



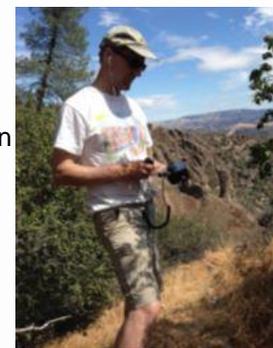
Thinking about Field Day 2017

Field Day Tips

Many of us look forward more to Field Day than any other annual amateur radio event. It's a unique combination of outdoor sport, operating challenge, and teamwork. You can drop in on your local club's FD site, or just grab a portable radio and head for the nearest open space. You'll be amazed at how many signals there, in all modes, and on all bands (except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters).

Field Day is a great opportunity to experiment with antennas and other gear. As for transceivers, all Elecraft rigs were designed with field operation in mind--from the virtually bulletproof receiver of the K3S to the ultra portability of the pocket-sized KX2.

Here are a few tips on how to get the most out of your Elecraft rig at Field Day.



Wayne using the KX3 at Pinnacles during a 18-Battery Field Day effort.

BATTERY LIFE: You can conserve battery life by using headphones rather than the internal speaker, and by turning off the display backlight. If conditions permit, reduce transmit power output. The KX3 has a related feature: it automatically switches its 10-W power amplifier to a more efficient setting at reduced supply voltages. You can tell when this power-saving mode is in effect because of a decimal point after the 'W' in the power value (e.g., "5.0 W.").

ANTENNA SPACING: If you're using more than one transmitter, keep the antennas as far apart as possible and perpendicular to each other. You can also dig into a pretty deep bag of tricks at the receive end, including reducing preamp gain (or turning the preamp off), turning on the attenuator, and narrowing the filter bandwidth. KX3-specific: If you experience broadband

interference, try setting MENU:RX SHFT to 8.0 rather than NOR, and set MENU:RX ISO to ON.

QRP OPERATION: In general, QRP operators spend more time answering CQs by other stations than by calling CQ themselves. Start with the strongest stations, since signal strength is usually an indication that propagation is favorable to that area. Or they may have excellent antennas, aimed in your direction, producing the same result. With a few contacts under your belt, try working weaker stations. You may need to call several times to be heard.

LOGGING: A field-day logging application running on a PC or laptop can automatically “dupe” (help you avoid making duplicate contacts). But if you’re just testing the waters and trying to keep things simple, you can log on paper. The ARRL has both log sheets and manual dupe sheets available on their website.

Above all, have fun!

Top 10 Reasons to add a PX3 to your KX3 Field Day Operation

- Find clear spots to call CQ fast
- QRM? You can see where to move your VFO to minimize it
- Find “good spots to call” in a CW pileup
- During S&P, find the “next” signal fast (no more slow tuning)
- Position VFO B or 2nd receiver without having to *listen* to it
- Search and Pounce while CQing, “SO2V” (single-op, two VFOs)
- Monitor overall band activity without resorting to Spotting Networks
- Keep an eye on the competition
- Weak signals are easier to spot
- Watch the whole band or just a small part (zoom in/out)

Top 10 Reasons to add a KXPA100 to your Field Day Operation

June Specials!

**\$75 Discount on a
KPA500 & KAT500
Power Combo**

or

**\$25 Discount on a
KPA500 and
\$25 Discount on a
KAT500**

(if purchased
separately)

**\$50 Discount on a
K3S+ Free MH2 Mic
(\$59.95 Value)**

**\$25 Discount on a
KX2**

**\$25 Discount on a
KX3**

large 3/8" thick copper spreader in the KPA1500. This yields 2800 W of device dissipation, providing lots of headroom for the amp.

We are awaiting final FCC certification approval of our KPA1500 test data and then we will begin taking orders. If you signed up for our KPA1500 early notification and update list, you will get the first email alert for when we start taking orders. (Hopefully in July!) The KPA1500 introductory price, including internal ATU, is \$5,995. Sign up on our KPA1500 page at: <http://www.elecraft.com/KPA1500/KPA1500.htm>

Lastly, we continue to receive great input from you on desired KPA1500 features, compatibility needs, and desired software capabilities. This input allows us to continually add features to the software and design of the KPA1500 to make it the best, most compatible amplifier on the market. Keep those suggestions coming! (Send them to kpa@elecraft.com)



*Free UPS Ground shipping with the continental U.S. Discounts not retroactive for orders placed prior to receiving the offer. Not valid in combination with any other discounts. Offer ends June 30,2017. Subject to change.

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