

# Kingwood Field Day to showcase function of amateur radio

By Melanie Feuk, mfeuk@hcnonline.com Updated 11:19 am, Monday, June 19, 2017



Photo: Courtesy Of John Nobile, TEAC

## IMAGE 4 OF 6

Ham radio enthusiasts hone their skills at the 2016 Field Day event in Kingwood. The Kingwood-based ham radio club, TEAC, invites people of all ages to learn about amateur radio during its Field Day event ... [more](#)

When conventional communication methods break down, the responsibility of transmitting vital information to the essential agencies falls on a network of more than two million individuals worldwide who have agreed to uphold communication systems in times of need.

The word "unsung" has repeatedly been used to describe ham radio operators' contributions in the wake of catastrophic events. "Ham" refers to

licensed amateur radio operators.

**John Nobile**, member of a Kingwood-based ham radio club called the **Texas Emergency Amateur Communicators (TEAC)** has been a ham radio operator for nearly three decades.

"As an amateur radio operator, when you get your license, you actually agree to be put into service by the government if there is a need during emergencies. So, you become a link for when telephone lines and stuff like that goes down," Nobile said.

He explained that many people may not realize the people reporting updates during emergency situations, like severe weather events, are often ham radio operators.

"Many members in the TEAC club belong to something called ARES, which is **Amateur Radio Emergency Services**, and we have a direct alliance with **Homeland Security** and many of the police departments around the country, so if there is an emergency event, such as a hurricane, we will be placed into operation at different locations that have been set up, or right from our home if we have the means to provide emergency services," Nobile said. "Then, what we do is report back to Homeland Security, which disseminates the information to all the news agencies.

"Many times, those early warnings do come from ham radio operators even though they usually don't give any credit to that. They actually get that information for all those resources."

Ham radio operators may serve anonymously most of the time, but for one weekend every year, tens-of-thousands across North America get the chance to showcase the function of amateur radio as a hobby, as well as a vitally important tool during emergency situations.

The **American Radio Relay League** (ARRL) Field Day event takes place annually on the fourth weekend of June. Ham radio operators convene to practice emergency response, compete to establish the most contacts with other ham stations and showcase the roles ham radio operators play in their communities on the local, national and global levels.

TEAC invites the community to attend its Field Day event Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25 in the LSC-Kingwood Performing Arts Center.

Participating ham radio operators will begin setting up equipment Friday, June 23, at 3 p.m.

"During Field Day, we set up radios and antennas as if we were deployed in an emergency situation," Nobile said. "It's a 24-hour event and the point is to make as many contacts as possible. Your goal, as a ham radio operator, is to hit every state, Canada and Mexico. It's sort of an informal contest, but it's really more of an expose of Field Day to showcase what we do and why we have those big antennas up at our houses. It shows the community we actually have a service to provide."

Field Day is a free event and open to the public. TEAC suggested the public visit Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. However, Nobile said anyone interested in staying overnight to hang out with the TEAC hams is more than welcome.

During the event at LSC-Kingwood, people have the opportunity to witness firsthand the different methods and mediums by which ham operators are able to communicate. There will be a satellite station that communicates with amateur radio satellites in orbit around the earth. And this year, TEAC will be selling raffle tickets for the chance to win prizes, including a radio and software to get licensed as an amateur radio operator.

Nobile encourages people of all ages from the community to come out to the Field Day event and learn about the function ham radio operators serve.

"Field Day really showcases the use of ham radio and why it's important, especially during emergency events," Nobile said. "Ham radio sends a lot of information back and forth to federal agencies and local agencies. It also gets a lot of information back to the media and helps spread the word about different events. It's definitely worth learning about. And, it's a great hobby. If you want to get your kids into science, it's a good hands-on learning opportunity."

TEAC has more than 80 members from areas as far out as Spring and Conroe. TEAC meets the first Saturday of every month at the Christ the King Lutheran Church on West Lake Houston Drive in Kingwood.

For more information about Field Day and TEAC, visit [www.teac.net](http://www.teac.net).