

News Release

Amateur Radio Transmitting Society
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For immediate release:

"Radio Hams" from Louisville join in national deployment Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 22 - 23

Louisville, KY – Tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators in the US will be firing up portable radio stations from unexpected locations this weekend. These radio operators aid in emergency communications support during major emergencies.

Called "hams," they are often among the first to provide rescuers with critical information because they can send messages from isolated and remote locations without phones, electric power, or internet. On June 22-23, the public can meet and talk with these radio operators from the Louisville area and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as they participate in the ARRL Annual Field Day. Visitors can even get a chance to get on the air under the supervision of a ham.

Field Day is the annual "shakedown run" for the ARRL's National Field Organization. Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions while simulating a 24-hour continuous emergency deployment. It's also a chance to test and improve amateur-radio operator's emergency communication skills. The Amateur Radio Transmitting Society of Louisville will use generators and battery power to simulate operations in a remote area and in emergency conditions, and will set up antennas in the field. The challenge is to put together a self-sufficient, working radio station quickly and begin making contacts with other radio operators from all over North America and around the world using everything from digital and satellite communications to Morse code.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of Amateur Radio operators providing communications during unexpected emergencies. From the tsunami in Japan to tornadoes in Missouri, hams have been proven effective in establishing emergency communications networks during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, and other major disasters, whether they be local, regional, or national in scope. Because ham radios are not dependent on complex infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available. We need nothing between us but air and this weekend they will prove they can send messages in many forms without any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

In Louisville, one of the oldest radio clubs in the country (est.1927), **the Amateur Radio Transmitting Society of Louisville will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at the Overlook Shelter in Cherokee Park on Scenic Loop Drive from Saturday June 22nd at 2pm and be on the air continuously for 24-hours until Sunday June 23rd at 2pm.** There will also be a hidden transmitter "fox hunt" in the park at 7pm on Saturday.

The public is invited to visit and participate. For more information, see <http://w4cn.org> on the web.

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