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## Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Capabilities

### Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 24-25

Thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend (June 24-25). Over the past year, you heard many news reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio—often called “Ham Radio”—was frequently the ONLY way people could communicate. Hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled south to help save lives and property. Whether hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or tsunamis, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications.

On the weekend of June 24-25, you can meet and talk with some of these ham radio operators and see for yourself what the Amateur Radio Service is about. During this weekend outing, hams from across the USA demonstrate their emergency communications abilities by showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications, and even historical Morse code.

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 generators, ham operators across the country will build emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools, and back yards. During this weekend event, hams prove that the slogan “Ham radio works when other systems don’t!” is more than just words. During this 24-hour contest-like event, hams will send brief messages by voice, Morse code, computers, and even satellites, to every state in the country: without the use of phone systems, Internet, or any other infrastructure—because all of those might be unavailable in a crisis.

Last year more than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in this outing, each exchanging hundreds of messages with other ham stations.

Ham Radio is much more than CB radio. “We hope that people will come and see for themselves: this is not your grandfather’s radio anymore,” said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. “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 Waco area, the Heart O’ Texas Amateur Radio Club (HOTARC) will be demonstrating ham radio at Hewitt Park from noon Saturday June 24 to noon Sunday June 25. The public is very welcome to come, see, and hear—and even try for yourself—ham radio’s capabilities. HOTARC members will be eager to share with you how easy it is to get your 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 ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA, DHS Citizens’ Corps, and thousands of state and local agencies—all for free!

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to [www.hello-radio.org](http://www.hello-radio.org). See what modern Amateur Radio can do. And see how easy it is for you to get on the air!

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