

International Field Day— June 10th—11th

CLUBS, 56-mc. operators, *all* hams with licenses for portable stations, attention!! Starting Saturday at 4 p.m. local time (June 10th) and ending Sunday at 7 p.m. local time (June 11th), all U. S. A. and Canadian station owners are invited to schedule "field activities," excursions with concentrated operation of *portable* transmitters and receivers. Only portable stations, actually in the field, away from the "home" address are eligible to submit field day scores.

The object will be for each "portable" station to work as many other amateur stations as possible — each to count one point toward a score. *Any or all amateur frequency bands may be used, voice or c.w. telegraph likewise.* The "total" of such points may be multiplied by the number of A.R.R.L. Sections worked. Contact with another *portable* station at any point except its base, or home address, will "rate" double credit, or two (instead of one) points. Two-way work with a foreign station shall entitle the operator of the "portable" to triple credit, or three (instead of one) points, in addition to which each foreign country (prefix) may be added to the number of Sections to increase the "multiplier." The R.S.G.B., N.V.I.R. and R.B. are sponsors of similar national field days in Europe, and we hope this may assume an international complexion. All amateurs with licensed *portable* stations are invited to take part . . . each such station will please report its *power* and *frequency* band used, and its *log* of operation and *score* for the period given, within the week following the Field Day. Also, gang, don't forget to comply with F.R.C. regulations for portable station operation. Notify your Radio Supervisor of the approximate location and time of intended operation of the "portable" by postal or letter, just in advance of the "field" radio work. We shall be interested to know how many clubs plan outings, and also suggestions for a similar activity for 1934 (if you want one) will be welcomed.

Besides offering an opportunity to get out in the open in this fine spring weather, the real object of this contest is to test "portables" wherever they may be available. If successful we want to make it an annual affair.
— P. E. H.

Field Day's 80th Birthday

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Yes, it was back in 1933 that QST announced the very first Field Day. The objective of Field Day, then as now, was for each portable station to work as many other amateur stations as possible. The original notice (from page 15 of the June 1933 QST, is shown at left) mentioned that, if successful, the ARRL would make Field Day an annual affair.

The outcome, though modest, was enthusiastic. There was about fifty stations participating that first Field Day weekend. QST that year reported that "portables were operated from all conceivable locations, and on almost all amateur frequency bands." The 40 and 80 meters bands were particularly popular, with 20 meters coming in third. Most stations ran between 2- and 50 watts. Some hams used "suitcase rigs" capable of only one watt, while other clubs operated "portable by truck" with diesel generators. Several clubs operated from mountain tops including Saddle Mountain and Pike's Peak.

One Midwest club, the Ludington Amateur Radio Association, reported that year that "the fellows had a whale of a time setting up antenna, tent, etc., in high winds, not to mention swimming, hunting for Indian relics — and the mosquitoes!"

The QST article summarizing the results of the first Field Day concluded that: "the enthusiasm greeting our first Field Day augurs well for future similar occasions." Some discussion was given for replacing the name "Field Day" with another name that had more of an emergency preparedness spin to it, but that never happened. And here we are, eighty years later, with Field Day arguably ham radio's most popular event. Hope to see you at our Field Day site this June 21-23.