Frequently asked Questions about Field Day 2020:

A.1) <u>Are we operating at the club station?</u> We have been given authority for a small number of people to operate at the club station. These people have been identified, and no further assistance is needed for antenna work, shelters, etc. There will be no social activity at the Wing, and we ask people NOT to go there.

A.2) <u>Are we having a BBQ?</u> No. We are not planning any social activity at the Wing. Please do NOT go there.

B.1) <u>What programs can we log with?</u> You can use any program that gathers the data needed to submit the results. Usually there is a special version of the software that supports Field Day 2020. For the N3FJP software that the club uses, this is version 6.3. You can also log on paper and we'll help you process this so your contacts can be submitted to ARRL. According to the ARRL's website:

> The following logging software is known to offer support for Field Day, and can be used for logging Field Day contacts. Please send any changes or additions for this list to fdinfo@arrl.org
>
> FDLog **http://www.fdlog.info/** (watch web site for FD2020 software update)
> N3FJP **https://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html** (updated for FD2020)
> N1MM+ **https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/** (updated for FD2020)

You can download and use the N3FJP software for free for up to 30 contacts. Beyond that, you need a license that can be purchased online for about $9 USD.

B.2) <u>Can I use the N3FJP software that we used for Field Day last year?</u> No, for 2 reasons. One, it won't work properly due to the rule changes for this year. Secondly, it is licensed for multiple stations using the same call sign at the same location. This works for normal Field Days, but not for this year's unusual individual operation, so it's illegal.

B.3) <u>Where can I learn how to use the N3FJP logging software?</u> Have a look at the video that Scott Davis, N3FJP produces as an introduction to Field Day logging using his software: https://youtu.be/DJEIXuoKWqc

B.4) <u>How do I set up basic logging in the N3FJP logging software?</u>
- install it by double clicking on the file you downloaded
- the Settings / Setup window may come up automatically, If not enter it via the top menu and use these values:
  - Call: Use your own personal call sign
  - Country: Canada
  - Continent: NA
  - Latitude: 43.0
  - Longitude: -81.3 (note the negative sign)
  - CQ Zone: 4
  - ITU Zone: 4
  - Class: 1D (or whatever class your Field Day station is)
  - ARRL Section: ONS
  - Operator: Your own personal call sign
  - Initials: your own initials

- if you bought a license, register it in the Settings / Register part of the program
- in the Band Menu, select the band you will be operating on. (If you change bands, you must change this)
- in the Mode menu, select the mode you've be using.
- you should be ready to go, and the info on the bottom line of the window should be correct.

C.1) Can we have more than 1 person on a band at the same time? Yes. All operators are independent, and can be on any band they choose. Each operator should avoid logging duplicate contacts, but we won't worry about duplicates between different stations. However, in order to make the most contacts, it's advantageous if we cover as many bands and modes as we can.

C.2) If we have multiple operators working on the same band, and they all work the same remote station, would that be considered duplicates? No, the ARRL does not consider these to be dupes, and they'll count all of them as contacts for our club. Reference: http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-contest-program-issues-field-day-2020-faq

C.3) What callsign can we use? You use your own call sign in your logging program, and from an operating point of view, you are an independent station, likely class 1D.

C.4) Can I log contacts with other LARC operators? Yes, as long as they are at a different location than you.

C.5) If multiple people submit documentation for the same bonus points (say, copying the W1AW bulletin), does only one count for the club, or do they all? According the the ARRL's FAQ page, they will all count towards the club's aggregate score. Reference: http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-contest-program-issues-field-day-2020-faq .
(Possible bonus points are summarized in FAQ **F.3**)

C.6) Will we have a VHF net so participants can talk to one another during Field Day? Yes, we'll be using VA3LON, 147.060, with fallback to VE3OME, 145.450

D.1) Where is the contact summary webpage that is continuously updated with the number of contacts for each participant? Answer: http://va3msv.ca/LARC

D.2) How do I set up my logging program so that my contacts show up in the summary webpage?
Please refer to the instructions in http://nerdpit.ca/ham/Central-Contacts-Status.pdf

D.3) In those instructions, how do I bring up the individual status page for each participant?
Go to the main summary page at http://va3msv.ca/LARC , then click on the participant's call sign.

