

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEWS SUMMARY:** The Alexandria Radio Club is hosting the annual Alexandria amateur radio “field day” on June 22-23, 2019. It will also host its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary serving the Alexandria community. Members of the club will work ‘round the clock that weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other radio operators in the US and Canada in participation with the American Radio Relay League’s Field Day 2019.

According to Rick Bunn, club Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Coordinator, Field Day is the annual demonstration of club emergency communications capabilities to support the City of Alexandria.

“Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions,” Rick says. “But it’s also a chance to fine-tune emergency communication skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together self-sufficient, working stations quickly and begin making contacts.”

Trained amateur radio operators have been effective in establishing emergency communications during floods, fires, earthquakes and other major disasters, including the events of September 11th. Many of these amateur radio operators are members of ARES. In this capacity, they have voluntarily worked by request for a variety of public organizations providing disaster services for the City of Alexandria; and others, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, State and Local Emergency Management Agencies, and the National Weather Service SKYWARN Program.

**SUMMARY:** Alexandria Radio Club operators (hams) will establish radio contact with thousands of other hams throughout North America in the nation’s largest annual ham radio on-air event, conducted each year. The Club will also host the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of club service to the Alexandria community.

**WHO:** Everyone is invited: Everyone! Young and old, families, technology clubs, and scouting groups are encouraged to visit the Alexandria Radio Club Field Day 2019 event.

**WHAT:** Club members will set up and operate field radio stations to contact other hams throughout the US and Canada over 24 hours. Visitors are invited to operate radios with Club Members.

**WHERE:** The Alexandria Radio Club will conduct Field Day 2019 at Joseph Hensley Park, 4200 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304.

**WHEN:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Equipment setup begins at Hensley Park on Saturday morning, June 22 at 9:30 a.m. The 65th Anniversary celebration with a birthday cake and refreshments will take place at 12:00 p.m. Radio operations will commence at 2:00 p.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23.

**WHY FIELD DAY:** Participation in the American Radio Relay League’s Field Day. Amateur Radio operators practice communication skills under primitive conditions, with generator and battery-powered equipment and portable antennas. Special awards are given for “alternative” power sources such as solar, wind and methane. Field Day is a competition as well as a “trial run” for emergency communication skills used during disaster situations. Photo opportunities, interviews, activities of local participants in important national Amateur Radio event. See all Amateur Radio communication modes in action, including voice, code, packet radio, teletype, and satellite.

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