



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
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For Immediate Release

Lake County Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Capabilities Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 23-24

Libertyville, IL – Local Ham Radio operators 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 23-24, 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, "When all else fails..." 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.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Bruce Becker, Radio Officer for Lake County RACES/ARES. "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 the Libertyville area, the Lake County RACES/ARES group will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center, 1303 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th. 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, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the Lake County RACES/ARES group, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, DHS Citizens' Corps, local CERT groups, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and many local agencies, all for free. To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

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

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

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