

# Field Day 2026 for Midland Amateur Radio Club

By Art Peters, K0ACP / VE3ZCP

On June 27, 2026, Midland Amateur Radio Club (aka Hams) proved that it could still host a Field Day activation. Preparation for this outing began last fall, when a group of Midland Hams decided it was time to see if we could still put on our own event. For the past 10 years or so, we've been part of the Saginaw Club's activation and frankly it had grown comfortable and too easy.

The first field day dates back to June 22, 1933 when a group of Hams decided to test their skills at setting up a portable station for practicing for situations when amateurs might be called upon to provide emergency communications. The event was a success and has become an annual institution for Hams across America for the last weekend in June.

Realizing that a successful operation took preparation, teams were established and assignments made. We had a site selection, an antenna, an RF coordination, an infrastructure, a safety, an operations, and perhaps most importantly a food team.

Our site was Edenville's Swanton Hall, where we used the new pavilion as our base of operations. Two weeks before the main event, a small group went to the site and practiced setting up various antennas and radios to get a feel for the location. Along the way we had to work out some kinks in the plan and get the darn logging computers to talk with each other!

Setup on Saturday started a tad past 8:00, with the establishment of our canteen, I mean, who can operate without coffee! Antenna setup started shortly after with our three main stations setup by the noon lunch break. After a lunch of cold cuts, chips, and cookies, the team completed setting up our QRP (low power) tent and the team was ready to go by the start time of 1800 Zulu/UTC or 2:00 EDST (Eastern Daylight Savings Time). There are always a few technical surprises, but in this case the prior preparation paid off and technical difficulties were minimal.

The main operation focused on Phone (voice) and CW (morse code) contacts, though the team took a break to send a piece of formal traffic, part of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) NTS, National Traffic System, to our local section manager. In this case, we used a facility called Winlink, which sends e-mail over radio. The QRP tent focused on one of the newer digital modes of communications, FT8.





Following a dinner of pulled pork, beans, cole slaw. Apple pie and rhubarb crisp, the team settled in for an evening of operating. We started taking down and packing up around 9:30 that evening and operations stopped at 10:00 as had been previously arranged.

As we packed up and reflected upon the day, there were many successes to celebrate and learning experiences to build upon for next year. All told, we made over 210 contacts or Q's from the east coast to the west coast. We proved that we still could put on a field day activation, folks had a good time, and aside from being tired, all went home safe!

I want to offer my personal thanks to all those who helped to make this happen, your willingness and dedication of time and talent were great appreciated and this wouldn't have happened without your support, THANK YOU!

73 es God Bless,

.../Art K0ACP