



In This Issue

- A message from our President!
- Objections to Objectives!
- Winter Field Day in the News!
- Board Member Spotlight!
- White Chicken Chilly!
- Social Media Spotlights!



VE4BEF

WINTER FIELD DAY 2024

January 27th - 28th

Start 1900 UTC Saturday

End 18:59 UTC Sunday

*Brought to you by the Winter Field Day Association,
with support from Icom America.*



www.winterfieldday.com

A Message From the President

As I sit and write this message from my new home state of Massachusetts this year, I reflect on the changes not only in my life in 2023 but changes that the Winterfield Day Association has made as well.

We continue to hopefully make positive changes that will help drive and push people to work on stepping outside of the normal boundaries of operating and improving their amateur radio knowledge on many different levels. So often, we get stuck in the status quo, and we just sit down and operate our HF/VHF radio from home or in the vehicle as we drive to the store or work.



Our stats from logs submitted last year proved to us that we need to challenge folks and get them outside of the house. I know it's cold outside, and that can be a challenge for more elder operators, but as our mission statement says, WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions. We don't know when those disasters or needs will arise, and our services may be needed. It might just be you rotating the VFO dial, scrolling the band, and hearing a station needing to pass a message from a weather-impacted area and not in your community area.

This year, we took away the bonus points but created personal challenges that we want you to try and participate in. I encourage you to set up a Winlink portable station on VHF or HF and send a message from the field. Send a message to us at W0WRC@winlink.org. Can you work six straight continuous hours? Do you have enough battery or generator power for it? Can you operate on more than just 20m or 40m - the challenge is to try six different bands. What capability do you have? What antenna do you have that is best for multi-band operation? These are some of the questions we want to pose and have you think about.

I wish you the best of luck and hope you will accept these challenges and more as we change them up yearly. We are excited about the direction we are heading. We anticipate additional growth and exposure each year. If you would like us to give a presentation about Winter Field Day, reach out to us at WFDA@winterfeldday.com. Please feel free to ask us questions you might have or to post a comment or suggestion. We are a 501c3 Non-profit and appreciate all donations to help keep the webpage and our workspace operating. The board is all volunteers as well and we strive to bring you a quality event.

73,

Marvin Turner – WOMET
President



As we approach WFD24, I encourage you to look at Winter Field Day from a perspective where you have a list of goals you want to achieve, and your main objective is to achieve YOUR goals. As the primary rule writer and editor, if I could have removed all references to points last year, I would have. However, WFD is governed by a Board of Directors, and we agreed to make changes gradually. As you can see, this year, changes have been made again, and most notably, there are NO BONUS POINTS! Things that were listed as bonuses are now listed as Objectives.

Why Objectives? Objectives give us a chance to learn, grow, and experiment. If you don't usually use generators or solar power, now's a great time to research those topics. Can you overcome the complications that come with setting up multiple antennas? Have you ever experimented with Winlink? These are all objectives that are listed in the 2024 Guidelines. (notice the term guidelines and not rules).

Winter Field Day is not a contest; it was never meant to be. Summer Field Day was never meant to be a contest, either. Winter Field Day is a Communications Exercise. Each year, as we put out the new Guidelines, Objectives, and Exercises, we hope to mix things up and challenge you to get out of your comfort zone with something that stretches your limits and resources. After all, isn't that what disasters do?

The objectives this year are fairly simple. Most of them you have seen as bonus points, but we added a few extra Objectives in there to keep you on your toes.

Don't worry about your logging software "scoring" the objectives, as this is unnecessary. When you submit your log, we will ask you what Objectives you were able to complete. This information will be displayed in a Percentage of Objectives Completed column when we release the 2024 results. Out of 8 objectives, if you achieve 4 of them, you will receive a 50%. If you achieve 6 of them, you will receive 75%. This will give you a better idea of how other people are participating and what they are capable of doing. It will also give you a starting point for improving year after year. Be careful, and don't get too comfortable with this year's Objectives. Future Objectives may require you to work in groups, relay information to home stations, or set up in multiple areas! Much like disasters, we may throw anything at you. Do you have what it takes, and are you ready to tackle WFD24?

We hope you are excited about the changes so far, and we look forward to your comments and feedback after the event. Once you submit your log, you will receive a link to leave feedback. We take every comment seriously, so don't forget to submit a log at the end of the event.

Good luck during WFD24, and I hope to work you on the air.

[Read the full guidelines for 2024 here](#)

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Support our Sponsors

We are excited to have Icom America as a sponsor again for WFD24. Show your appreciation and shop ICOM for all great amateur radios.



Winter Field Day

IN THE NEWS



Winter Field Day was recently featured on Ham Nation! [Click Here](#) to Watch!

Grab Your Gear

Winter Field Day is almost here. Visit the shop page on our website to grab some a WFD flag, apparel, patches, and more. You can find the page under the resources tab and then go down to Swag!





Board Member Spotlight

Melinda Birchfield, KC4CCL

Melinda Birchfield, KC4CCL, has been a ham since 2018, is the treasurer for Winter Field Day. She can be found manning the Winter Field Day booth at regional Hamfests, and has lots of experience with ham radio gear and how it all works. Between her OM (KN9W) and Jim Gifford (KM4MPF) she has learned how to help others get the supplies they need and even how to put connectors on coax!! Although not an avid contester, she has helped her OM in a few efforts, and has a lot of wallpaper with her call on it. The shared shack has an IC-5100 & IC7300 as well as several other available radios to use. Geochron is always displayed on a tv and is always a great segway to tell visitors about ham radio and all the benefits to being a license holder and an operator. Besides Ham Radio, she enjoys sewing, baking, and crafting, as well as her three dogs and two parrots. She has a Bachelor's degree in Applied Business Management and currently work as the administrative assistant for the police department in the crime scene unit.



The Frozen Feedline Needs You!

Got a great WFD story to share? Heating your tent with vacuum tubes this year? Let us know! We would love to share your WFD story with others. Just email us: wfda@winterfeldday.com

White Chicken Chili

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- 30 ounces white beans, rinsed and drained
- 4 ounces diced green chiles
- 3 to 4 cups chicken broth (depending on how thick you want your chili)
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken (or shredded cooked chicken)
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- Optional toppings: avocado slices, shredded cheese, sour cream, cilantro

Instructions

1. In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium high heat. Cook the onion until translucent, about 3-4 minutes. Add in the garlic and jalapeno and cook for 2 more minutes.
2. Add the white beans, green chiles, chicken broth, lime juice, cumin, chili powder, oregano, chicken, cilantro, salt, and pepper. Stir and let simmer on low heat for 15 minutes.
3. Ladle chili into bowls and serve with desired toppings.



Are you **PREPARED?**

Winter Field Day is just around the corner, so now is the time to prepare and get ready. Unload your gear and take a look at it, gather your supplies, start making checklists, and prepare your plan.

We have included several resources on our website to help you in 2024. Check out our resources to view popular logging programs, operating aids, FAQs, past newsletters, and more.

[Check out all our 2024 WFD Resources here](#)

Social Media Spotlights

Here's a great shot of the crew of AA4UT - University of Tennessee - Running JS8, SSTV, Analog SSB. The group also had an aprs beacon and talk in.



Here's the professional setup of W0MOC (Missouri Outdoor Club). The big white tent is Mess Tent Bunk House, Small white is an additional sleeping area. Radio operations took place in the large green tent.



W9TX Winter Field Day Operation.

Social Media Spotlights

VY2AN - Prince Edward Island



WX4SC WFD Operation



WORRC Winter Field Day HQ



KE0MHJ WFD mobile setup

