

Winter Field Day -2024

Summary - The Cascade Amateur Radio Society (CARS) participated in its first Winter Field Day (WDF). Brandon Burk (KE8ZHR) offered us the use of his pole barn for the station location. It was insulated and furnished with memorabilia from his Army career. We had 16 people sign our WDF log sheet. Twelve of the signatories were licensed operators and 4 were not. We made 50 contacts, three on 2-meter and the rest on the HF bands. We worked until 1:00 AM (local) Sunday morning. Everyone had a great time and decided that we will be back next year to do it again.

Details – The WFD site used three antennas. A disc cone to communicate with the W8JXN repeater. A copper pipe J-pole for the 2-meter simplex contacts. The club’s End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) antenna (cut for 40 meters) was used for the HF work. The EFHW was run North to South about 20 feet above the ground. The three, 2-meter contacts were all local as the antenna height was roughly 25 feet above ground.

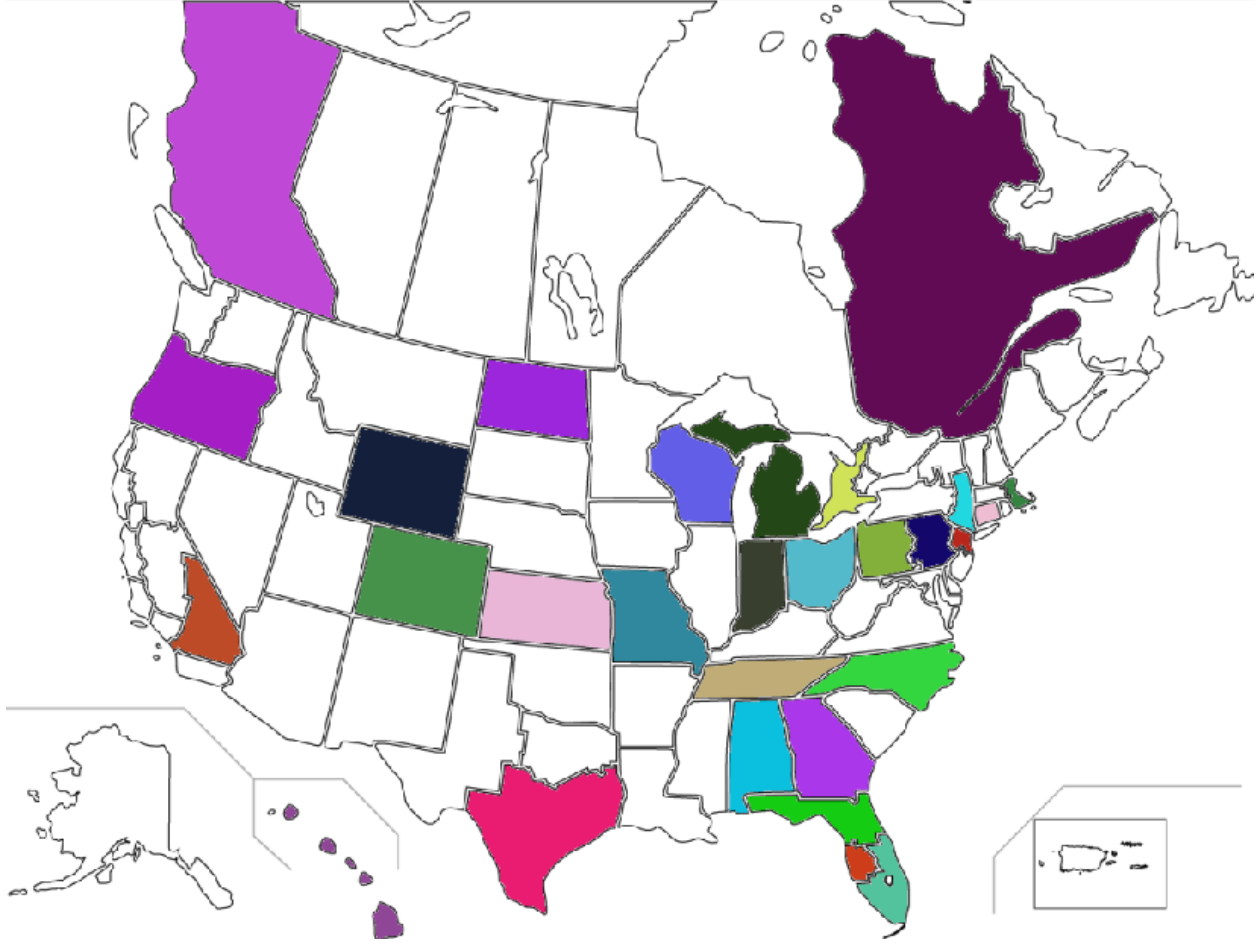
The HF contacts were on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands. Yes, the EFHW antenna was built to resonate at 40-meters. However, the counterpoise and RF choke combination in its build provides an 80-meter resonance. We decided to try it on 80-meters to see if it was real and made 4 contacts. The contacts were Eastern NY, Connecticut, and 2 contacts in Indiana. Below is a table with the number of contacts by band.

The North American contacts ranged from British Columbia and Oregon to the West and North, Eastern Massachusetts to the East, and South Florida and South Texas to the South. Outside of the North American continent, Hawaii was the Western most contact and Belgium, Europe was the Eastern most contact. We managed to talk with one of the 100 people in North Dakota (Hi Hi). 31 different sections and 26 different states were contacted. Below is a map of the sections contacted.

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total
80	0	4	0	4
40	0	21	0	21
20	0	12	0	12
15	0	10	0	10
2	0	3	0	3
Total	0	50	0	50

No club event would be complete without a food report. Doughnuts and (good) coffee were available at the start of WFD and throughout the day. Early afternoon, much more substantial food became available. Food items included: taco salad, chili and side rice, sausage pizza, lunch meat sandwiches, brownies, cookies, cookies, and cookies. All items were delicious and had by all.

Looking forward to doing this again next year. Make your plans now to attend. 73



Map is view from N3FJP Winter Field Day Contest Log 2.8.8 software.