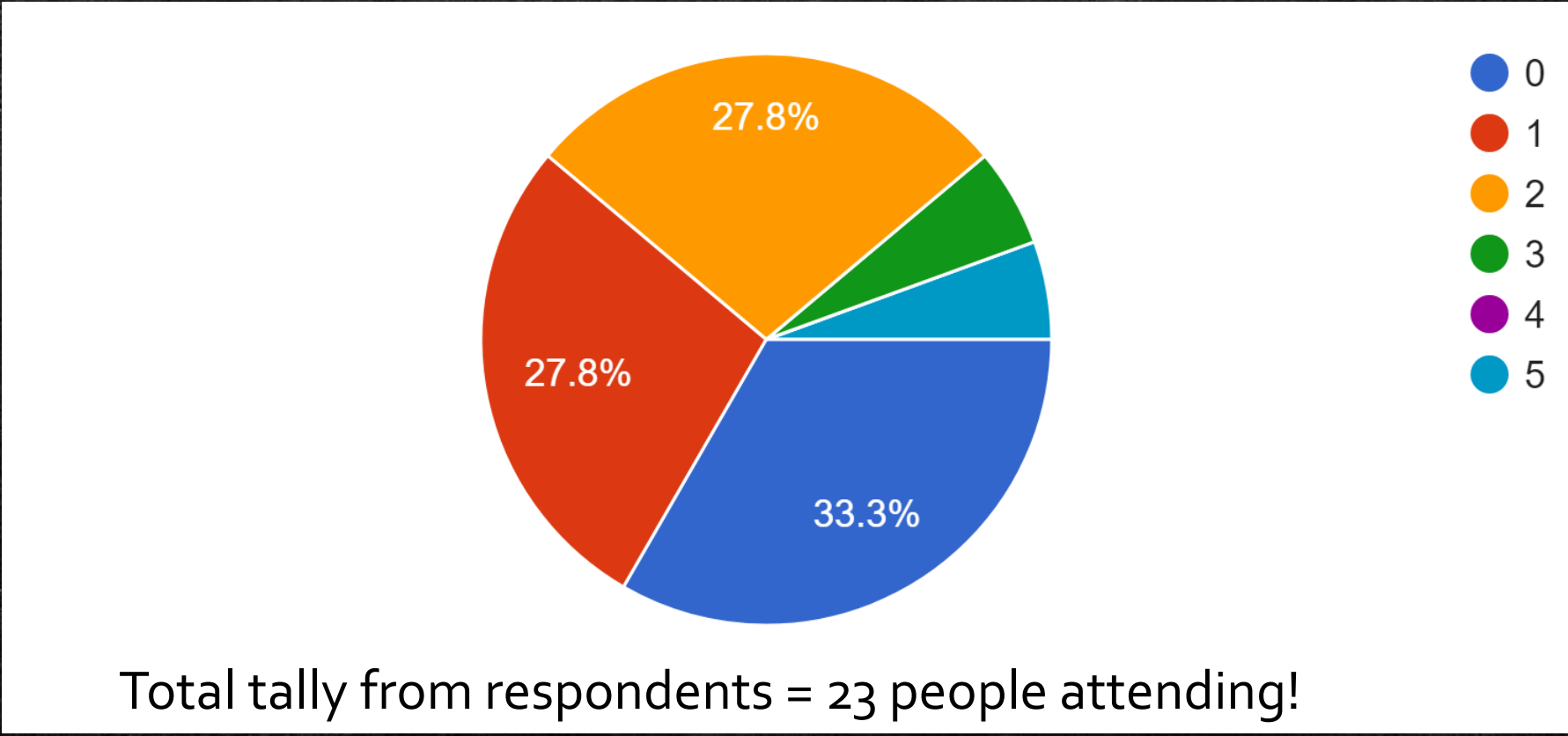
Which times will you be available to operate the W8DGN stations?





Question 3

How many are you bringing to the Potluck Social Saturday afternoon?





Getting off the stage slide..

- If you changed your mind and want to help out, contact me by e-mail n8vmx@arrl.net, or contact any BARC Officer / Coordinator and we can work you into the lineup
- I hope to see a lot of our new members, especially those with Technician licenses, to train up with others on how HF works in real life. Make some contacts and run up our score!
- This is not a contest (I keep saying that, but...) so have fun and enjoy the company of your BARC club members and get on the air!





See You There!