D.4) In the instructions, does the Hosting Site Password include the 3 exclamation marks?
Yes, it does. The password is 12 characters long, and the upper/lower case has to match the instructions.

D.5) In the instructions, what should I put for "File Name on Website" ? This needs to be exact so your information is recognized by the central website. It should start with your callsign, using capital letters, followed by "-contest.html" without the quotes, in lower case.

E.1) How are our logs submitted to the ARRL? This is done by entering data into a webpage provided by the ARRL: (http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php), and providing a list of your contacts. (There are other submission methods, but they are less convenient.) You enter information that comes from your logging program into the webpage. In order for all of our contacts to count towards the LARC aggregated score, we have to identify ourselves as LARC members. There is a field on the ARRL Webpage labelled "Club or Group Name". In this field, you should put put the exact text: **London Amateur Radio Club.** We can help you do this submission after Field Day (you have 30 days to get the submission done).

E.2) What does club affiliation mean? This is the name of the club or group that you are part of, for score aggregation purposes. Exactly the same as the "Club or Group Name" mentioned above.

F.1) <u>Is there a checklist of things we should do before Field Day?</u>
- read through this entire FAQ document
- if you haven't already done so, down load the N3FJP field day logging software, install it, and get a license if you expect > 30 contacts
- configure the "Settings/Setup" section. (London's Lat / Long is: Lat 43.0, Long -81.3)
- configure the "Settings/Web Upload Contest Status/N3FJP HTML Formatted" section (help info in FAQ **D.2**). Verify it's working by going to the summary http://va3msv.ca/LARC and clicking on your call sign.
- verify that the "File / Backup Options" configuration has the first two boxes checked
- when you've done this, email John Visser va3msv@gmail.com with the "File Name on Website" you used. See FAQ D.5 for details.
- test your HF rig and antenna well in advance to see if Murphy's Law has caused any problems
- if you have a backup rig, or antenna, make sure they're ready to go if needed.
- have a camera ready to take some photos of your efforts for our webpage
- have a VHF radio (preferably not one using batteries) ready for the participants net on VA3LON, 147.060
- if you're going to record the W1AW bulletin to help you copy it, test your recording set up in advance.

F.2) <u>Is there a checklist of things we should do on Field Day?</u>
- put on a pot of coffee, or a kettle for tea? Go to the bathroom before the contest starts?
- verify that the date and time on your logging computer are correct
- maybe set an alarm on your phone to remind you when you can copy the W1AW Bulletin for bonus points. See FAQ **G.1** for the schedule.
- Tune your VHF radio to VA3LON, 147.060 MHz to monitor the Field Day net
- set up a Window on your logging computer, another computer, or your phone to watch the summary of LARC contacts at http://va3msv.ca/LARC
- take some photos of you operating in your shack, before you get excited and forget about it

F.3) <u>What can we do to get extra bonus point for our score, and the clubs?</u> All bonus points you earn are also included in the club's aggregate score, so every bit helps. Details are in section 7.3 of the <u>rules</u> , but here's a summary of bonus points available to class 1D and 1E stations:
- attempting media publicity = 100 points (Mike Cook is doing this, but you can too)
- NTS message to Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator = 100 points
- 10 points per additional NTS message sent, received, or relayed, up to 100 points
- copying the W1AW bulletin = 100 points (see FAQ **G.1** below)
- submitting your score to ARRL via their website = 50 point bonus
- 20 points per youth (up to 100 points) for person 18 or younger completing at least one QSO
For all of these bonuses, you'll need to provide supporting documentation with your score submission.

G.1) <u>When is the W1AW Bulletin broadcast?</u> (Bonus points if you copy it and include it with your ARRL submission.) The schedule can be seen at http://nerdpit.ca/ham/W1AW-bulletin-times.pdf

Z.1) <u>Who do we contact if we have questions?</u> Email fieldday@LARC.ca , or contact Matt Geddes VE3DIZ , ve3diz@gmail.com , or Doug Elliott VA3DAE, canoe.eh@gmail.com, cell/text: 519-630-8925.