

What is ARRL Field Day?

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time when many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as to the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part simply involves contacting as many other stations as possible while learning to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums—these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems—or maybe because they ARE so complex—ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio operators (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

With more than 160,000 members, the ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio?

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service is a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. It is made up of people who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to places both near and far without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can build and modify their equipment, but we create whole new ways to communicate via the airwaves.



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

arrrl.org/FieldDay