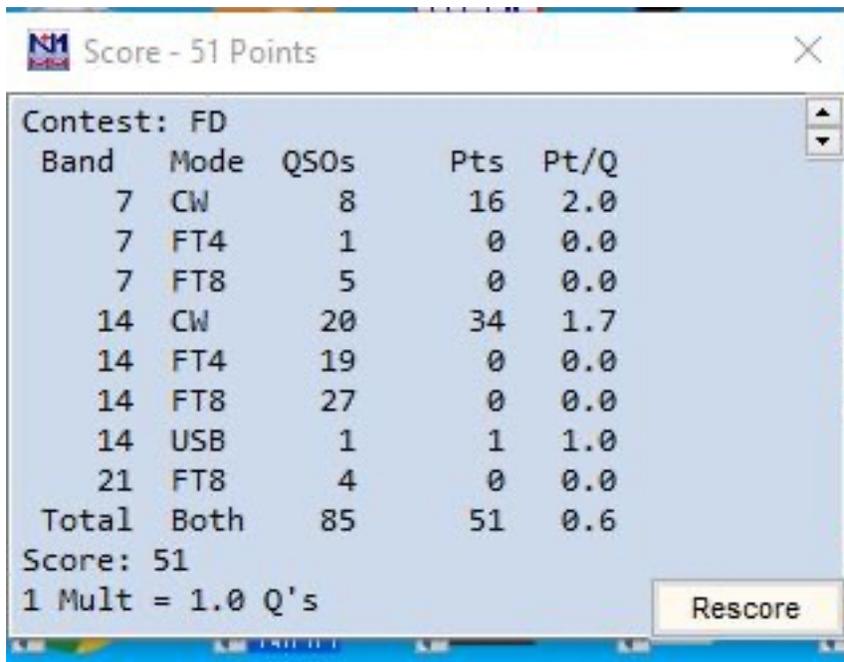


## YARA Field Day Report: June 2023

Field Day had many good aspects this year. As usual, first amongst these were the many very enjoyable social and learning interactions participants experienced as we worked together setting up and taking down the stations and throughout the day during the operation.

Propagation was not great, but nevertheless we were able to make around 90 contacts. Thanks to David, VY1XY for the summary below:



Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q
7	CW	8	16	2.0
7	FT4	1	0	0.0
7	FT8	5	0	0.0
14	CW	20	34	1.7
14	FT4	19	0	0.0
14	FT8	27	0	0.0
14	USB	1	1	1.0
21	FT8	4	0	0.0
Total	Both	85	51	0.6

Score: 51  
1 Mult = 1.0 Q's

Rescore

It was good to see a number of contacts with digital modes and these modes may make Field Day operation more accessible and enjoyable for some operators.

The weather was good generally, except for a very loud thunderclap on Saturday afternoon and some heavy rain showers.

We had a very nice visit from CBC North's Elyn Jones and her mum, Anne Jones, VE3KWI, and also from Gus, AA4?.

On Saturday evening, Ian, VY1IRM, barbequed hamburgers and wieners and these and the conversations around the barbeque were enjoyed by all present.

David, VY1XY, had a very ingenious arrangement for setting up an antenna mast. It was really interesting to see his method in action.

The "show and tell" table arranged by George, VY1GP, was a great success and it generated a lot of good interest and discussion.

George's many tiny QRP radios and Malcolm, VY1FC's equally tiny digital mode radios were a big contrast to Geoff, VY1BG's power amplifier tube.





Malcolm spent a long time extolling the virtues of Amateur Radio and POTA and SOTA operation to two young fellows so perhaps we will have some new Amateurs soon. (POTA = parks on the air; SOTA = summits on the air).

Our XO1 callsign prefix and the change in our section code from NT to TER caused some confusion and probably resulted in fewer contacts than would have been the case otherwise.

VY1BG's 20/40 fan dipole seemed to work well. The mini beam set up by VY1XY looked very impressive on the light tower but David was less than thrilled with its performance. Perhaps a better beam with some kind of rotator is something to consider.



