Field Day VHF for Everyone

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K0XI
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Step 1

An HT and a logbook

- VHF FM is the easiest mode of all
- Any HT will work
- Paper and pencil can still log QSOs
- Location really matters

146.520 FM
446.000 FM
Step 2

**Add some bands**

- Lots of current or recent HT models can do 6m or 1.25m
- Get a radio through eBay
- Replace the battery
- Antennas are less valuable than location

52.525 FM
223.500 FM
Step 3

Add some modes

- USB is the way (just not on 220)
- Very little CW
- Many HF rigs do 6m already
- Digital on 6m/2m is starting
- Simple roll-up J-poles work fine

50.130 USB
144.200 USB
432.100 USB
Step 4

**Talk through a satellite**

- For FM, full duplex is easier, but half works
- Use Arrow, Elk, or home brew yagi for 2m/70cm
- SSB Satellites are a real challenge
- Check out AMSAT.org
- Great apps available
- Only 1 FM QSO

**Number of satellites:**

- 8 FM
- 18 SSB
- 9 Digital
VHF Contesting Tidbits

1. Geography and altitude rule the day
2. Go QRP
3. 100 QSOs is a really good FD
4. The first few hours and last few hours of FD are busy
   A. Midnight to 7am is empty
   B. Mealtime is low traffic
5. Rotate through the bands when where you are gets slow
6. When you make a contact, ask if they have other bands
7. Don’t worry about the time it takes to explain to someone what FD is. The longer you talk, the more likely it is that someone else will hear and chime in.
Reference Links

There are THOUSANDS of online references

Articles and Resources
- https://www.ve2dbe.com/english1.html (free account)
- https://www.amsat.org/status/

Antennas
- http://www.wa5vjb.com/references.html
- https://www.diamondantenna.net/Product_Catalog/base_station.html

Masts
- Bag LSB6500 - https://on-stage.com/products/view/35540/471823