

PRE WINTER FIELD DAY HOB NOB

Rev 1.2

To confer, converse and otherwise hob nob with our fellow hams

On January 10, 2026, our group gathered for a productive and enjoyable pre-Winter Field Day (WFD) Hob Nob at the Westport Astronomical Society ARC. The primary goal of the day was to assemble all of our equipment and configure JS8Call, FLDigi, and N3FJP on our new computers in preparation for Winter Field Day. We began the morning in true club fashion with our traditional *Hams and Eggs* breakfast at Gruel Britannia II in Westport. After breakfast, we traveled together to WAS to get down to the business of radios, computers, and networking.

Attending the Hob Nob were: Steve K1RF, Larry AB1JC, Jon AI1V, Mike KA1EOU, Sam W1SMF, Conrad N2YCH, Jeff KB1LZ, Frank W1CFS, Dan N3DAW, Jim KB1RBG, Bob KC1RWS, David KB1LTW, and Gary WE1M. With so many knowledgeable operators in the room, collaboration and problem-solving were the order of the day.

Our Winter Field Day plan is ambitious: to operate at least three, and possibly four, stations consisting of one CW station, one or two digital stations, and one SSB station. Since we are working with new Windows 11 computers and have not previously run digital modes for WFD, we knew we had our work cut out for us.



Setting up our new stations.

*LtoR: Jon AI1V, Larry AB1JC, Mike KA1EOU
and Sam W1SMF*

During the Hob Nob, we set up the new computers, built a new network using a PoE data switch, and installed a multi-plug programmable outlet strip. Several personal laptops were also configured. A notable milestone was achieved by Larry AB1JC, who learned FT8 and successfully made his first FT8 contacts during the session—congratulations, Larry!

While we made excellent progress, there is still work to be done. We need to configure N3FJP for TCP communication and set up FLDigi and JS8Call to automatically log contacts into N3FJP. To wrap up the remaining details and ensure everyone is on the same page, we have planned a pre-WFD Zoom meeting to discuss final preparations.

Overall, the breakfast & the Hob Nob were a great success, combining good food, good company, and solid progress toward a well-prepared Winter Field Day.