

Amateur Radio...

Serving Your Community



Events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in disaster and post-disaster situations. But did you know we also provide communication services to the public during special events?

How Amateur Radio Works With Event Sponsors and Public Safety Officials

We’re called “amateurs” because we are not paid. Our services are provided at no charge. Like amateur sports, we do it for the love of it! We may be called “amateurs,” but our communications services are professional.

Amateurs and their equipment can interface with both public safety efforts and event organizers.

Our equipment can be made operational quickly inside a building, in a mobile command post or out in field units.

Hams are trained, organized volunteers willing to meet the communications needs of the event sponsor.

Police and fire radios are for tactical or operational traffic in emergencies. Amateur Radio offers administrative radio communications options for use in your overall management and coordination of the event.

Hams have a readiness to receive specific training for your individual event.

You have instant communications from the starting line to the finish line, the official's area, net control, water stations, aid stations, medical facilities, sag wagons, floats, grandstands, parking areas, review stands and medical command facilities.

Once the necessary introductions have been made, the rest is easy because Amateur Radio people are indeed the experts in meeting communications requirements of every sort. This is what we love to do!

Our radio messages can go to just one location at your event, or event-wide, instantly. Hams can even track the locations of multiple mobile units in real time and display them on a map.

**It's symbiotic.
You need us,
and we want
to help.**



What's Needed for Event Communications?

- The event organizers want Amateur Radio help to be there.
- The event organizers and participating amateurs meet and agree on Amateur Radio's role in the operation.
- Everyone understands and endorses the operational plan.

You will want to place radio amateurs in a lot of different areas. This, of course, will depend on the specific nature of your event, but some places might be: mile markers, half-mile markers, the reviewing stands, start and finish lines, water and aid stations, sag wagons, parking areas, medical stations, event HQ, shadowing coordinators, message centers, floats, and scoring areas.

Relationship to Event Organizers

All event officials should have a clear understanding of the operational plan that defines our role, what we can and cannot do. Amateurs are volunteer, experienced and trained communicators.

The communications plan is developed jointly between the organizers and the hams to meet the needs of the event. A post-event review aids in making the next event even better.

Participating Amateur Radio operators need to be identified by vest, badge or other easily recognizable item and given area access.

Liaison is always maintained with the event leadership to provide flexibility as situations change.

What Do the Hams Get Out of It?

Besides the basic enjoyment in using our hobby and knowing we are serving our neighbors, we get practice!

No two special event operations are going to be the same. Your operational plan will depend on your own requirements and your resources. But hams are adaptive! They've been providing public service communications for a century in all sorts of situations.

**If you want a GREAT event,
you need great communications.
We can help.**



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO
225 Main Street • Newington, CT USA 06111
(860) 594-0200 • www.arrl.org

Or contact the Amateur Radio group
in your community by calling:

