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For Immediate Release: Amateur Radio “Field Day” June 23 and 24 Demonstrates Science, Skill, and Service

June 22, 2018

Members of the Hillsborough County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and the Tampa Amateur Radio Club (TARC), will be working together in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 23 – 24.

ARES/RACES will operate from the Hillsborough County EOC/Public Safety Operations Complex (PSOC/EOC) at 9450 E Columbus Dr. - Radio Room 206, Tampa, FL 33619. Starting at Noon we will have an education section along with a Q & A. We will start making live radio contacts at 2pm, operating until 10pm. June 24th we will be operating from 10am to Noon.

TARC will be operating from their clubhouse at 7801 N. 22nd St. Tampa, FL 33610 during similar times.

Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

For more than 100 years, Amateur Radio — sometimes called ham radio — has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster or emergency, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. Field Day demonstrates ham radio’s ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network. More than 35,000 people from thousands of locations participated in Field Day in 2017.

“It’s easy for anyone to pick up a computer or smartphone, but if there’s an interruption of service or you’re out of range of a cell tower, you have no way to communicate. Ham radio functions completely independent of the Internet or cell phone infrastructure.” David Isgur, N1RSN, communications manager for the American Radio Relay League

During Hurricane Irma Hillsborough County ARES/RACES embedded HAM radio operators with the County Fire/Rescue Department’s Main Battalions and at 911 to serve as a back-up 911 Dispatching system in case the main infrastructure was impacted by the hurricane to ensure continuity of service to the public. We also staffed numerous shelters with the Red Cross and County.

For more information about Field Day or Amateur Radio, contact Matt Gibson as listed above or visit <http://hillsboroughares.org/> and www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

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