

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Local “Hams” Take it to the Streets June 25-26

(Corpus Christi, TX, June 20) – Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. On the weekend of June 25-26 local residents will have a chance to meet and talk with ham radio operators and see for themselves what this “radio service” really is about. **South Texas Amateur Radio Club** will be holding a demonstration of emergency communications abilities at **Tuloso-Midway High School** from **June 25th, 1pm, to June 26th, 1pm.**

This annual event, called “**Field Day**” is the climax of the week long “**Amateur Radio Week**” sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only generators, batteries or solar power, the hams construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls and back yards to test their skills under all situations. The slogan, “**Ham radio works when other systems don’t!**” is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year’s event.

“We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather’s radio anymore”, said Steve Hampton. “It may be called ‘Amateur Radio’ because we are unpaid, but like your ‘Amateur Volunteer Firefighters’ that does not mean we’re backwards!”

Over the weekend, hams across the nation will be demonstrating AM, sideband, FM, digital, Morse code and even satellite communications. Several clubs will also be experimenting with TV signals and incredibly high frequency equipment. It was from their practical experience as hams that many electrical engineers went on to develop the marvels of today’s communications.

There are 670,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL, hams provide emergency communications for the DHS Citizens’ Corps, Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and many state and local agencies.

To learn more about South Texas Amateur Radio club or Amateur Radio, contact Steve Hampton at 361-815-7461 or go to www.n5crp.org or www.arrl.org/newham.

The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. They might even help you get on the air!