

**THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME... NO FCC LICENSE NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE!**

# FIELD DAY...Hams training for WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

**Blackouts - Tornadoes - Wildfires  
Hurricanes - Floods - Earthquakes - Tsunamis - Terrorist Attacks**

**CONDUCTED BY THE Wellington Radio Club ♦ Supported By The Village of Wellington**

**JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> THRU 29<sup>TH</sup> FROM 2PM SATURDAY THRU 2PM SUNDAY AT PAVILLION 3, VILLAGE PARK**

## **When all else fails, "Who ya' gonna call?" Your Ham neighbors!**

Despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, every year whole regions of the U.S. find themselves in the dark and isolated. Tornadoes, floods, fires, storms, and even the occasional cutting of fiberoptic cables leave people without the means to communicate.

In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed is Amateur Radio. These radio operators, often called "hams" provide backup communications for everything from EOCs, the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station. Your ham neighbors will join with tens of thousands of other Amateur Radio operators showing their emergency capabilities the weekend of June 28th & 29th at Wellington's Village Park.

### **A Nationwide Emergency Communications Exercise**

This emergency preparedness event is called "Field Day". It's designed to teach emergency operating skills to new hams, fine-tune those of experienced radio operators and test both emergency plans and their radio systems. In the recent years, after horrendously destructive tornadoes, floods and wildfires struck large regions of our country, those skills were successfully employed by ham volunteers to help their communities.

### **The Secret of Their Success**

The secret lies in how they apply their skills and preparedness levels. They very frequently practice setting up networks that bypass infrastructure such as large switching centers, energy hungry servers, tall towers, and even fiber optic lines whose batteries fail within hours of a disaster.

### **Field Day 2013 Results**

So how large was this exercise? For the 24 hours exercise, the American Radio Relay League reported that a total of **2,537,832** simulated emergency messages were sent and received by voice, digital, morse code and even Amateur Radio satellites!

The 2013 exercise resulted in bringing together 36,560 radio amateurs at 2458 locations nationwide; almost all used emergency power to exchange messages.

Those amateurs were from thousands of radio clubs, and they descended upon parks, malls, schools, EOCs and other venues... just as they would at shelters, hospitals and other sites in need of emergency communications during a real crisis. They learned to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions. Their equipment was put through its paces using generators and batteries just like a real emergency!



**I WANT YOU  
FOR FIELD DAY!!!  
Hams, family, friends  
and public visitors!**



During the round-the-clock exercise, operator Cyril WF2R and logger Betsy K4RPI are shown receiving one of **millions** of messages sent during the exercise! Their radio station was housed in a PBC EMS vehicle powered by a small generator.





**Most public officials understand the role of amateur radio during emergencies and Wellington's are no exception. LEFT: Wellington's first Mayor Tom Wenham, current Mayor Bob Margolis, and Mayor Darell Bowen are all boosters of community preparedness and volunteerism. All have supported Wellington's participation in the Field Day exercise and recognized the 3rd week in June as AMATEUR RADIO WEEK!**

### Field Day 2014 In Wellington... A Community Undertaking

Since 2000, the Wellington Radio Club has conducted this exercise with the support of the Village of Wellington. The event brings together the amateur community, the general public and frequently government public safety agencies. Those agencies and private industry often contribute loaner equipment for the event to supplement equipment brought by hams from their homes.

A successful Field Day helps establish the volunteers' level of preparedness for the rest of the hurricane season. If not successful, it will at least expose the weaknesses in our preparations and operations... invaluable when facing five more months of hurricane threats. A win-win situation for anyone concerned with emergency management.

### Putting The Pressure On

The frenzy of a crisis-filled atmosphere is simulated by pitting the thousands of participating clubs against one another in a time-limited competition. For 24 hours, operator/logger teams are pressured to quickly and accurately send & receive as many messages as possible. They earn "points" for those messages and for contacting other Field Day stations throughout North America. Teams are rotated in and out during this exhaustive period.

Experienced old-timers and fledgling newcomers to the hobby share their knowledge and technical skills while learning to work as teams. Very frequently, the hams' families are on hand to help feed the teams and operate the computers for "logging" required information. A support team is always on hand to tend the generators, maintain safe conditions and greet the public.

### The Public is Welcome!

Public awareness is a major Field Day objective. Radio amateurs and public officials want their neighbors and constituents to know that hams are a resource to their communities and the country. They train so that, during worst case scenarios, when commercial or public safety communications systems are overloaded or cease to function, hams step in to fill the void... as they have, time and again.

In fact, the **Department of Homeland Security** has designated Amateur Radio Operators as a *Critical Infrastructure Resource*.

Radio Amateurs also want the public to know that ham radio can be fun. It offers technical skills, builds camaraderie, and can be a great, healthy hobby for them and their families.

Non-hams can get their feet wet by joining a team under the supervision of a licensee! If you would rather just be an observer, a public information table and non-intrusive tours are always part of Field Day during daylight hours.

### The Village Park Field Day Site & Time Frame

After a disaster, County, Municipal EOCs and temporary command centers try to fill the communications void. During Hurricane Katrina, over 30 County and Municipal EOCs were destroyed or unuseable! At places just like Village Park as well as malls, schools, and other venues, temporary communications hubs were setup.

So join us at our temporary "communications hub". Observe us begin to setup temporary antennas and radio operator positions at 9am Saturday, 6/28. Or visit later in the day with actual communications activities in progress. They run around-the-clock for 24 hours starting Saturday at 2pm. During Field Day, there's ample time to observe these volunteers in action or even participate!

In fact, bring the family... there's a playground and swings just 100 feet away!

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FIELD DAY, VISITING, VOLUNTEERING, OR DONATIONS CONTACT:

WRC FIELD DAY WEBSITE: [www.qsl.net/k4wrc/FD2014.html](http://www.qsl.net/k4wrc/FD2014.html)

WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB WEBSITE: [www.qsl.net/k4wrc](http://www.qsl.net/k4wrc)

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**Nicole Evangelista, Wellington Emergency Manager**

Tel: 791-4000

**BELOW LEFT:** Many past Field Day exercises were conducted in Village Park. At this past exercise, a Wellington bus housed two emergency radio stations... one for local and another for long distance communications. The power generator is in the foreground and a temporary tower is in the background.



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