

To all public officials,

You may or may not be aware of this, but the ultimate back-up communications system for your agency or organization is not some elaborate government or military system, it is amateur radio. The vast and highly reliable communications capabilities of the amateur radio community have become much more recognized and appreciated since 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and this years record outbreak of devastating tornadoes. Amateur radio is routinely used at large western fires, wilderness search and rescue incidents, during and after major natural disasters and "when all else fails". The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has stated in a Congressional hearing that "Amateur Radio is the only communications system that never fails."

Basic amateur radio equipment can be more reliable than many of the more elaborate and complex public safety systems, cell phone systems and the internet. Amateur radio operators are generally capable of setting up, trouble shooting and maintaining radios, antennas and computer systems to a much higher degree than the general public and many professional radio technicians. Amateur radio hobbyists have been directly involved in the project to specify and install amateur radio equipment and train operators at 30 key hospitals throughout New Hampshire.

This weekend the amateur radio community through out the United States and several foreign countries will hold the 79th annual Field Day exercise to demonstrate numerous communications capabilities from "field" or temporary locations with no utility power or pre-existing antennas. Equipment set up at some sites starts at 2 PM on Friday, June 24, 2011, other groups will set up Saturday morning. Formal communications activity begins at 2 PM on Saturday and concludes at 2 PM on Sunday. During this 24 hour time period each group will utilize several different radio systems to make as many radio contacts as possible. Systems will include local and long distance radios, Morse code (the original digital system), computer to computer radios, and satellites. Contacts will be made with other

amateur radio operators, Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's), military organizations, government agencies, service organizations, hospitals and the International Space Station. Many of the participants are members of the American Radio Relay League's "Amateur Radio Emergency Service", a national organization that works with local, state and federal served agencies and NGO's.

The amateur radio clubs in New Hampshire have a long history of Field Day participation, often completing more contacts in their class than any other groups in the country. One NH organization, The Port City Amateur Radio Club, has attained the highest Field Day score in the United States for large clubs for the past six years. Depending on atmospheric conditions some of our Field Day sites can average over 5,000 contacts in the 24 hours.

Field Day is an emergency communications and public education event. We hope you will take a few minutes to visit a Field Day site near you. Locations and contact information are listed below. No arrangements or appointments are needed, please just show up, see what there is to see and strike up a conversation with whom ever you meet, they will be happy to give you a tour and answer your questions.

For links to the web site for each club, and other related links, please go to [www.arrl-nh.org](http://www.arrl-nh.org) (then scroll down).

We hope to see you this weekend,  
The members of the amateur radio clubs and Amateur Radio Emergency Service of New Hampshire

Field Day sites:

Berlin area, Androscoggin Valley Radio Club, Gorham Commons Park, Rt. 2 & Rt. 16, Gorham, NH. Bob Martin, 246-3656, [ibis@pipeline.com](mailto:ibis@pipeline.com)

Conway area, White Mountain Amateur Radio Club, 1245 Bald Hill Rd., Albany, NH, Gregory Fitch, 356-3875, [kb1ezj@w1mwz.com](mailto:kb1ezj@w1mwz.com)

Franconia area, Littleton Amateur Radio Club, Rt. 142 1/2 mile east

of Main St., Franconia, NH, Bob Rayno, 444-2255, wg1x@arrl.net

Hancock area, Canine Alert Search Teams, 5 Kimball Rd., Hancock, NH,  
Michael Matteson, 966-6709, wb5jnj@arrl.net

Hillsboro area, Contoocook Valley Radio Club, Colleague (or Long)  
Pond off Warner Rd., Henniker, NH, John Moore, 746-4817,  
jcn1foj@aol.com

Keene area, Cheshire County DX Amateur Radio Club, Open field @ 4  
Winds Ln, Walpole, NH, Larry Levesque, 313-2561, ka1vgm@gmail.com

Lakes Region, Central NH Amateur Radio Club, Belknap County Fair  
Grounds, Belmont, NH, Dick Christopher, 524-6567, n1lt@cnharc.org

Lakes Region, Lakes Region Repeater Assoc., 451 Pleasant Valley Rd.,  
Wolfeboro, NH, Robert Corollo, 998-4655, ny1h@metrocast.net

Manchester area, Granite State Amateur Radio Assoc., Earl Legacy  
Park, New Boston Rd. @ Wallace Rd., Bedford, NH, John Grubmuller,  
472-5579, j@grubmuller.com

Nashua area, Nashua Amateur Radio Club, Wasserman Park, 116 Naticook  
Rd., Merrimack, NH James Blaine, 889-4429, jblaine42@gmail.com

Portsmouth area, Port City Amateur Radio Club, Stratham Hill Park,  
Rt. 33, Stratham, NH Mark Pride, 778-1222, mpridesti@yahoo.com

Rochester area, Great Bay Amateur Radio Assoc., 3 Mallego Rd,  
Barrington, (next to Post Office, near Rt.125&9) Jason Jasper,  
833-8488, K1FDP@metrocast.net

Sunapee area, NHRC Amateur Radio Society, Mount Sunapee State Park,  
Newbury, NH, Richard Cox, n1tl@nhrc.net