

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2018

Granville and Newark, Ohio – Each year in late June Amateur ("ham") Radio operators across North America demonstrate their emergency preparedness at an outdoor exercise known as Field Day. They set up portable radio stations in parks, malls, and public places away from their permanent home stations and engage in on-the-air activity that tests their equipment and operating skills.

They try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible during a 24 hour round-the-clock period. This year it starts at 2 pm Saturday, June 23, and goes until 2 pm Sunday, the 24th.

Three radio clubs will participate in Licking County this year:

The Columbus Radio Enthusiasts Society (CRES), a radio club that draws members from central Ohio, will be operating from the southeast corner of Infirmary Mound Park, south of Granville on Route 37. The Central Ohio Operators Klub, Extra-Novice (COOKEN) will be at Ellas Park in Fredonia. And the Newark Amateur Radio Association (NARA) will operate their stations from the top of Horns Hill, north of Newark. The groups will start setting up their antennas and equipment Saturday morning, and they plan to have their stations operational by 2 pm.

“It is a real challenge to use these field stations with temporary antennas and emergency power from generators, solar panels, or batteries,” says Weldon Mathews, an active ham who also has served as Amateur Radio Emergency Service Coordinator for Licking County. “It simulates a real-life emergency such as an earthquake, flood, or hurricane, where electric power is out, phone and cell phones either don't work or are overloaded, the Internet is unavailable, and many structures such as buildings, homes, roads, bridges, and hams' highly effective home station antennas are damaged. In a real emergency, when all other means of communication fail, Amateur Radio has proven time and again that it's a fail-safe method that comes through. But, to be proficient, Amateur Radio operators have to stay in practice, and that's what happens at Field Day.”

Amateur Radio is more than just a hobby. It's a public service licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It is not the same as

