



Halifax Amateur Radio Club

PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2019



In 2018 **Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC)** with an assistance from the **Halifax Emergency Management Office (EMO)** moved to its new home at Fire Station #50 in Hammonds Plains. On **Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23, 2019** HARC will test its field preparedness and emergency communications abilities from our new location while participating in the **American Radio Relay League Field Day**. The purpose of the Field Day is to demonstrate amateur radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network in simulated emergency situations. Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal "show and tell" exhibition. At sites from the High Arctic to the sandy beaches of Puerto Rico, amateur radio brings together its resources to show individuals, communities, officials in government and various agencies what "amateur radio can do" in the event of a disaster and under normal circumstances.

We will start our preparations after 3:00 p.m. on Friday. We will set up high frequency and satellite radio stations and erect antennas in order to have an emergency operations center capable of providing world-wide communications. We will operate the radio stations in various modes (phone, Morse code, digital) continuously for 24 hours starting at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. During the event we will demonstrate our amateur radio skills in action, meet challenges of emergency preparedness, and familiarize the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio. Interested visitors will be able to talk into a radio microphone to someone on the opposite side of the country or, maybe, the opposite side of the world. All visitors are welcome to participate in the event and taste the excitement of both contesting and emergency field operations. Feel free to come and join the HARC Field Day.

LOCATION: **Fire Station #50**
2050 Hammonds Plains Rd.,
Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia

DATE / TIME: **June 22 @ 3.00 p.m. – June 23 @ 3.00 p.m.**

CONTACT: **Dick Grantham, 2019 Field Day Coordinator**
902-452-2400, rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca



PRESS RELEASE ATTACHMENT

RE: FIELD DAY

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Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia

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Amateur 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 communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

Once again, the **Halifax Amateur Radio Club** will be participating in the annual field day event that provides an opportunity for amateur radio clubs and operators to hone their emergency response capabilities.

The object of field day is simply to contact as many other stations as possible while operating in abnormal situations and in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has a long history dating back to its inception in 1933 and is one of the oldest amateur radio clubs in Canada. HARC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information related to radio communications and technical experimentation. Ham radio provides an alternative means of communication during natural disasters and other emergencies.

HARC provides communications facilities to aid government agencies in times of crisis. This fulfills amateur radio's legislated mandate to provide public service communication.

In keeping with this mandate, the Halifax Amateur Radio Club has been designated as the back up communications center for the HRM Emergency Measures system. This year members will be operating from the club facilities utilizing club assets including generators and battery power.

Club members use these same skills when assisting with events such as bike-a-thons; walk-a-thons; auto rallies, celebrations etc.

The Club has a long history of success in field day operations usually placing 1st. in class in Canada and in the top 5 in North America.

What is Amateur Radio?

Often called "ham radio", the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it's grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The public and media are invited to join with members of HARC during the Field Day exercise to observe or take the opportunity to "get on the air" and talk to someone. The public is also welcome to drop by the club on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. for the regular club meeting.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

Dick Grantham
2019 Field Day Coordinator
902-452-2400, rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca