



Ham Radio Operators On the Air for National “Field Day” Event June 25 – 26

The Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the annual "Field Day" exercise, from 2:00pm June 25 until 2:00pm June 26, at the south part of Rayner Park in Mason (near the Ingham County Fairgrounds). Since 1933 Amateur Radio Operators throughout the US have set up temporary ham radio stations in public locations during "Field Day" to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio, as well as the ability to provide emergency communications anywhere.

Everyone is invited to come out and see how "ham radio" works. There will even be an opportunity for non-Ham visitors to participate in and experience Amateur Radio at our "Get On The Air" station. There will be Volunteer Examiners administering amateur radio license examinations at 11:00am Saturday, and a radio "fox hunt" later on.

"Field Day" demonstrates Amateur Radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location to create an independent communications network for any emergency. During "Field Day" 2021, more than 26,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio operators in the United States, and an estimated three million worldwide.

Amateur Radio provides mid-Michigan with severe storm spotting networks during "tornado season" each year, to provide early warning for severe storms and tornadoes in our area. Amateur Radio is always available to provide a replacement system when standard communication infrastructure goes down. This year's "Field Day" event is also noteworthy given that a particularly active hurricane season is predicted for 2022. "Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cellular," said Daniel Beuchert WX8MOJ, CMARC "Field Day" Coordinator. "Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and "hams" can literally throw a wire in a tree for an antenna, connect it to a battery-powered transmitter and communicate halfway around the world," Beuchert added.

Ham radio remains one of the best ways for people to learn about electronics, physics, meteorology, and numerous other scientific disciplines. Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are over 750,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 5 and as old as 100 plus. With a group such as the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club here it is easy for anybody to get involved in the hobby of Amateur Radio right here in the Lansing area.

For more information about "Field Day", please contact Kenny Hazlett K8NNY, CMARC Public Information Officer, at “K8NNY@mail.com” or (517) 348-5513 or visit “www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio”. Best times for coverage will be mid to late afternoon on Saturday or late morning on Sunday.