



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
1303 North Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048



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For Immediate Release

Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Capabilities Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 24-25

Libertyville, Illinois, June 18, 2006 – Thousands of Ham Radio operators around the country will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend. Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called “Ham radio” - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 24-25, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't! " is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

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"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Bruce Becker, Lake County RACES Radio Officer. "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

In Lake County, the Lake County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) are certified by, and operates under the command of the Lake County Sheriff's Department/Emergency Management (LCSD/EM). They will be demonstrating their Amateur Radio techniques at the Lake County Communication Center, 1303 N. Milwaukee Ave, Libertyville beginning on noon on Saturday June 24th through noon on Sunday June 25th. Follow Winchester Road west from Milwaukee Avenue to the second driveway on the north side of the street. Follow the road north to the first driveway west and follow it north to the base of the tower. They invite the public to come and see ham radio's capabilities, and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

There are 660,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, with approximately 22,000 in Illinois, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the DHS Citizens' Corps, Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and thousands of state and local agencies, all for free.

The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams and help them celebrate their 50th Anniversary this week with RACES. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.hello-radio.org.

For more information on the Lake County R.A.C.E.S. Group, please see their web site at: www.races.org, or by email at: lcraces@races.org.

For more information on the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, see their website at: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/sheriff/divisions/emergenc.asp>

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