



How to Be More Social During a Pandemic - Ham Radio!



The Duval County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will host its annual Field Day event June 27th at Hogan Baptist Church. Each year ham radio operators get out the last weekend of June to practice compromised radio operations such as make-shift antennas, low-power radio, and solar power generation.

The annual event provides a forum to test innovative practices, but also recruit new members to the hobby. The hobby has many facets, from “old school” continuous wave (CW) morse code operations and AM radio, to digital modes that can transmit thousands of miles on mere fractions of watts of power. Ham radio even has dedicated satellites for use! These

communication avenues are proving increasingly important in a pandemic environment, and many have joined the hobby in recent months to learn more about communications preparedness, as well as to remain social, even in isolation.

Field Day also serves as a training opportunity. Volunteer instructors will be educating on such topics as basic radio etiquette, solar power, sending email by radio, and an antenna-building workshop. The local Scout troop is even taking advantage of the training and its members will be receiving the Radio merit badge.

Please consider joining Duval County ARES for a day of fun, education, and companionship. Pandemic mitigation efforts will be in place, and all are welcome.

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