



**American  
Red Cross**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oldham County Service Center  
1215 N Highway 393  
PO Box 1326  
Buckner, KY 40010

*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Louisville Red Cross Radio Club joins Oldham County ARES for National Amateur Radio Field Day**

*Public demonstration of emergency communications June 23*

**BUCKNER, KY, JUNE 18**— When disaster strikes, Amateur Radio operators are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called “Ham Radio” – was the only way many people could communicate. Hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled to the South to help save lives and property. Earlier this spring, when deadly tornadoes struck Kentucky and Southern Indiana, operators from Oldham, Trimble, Henry, Shelby, Bullitt, and Jefferson counties provided critical communications in West Liberty, Henryville, Marysville, and other remote areas during the first 48 hours when the usual lines of communication were disrupted. They provide these emergency communications services for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies free of charge.

On June 23, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with operators from the Louisville Red Cross (W4ARC) and many of those who assisted in the March disaster response. This annual “Field Day” is the climax of “Amateur Radio Week” sponsored by the National Association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards across the country. The event will demonstrate how they can send messages without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. Their slogan—“When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works.” More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year’s event.

“We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather’s radio anymore,” said Allen Pitts, W1AGP of the ARRL. “The communications that ham radio operators can quickly create has saved many lives when other systems failed or were overloaded. And besides that – it’s fun!”

**Amateur Radio demonstrations will be held Saturday, June 23 from 1p.m.-9p.m. at the Red Cross Oldham County Service Center, 1215 N Highway 393, Buckner, KY 40010. In addition, a Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) will be on display. Red Cross volunteers will be there to answer questions and explain how the public can assist in times of need.**

Operators can even help you get on the air. Come see ham radio’s new capabilities and learn how to obtain your own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes. For more information on the event, please contact Rick Ewen at (502) 550-3765 or Paul Kern at (502) 489-1440. To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to [www.emergency-radio.org](http://www.emergency-radio.org).

### **About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation’s blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.louisville-redcross.org](http://www.louisville-redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://louisvilleredcross.blogspot.com/>.*

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