



Michigan ARRL

Serving amateur radio operators in Michigan www.arrl-mi.org

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For Immediate Release:

Michigan Legislature Recognizes Contributions of Amateur Radio Enthusiasts

(Lansing, MI, June 6, 2012) — The Michigan House of Representatives has issued a resolution recognizing the public service contributions of Michigan's Amateur Radio Operators, as they prepare for their annual emergency communications exercise. On June 1st, the State house passed House Resolution No. 287, A resolution to declare June 17–23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the state of Michigan.

Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") operators from throughout Michigan will be joining Hams across the nation, attempting to talk to people around the world using an amazing variety of differing methods. These range from the tried and true Morse code to voice and digital communications, even to using amateur satellites as they demonstrate their unique dedication to public service during Amateur Radio Week. Michigan's local ham radio clubs will be active in their communities to raise awareness about Amateur Radio in preparation for the week's culminating event, an annual emergency preparedness exercise called "Field Day." Field Day is a 24-hour marathon event where the object is to contact as many other stations as possible during the contest, which will occur over the weekend of June 23 and 24. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of commercial electricity and normal avenues of communication. Most participants will set up their Field Day stations in city parks, on village greens or even in shopping mall parking lots. The event is a serious test of skill, and a contest for fun, too. During the weekend, the radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the on-air skills needed to assist state, regional and local officials as well as agencies such as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross during an emergency. More than 37,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's event, a far cry from the handful of hams that participated in the first Field Day back in 1933.

The public is invited to stop by and watch the proceedings, ask questions and will often get a chance to join in, making a few contacts themselves under the watchful eye of a friendly ham operator. Anyone interested in visiting a Field Day site may locate the site nearest you by using the online locator on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

With more than 650,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide, the Amateur Radio hobby is alive and well. And best of all, anyone can become a ham. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for the ARRL's home page on the World Wide Web is www.arrl.org.

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Reps. Lindberg, Darany, Byrum, Yonker, Hovey-Wright, Hammel, Liss, Dillon, Kandrevas, McBroom, Barnett, Durhal, Geiss, Heise, Horn, LeBlanc, Slavens, Switalski, Talabi and Tyler offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 287.

A resolution to declare June 17–23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Amateur radio operators are celebrating over a century of the miracle of the human voice broadcast over the airwaves; and

Whereas, Amateur radio has continued to provide a bridge between peoples, societies and countries by creating friendships and the sharing of ideas; and

Whereas, Amateur radio operators have also provided countless hours of community services both in emergencies and to other local organizations throughout these decades; and

Whereas, These amateur radio's services are provided wholly uncompensated; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan also recognizes the services amateur radio's people also provide to our many civilian Emergency Response organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army; and

Whereas, These same individuals have further demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local parades, bike-a-thons, walk-a-thons, fairs and other charitable public events; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes and appreciates the diligence of these "hams" who also serve as weather spotters in the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service; and

Whereas, Amateur radio once again proved its undisputed relevance in the modern world by providing emergency communications when other systems failed in the wake of Hurricane Irene, the paralyzing October Blizzard that hit the Northeast and Atlantic Seaboard; and

Whereas, The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the leading organization for amateur radio in the USA; and

Whereas, The ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 23-24, 2012 and is a 24-hour emergency preparedness exercise and demonstration of the Radio Amateurs' skills and readiness to provide self-supporting communications without further infrastructure being required; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare June 17–23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the state of Michigan