

Amateur Radio Field Day Parma Radio Club Hal Rogers, K8CMD

With cell phones and the Internet we don't hear a lot about "ham radio" but the reality is "amateur radio", as it's officially called, is a hobby enjoyed worldwide. Licensed operators communicate with other hams without the aid of telephone land lines, cell phones or the internet. We even communicate with astronauts aboard the International Station. Voice, Morse code, and a variety of digital modes are used. Operating power might come from solar cells when power lines are down. In fact, a common expression is "ham radio gets through when all else fails".

One reason ham radio is successful in providing emergency communications is that hams practice their communication skills regularly assisting with community events like races and ham training nets. Many hams have "go boxes" with portable stations that are ready-to-go in an emergency. When weather-related emergencies strike, for example, hams quickly step up to assist first responders like fire and medical personnel.



Saturday, June 22nd and June 23rd, the Parma Radio Club will be celebrating Amateur Radio Field Day at Stearns Homestead on Ridge Road in Parma. The public of all ages is invited to observe and learn about the role of a unique hobby that stands ready to assist their community in time of need. Undoubtedly, the most popular of all amateur radio activities, and a great deal of fun, Field Day is a nationwide event that simulates radio communication emergency setups.

Prior to the event starting time, club members will erect antennas, emergency power and tents. Then at 2 p.m. members will begin a 24 hour period of contacting other hams nationally and worldwide. Contacts are logged, tallied and submitted to the sponsoring organization, the Amateur Radio Relay League (www.arrl.org) and published in their monthly magazine.

Parma Radio Club Field Day is open to the public on June 22nd from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stearns Homestead, 6975 Ridge Road in Parma.

+For information about the Parma Radio Club or our meeting schedule see:

www.parmaradioclub.com
email: parmaradioclub@gmail.com.