

Mohave County groups to participate in nationwide ham radio event

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KINGMAN — Several local ham radio clubs will be meeting across Mohave County later this month to participate in a nationwide event for ham radio enthusiasts. The annual American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day event features amateur ham radio operators from as far away as Canada and Mexico communicating with each other over the air.

ARRL Field Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 28–29.

Spirit Mountain Radio Club will be meeting at Pine Knoll Recreation Area 2 inside Hualapai Mountain Park. Other groups participating include the Mohave Amateur Radio Club, Northern Arizona Backup Response (N.A.B.R.), and members of the London Bridge Amateur Radio Association.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, bring people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities.

Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

Some hams from Mohave County will also use the radio stations set up in their homes or their backyards and other locations to operate individually or with their families. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative energy sources such as generators, solar panels, and batteries to power their equipment.

This year's event is also noteworthy given that a particularly active hurricane season is predicted.

"Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers," said Paul Jameson, Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club President (call sign WB7N). "Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others," Jameson added.

During Field Day 2024, more than 31,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to ARRL, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the US, and an estimated 3 million worldwide.

Among the tenets of the Amateur Radio Service is developing and practicing skills in radio technology and radio communications, and even contributing to international goodwill. Hams range in age from as young as 9 to older than 100.

A self-study license guide is available from ARRL: The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual). For more information about ARRL Field Day and ham radio, contact Paul Jameson (President@SMARC.Club) and visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

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