### **The Trailer:**

The trailer provided an excellent shelter and operating position. There are some things that need to be addressed, however.

1. The Kenwood TS-590S gave trouble. It would work on receive for a short time and then go deaf. This behaviour was observed on 20 m but it is probably occurring on other bands. Transmit power seemed ok.

This radio need to be checked out soon. I did an Internet search to see if there were any common problems that others had experienced with this radio and it may be that the problem we experienced is a simple one caused by a poor batch of cables supplied to Kenwood. A little time spent analyzing the problem is needed so that some decision can be made regarding the radio.

During Field Day we didn't have time to do proper tests. For example, after turning on the radio and waiting is the receive sensitivity poor on all modes and bands or just a select few? Is the transmit power

up to specifications, or is it affected too? Does careful shaking or taping on the case make any difference? Then, with the cover removed, are there loose cables etc?

2. As was the case last year, because the Kenwood radio gave trouble we were forced to use the Yaesu FT-890 and an FT-897 radio belonging to VY1XY. If the trailer is to provide a functional HF and VHF/UHF then some thought needs to be given to the HF radio set-up in the trailer.

3. Whereas the VHF/UHF radios are fastened in place, HF radios are not. The result is a mess of cables and adapters and various bits and pieces spread out over what should be an operating desk. Once again, this points out a need to make sure we have reliable HF radios in the trailer.

4. Further to point 3, we need a permanent set up for the HF radios so that all the connecting cables are in place, all the necessary connectors or adapters for headphones, keys, microphones etc. are there and working.

5. A drawer containing connection adapters would be really helpful. For example 1/8 to 1/4 double and triple connectors for keys and headphones, UHF to type N coax connectors, UHF to BNC etc.

6. Headphones are absolutely essential for efficient operation of several radios in a small space. Are there enough for all the radios?

7. Our FD results indicate that digital modes are very effective and increasingly important. VY1XY and VY1GP spent a lot of time sorting out computers so that we could operate with digital modes and log electronically only to have the "computer in the schools" computers give problems. As for radios, effective and reliable computers and associated connecting cabling and interface units need to be installed.

8. A drawer with paper and pencils/pens.

9. At some stage on the FD Saturday afternoon there was a question as to whether or not the bulkhead antenna feed through was working properly. This issue seemed to have been resolved but it is a something that may need checking.

10. Battery power seemed to be ok for most of the day. The generator loaned by Scott, VY1SW, was used for charging batteries Sunday morning. The trailer generator seems to be missing.

11. The commercial vertical antenna intended for the trailer has been sent out for repair thanks to VY1XY. When it returns it will be very nice to have a permanently installed working antenna mounted on the trailer, even if it is not as efficient or as effective as a high dipole would be. The convenience will be a real asset.

12. The band pass filters that VY1XY ordered worked very well (as long as the correct band pass filter was a match for the radio's band setting!).

13. Is there a first aid kit in the trailer?

There are many very positive things that can be said about the trailer and the hard work of many individuals in making the trailer a reality is greatly appreciated by everyone. In comparison to the effort in getting the trailer to where it is now, the points listed above generally require just a small amount of effort to make a big improvement.

## **Field Day Conclusion:**

I would really like to thank all of those who took part in Field Day this year.

Special thanks to:

Terry, VY1MAP, for bringing and returning the trailer and light tower

Geoff, VY1BG, for making FD signs and our 20/40 antenna and mast

David, VY1XY, for preparing computers and radios and associated equipment, beam and mast, and sending off our results to the ARRL

George, VY1GP, show and tell table, computers and radios

Malcolm, VY1FC, display and talking to young fellows so enthusiastically

Ian, VY1IRM, signs and barbeque

Erik, VY1E QSL cards and callsign and input on letters to politicians

David, VY1DM, Michael, VY1MGS, Yuuri, VY1YU, Terry, VY1MAP, Pam, VY1PJB, Ron, VY1RT set-up

If I have left anyone or anything out please accept my apologies and let me know so that I can send out a revised edition of this Field Day report.

Respectfully submitted by Allen, VY1KX