

For Immediate Release

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Emergency Radio Operator Field Day

San José Amateur Radio Operators practice communications under emergency power conditions

SAN JOSE, Calif. – When an emergency strikes, communications infrastructure can be quickly disabled – affecting service for cell phones, land lines, and even 911 service. But when all else fails, Amateur Radio can still get the message through, even in the worst conditions, and San José is well prepared. A group of dedicated volunteers is ready to respond during an emergency to keep critical communications flowing.

To make sure their skills remain sharp, San José’s all-volunteer emergency communications corps, San José R.A.C.E.S. (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) will participate in the national Field Day exercise June 21-23, 2013 at DeAnza Park in San José, off Meridian Ave. Along with thousands of other Hams across the United States, San José R.A.C.E.S. members will practice their emergency communications skills for 24 hours, from 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22 to 11 a.m. Sunday, June 23.

Part drill, part contest, and part just good fun, the annual Field Day event is an opportunity for amateur radio emergency communications volunteers to deploy themselves and their radio equipment to parks, mountaintops, and Emergency Operations Centers across the country. Hams use this annual event, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to test their skills at keeping information moving under emergency conditions.

“This is a terrific opportunity for people in the community to learn about this extraordinary group,” said Chris Swartout, Chief Radio Officer of San José R.A.C.E.S. “With over 80 members, the San José R.A.C.E.S. group donates thousands of hours each year to the city, from supporting city events to enabling inter-agency communications at fires, floods, and other emergencies.”

San José R.A.C.E.S. will be easy to find again this year -- just look for the antennas on the north side of DeAnza Park in southern San José. They’ll be showcasing technologies for reliably transferring voice, data, and even television pictures under real “in the field” conditions. Visitors to the event will even have an opportunity to “get on the air” without a license and see amateur radio operation first hand.

During today’s meeting, the City Council proclaimed June 22 and 23, 2013 as R.A.C.E.S. Field Day in San José. The Council also encouraged all residents to increase home and personal disaster preparedness through participation with the [San José Prepared!](#) program.

For More Information:

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org/field-day

San José R.A.C.E.S.: www.sjraces.org