



Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

NEWS Release

For Immediate Release – June 6, 2005

Ham Radio Field Day June 25-26, 2005

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society invites you to cover its participation in amateur radio **Field Day**, held this year on the weekend of June 25-26, 2005.

Field Day is important because the developed world's amazing and diverse communications infrastructure can still be overloaded or disabled by disaster, sometimes instantly. When that happens, ham radio steps in to provide local, regional and worldwide emergency communications while commercial providers work to restore service.

Some examples from opposite ends of the scale:

- Small – Raleigh's mini-snowstorm last winter tied up traffic, and it also tied up the phone system, making it hard to place calls on wired or cell phones. Area hams communicated freely, exchanging information on road conditions, or just passing the time as they sat in the traffic jams.
- Big – December's Asian tsunami obliterated all communications in seconds. Hams quickly bridged the gap to forward damage reports and facilitate relief efforts.
- In the middle – typical North Carolina hurricanes knock out phone service for a few hours to a few days, particularly in rural areas. Hams rush in to set up stations serving NC Emergency Management, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and others with on-the-spot communications. Hurricane Isabel was the last activation in eastern North Carolina, but hams in Florida had their hands full with three consecutive hurricanes last summer.

Ham radio gets through every time, everywhere. Amateur Radio operators, or "hams," are never cut off. A radio, an antenna and a battery are all they need to talk across town, across the state or around the world. No phone lines? No power lines? No problem!

Amateur Radio In Action:

Field Day: June 25-26

Field Day is a large-scale exercise for hams across North America to practice quickly setting up two-way radio stations literally “in the field” and operate them for a continuous 24 hour period, completely off the telephone and power grid. This year members of the **Raleigh Amateur Radio Society** will set up at least five totally self-contained communications stations and operate them from 2 PM Saturday until 2 PM Sunday from their site near Apex. Setup begins Saturday morning.

Field Day combines the emergency exercise with an on-air contest. The immediate goal is to communicate with as many other stations as possible in the 24-hour period, and have fun. The long-term goal is to become flexible and efficient at setting up communications wherever and whenever needed. And have fun.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society invites the media and public to see Field Day first hand at their site in southwestern Wake Co., south of Apex. Take US 1 south to the New Hill exit (6 miles past the NC 55 exit). Turn left on New Hill-Holloman Road, then immediately turn left on Friendship road. Go one mile to 4501 Friendship Road, and look for all the activity back in the fields. For more information, visit our web site at www.rars.org/fieldday_2005. Additional media info at www.rars.org/media.

PIO Gary Pearce is also available for advance interviews and demonstrations

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On-Site CONTACT: Neal Fisher
2005 Field Day Chair

Raleigh

NC 55

US 1

New Hill – Holloman Rd

FIELD DAY
4501 Friendship Rd.