

Subject: Public emergency communications demo, June 25-26
Date: 6/22/05 6:53:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: KA1MOM
To: localnews@globe.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Bill McIninch, Jr.
Public Information Officer
Boston Amateur Radio Club
Tel: 617-254-5963 (Home)
Tel: 857-540-1541 (Cell, MEDIA CONTACTS ONLY)
KA1MOM@ARRL.NET

Local Amateur Radio Operators Receive Message from President Bush as Part of Emergency Communications Exercise

BOSTON, MA, June 22, 2005 — President George W. Bush has sent greetings from the White House to local hams participating in the national communications exercise "Field Day 2005"

"Across our country, radio plays a vital role in relaying important information to the public and emergency service personnel in times of need," the president said. "By providing emergency communications at the federal, state, and local level, licensed ham radio operators help first responders and law enforcement officials save lives and make our country safer. Your efforts help ensure the right assistance gets to the right people at the right time. I appreciate all ham operators who give their time and energy to help make our citizens more secure. Your good work reflects the spirit of America and contributes to a culture of responsibility and citizenship that strengthens our nation."

Field Day, an annual exercise aimed at developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service, takes place this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Over 40,000 throughout the Americas are expected to participate, including the crew of the International Space Station.

Members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club (BARC) will operate a temporary emergency communications center on the hill behind the Museum of Transportation at Larz Andersen Park in Brookline. The station will set up starting at 11 AM on Saturday, June 25. Public guided tours will be given between 2 PM and 8 PM Saturday and between 9 AM and 1 PM Sunday. The BARC station will include a satellite communications station and digital communications. In recognition of our special guests, the students of Belmont's Winn Brook School and the Dexter and Southfield Schools there will be information available on ham radio in education and ham radio and the Internet.

Except during World War II, Field Day has been held annually since 1932. Recent increased emphasis on Homeland Security has increased the intensity of the exercise. BARC members were part of the emergency response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, when cell phones and other communications methods became overloaded and unusable. Most recently, BARC members were part of the Operation Atlas antiterrorist exercise at Logan Airport and the Hurricane Sophia statewide emergency practice drill.

The Boston Amateur Radio Club supplies communications for such events as the Boston Marathon and the 2004 Democratic National Convention. They supply emergency support for Boston emergency services through the Boston Emergency Radio Team (BERT) and the Salvation Army Tactical Emergency Radio Network (SATERN). The BARC repeater station is a major reporting resource for the National Weather Service SKYWARN spotter network.

Anyone interested in learning more about ham radio and the communications pioneers of the next decade are encouraged to visit the club's website at www.barc.org or visit us during the exercise.

For more information, please contact Bill McIninch at 617-254-5963 or 857-540-1541.

NOTE: The second number above is a cell phone that will be a primary media contact number during the Field Day event. It should be used by anyone planning to come by the site for news coverage

-= Bill McIninch, Jr. KA1MOM / E =-

PR Chairman

Boston Amateur Radio Club

KA1MOM@arrl.net

(617) 254-5963

26 Margo Rd., Brighton, MA 02135-3025

"We are amateurs just as NCAA star athletes are: we don't get paid for using our skills."