

## Field Day 2012 – June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

### Dear Field Day Participant:

One of my favorite memories as a child growing up was waking very early on Christmas morning, quietly opening the door, and trying to peek to see if Santa had made his annual stop to my house. Had my letter to Santa, compiled after thumbing my way through the annual Christmas edition of the Sears catalog, resulted in some of my “wishes” coming true? The curiosity of what lay on the other side of the door was a driving force to motivate me to explore what the future might hold.

It occurs to me that image is not too much different to a newcomer as they arrive at an **ARRL Field Day** site. We hear about different aspects of this magic we call Amateur Radio and wonder if / when we might have the opportunity to experience new things – a new mode, a new transceiver, a new antenna design...Opening the car door when you arrive or folding back the door of the tent as you enter is like cracking the door on Christmas morning. Just like Santa, Field Day’s “presents” are the keys to opening exciting new opportunities in Amateur Radio, whether you are newly licensed or a fifty-year veteran.

Repeatedly you hear Amateurs say, “I got my start in real operating during Field Day.” And just like Christmas, every Field Day is different. While your club may have many Field Day traditions (such as a favorite location or the annual club cover-dish Field Day supper), **there is always something new to be experienced during that magical weekend.** Like Christmas carols and stories that are handed down from one generation to the next, so to the legacy of Amateur Radio is passed along during Field Day. All it takes is to peek through the door to see what lies on the other side. If you are an old-timer, offer your talent and experience. If you are a newcomer, offer your enthusiasm and curiosity. After all, that is how so many of us got started on the Amateur Radio path!

**There are no rule changes for Field Day in 2012.** However, there is a challenge... 2011 was again a record-setting weekend, with all-time records being set in terms of participants and entries received. The challenge is: What can **you** and **your** club do to ensure those records are short-lived? The information in this information packet can help you not just open the door but shatter it as you surge through to make Field Day 2012 the most successful ever!

Hope you have tons of sunspots, great propagation, good food, and a great, fun, wonderful experience as you walk through that Field Day door! See you on-the air June 23 & 24. 73!

Dan Henderson, N1ND  
ARRL Field Day Manager  
[fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org)  
(860) 594-0236