

AMATEUR RADIO FIELD DAY



JUNE 24-25, 2023

You may have spotted antennas and radio gear around the campgrounds, which mark the ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day. Amateur Radio, or "ham radio," is a hobby involving non-commercial communication via radio. Despite all the changes in telecommunications technology over the years, it remains popular due to its blend of science, adventure, and camaraderie.

Field Day is an annual 24-hour event where enthusiasts set up temporary stations in outdoor locations like parks, often using emergency power sources and working in teams. The goal is to promote collaboration and learning, as participants compete to contact as many other stations as possible. This fun, hands-on experience helps both new and seasoned hams develop their skills.

The excitement of Field Day offers a glimpse into a fascinating hobby. If you're curious, approach a radio operator to learn more—perhaps you'll even join in the fun next year!

arrrl.org/field-day

Science and Technology

The activities around you showcase various methods to communicate with amateur radio. By monitoring space weather conditions and adjusting to frequencies that "bounce" off the Earth's ionosphere, or using amateur radio satellites, these enthusiasts are able to communicate from hundreds of miles up to global distances.

You'll likely hear voice communication, observe hams using computers for text-based exchanges through modern digital techniques, or even hear the historic Morse code in action. More than a century after Marconi's first transatlantic radio communication, hams still embrace the challenge and simplicity of this highly effective mode, celebrating the rich heritage of radio communication.



The Great Outdoors

If you're reading this, you likely love the great outdoors—fresh air, sunshine, and breathtaking views make it irresistible. However, bringing ham radio out for Field Day is no walk in the park! The sensitive, specialized equipment demands good power sources and carefully constructed antennas for effective long-distance communication.

Year after year, enthusiasts eagerly tackle this challenge to hone their improvisation skills, test their portable and emergency gear, and most importantly, enjoy the hobby in the beauty of nature.

Fun and Camaraderie

Amateur radio is a social hobby at heart, bringing together enthusiasts with a passion for communication, learning, and exchanging experiences. A "hobby of hobbies," there's no shortage of activities, from building equipment and competing in contests, to supporting communities during emergencies, or just chatting with friends far and wide. Field Day embodies this spectrum in one weekend, serving as a celebration and public exhibit of amateur radio.

During Field Day, hams come together, set up antennas, fire up the BBQ, and stock the cooler. Grab a bowl of the famous field-day chili by the campfire, and perhaps even make contact with that remote Alaskan station, or that strange ghost town in Wyoming at 3 a.m.. The airwaves are alive with activity, filled with signals from every corner of the continent, and everyone is eager to get in the mix.

