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**Palo Alto Amateur
Radio Association**

Press Release

Local Amateur Radio group to participate in nationwide emergency communications exercise

The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association invites the public and media to observe and participate in the annual Field Day Amateur Radio event

Palo Alto, CA, June 10, 2015—The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association will be participating in this year's Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, and would like to invite the public and news media to attend this weekend-long event, where we will join thousands of other amateur radio clubs in making tens of thousands of long-distance radio contacts across the nation. The operating period is from 11am on Saturday June 27 to 11am on Sunday June 28.

Field Day is an annual exercise in which Amateur Radio operators (a.k.a. ham radio operators) test their radio operating skills, teamwork, and their equipment, both to ensure they're ready to assist in the next disaster, and as a friendly competition to see which clubs can make the most contacts. The rules our club chooses to operate under require us to use low-power transmitters (no more than 150 watts each), operate within a circle of 300 meter diameter (~1,000 feet), and forbid the use of commercial AC power (instead, we operate from portable gasoline generators, batteries, solar power, and sometimes even a hand-crank generator). Despite these limitations, we routinely communicate with other Field Day stations from Hawaii to New York, just by bouncing radio waves off the ionosphere. Each year, PAARA typically ranks among the top five clubs in the nation for our category.

In 2012, PAARA was ranked FIRST in our class nationwide, and third overall in the Santa Clara Valley Section of the ARRL, achieving well over 5,000 individual radio contacts over the course of 24 hours.

We will again be operating four high-frequency (HF) radio stations (voice and Morse Code), one VHF/UHF station, and one special HF station called GOTA, for Get On The Air, where the public is invited to operate an HF radio on their own, with coaching from experienced HF operators. **No license is required!** Children and adults of all ages are invited to visit our site, watch, and ask questions. We've had kids start as young as 6 years of age; and Hams come from all walks of life, including famous singers, actors, kings, and astronauts.

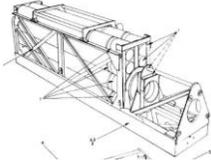
Location, Time, and Details

Field Day operates from 11:00 am Saturday through 11:00 am Sunday, June 27–28. We will be located on the eastern edge of Bedwell BayFront Park, located in Menlo Park at the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway (Highway 84). Visitors are invited to *slowly* drive their cars directly to our operating site, on the gravel road normally closed to vehicle traffic: Proceed to the end of the paved road, pass the gate, and follow the yellow signs. We'll be easy to spot—just look for a bunch of large antennas mounted on towers (most of which will be 50

For immediate release

feet tall). The public is welcome anytime (we suggest Saturday starting at 11:00 am), as well as Thursday afternoon and Friday for press photographers and camera crews to watch us set up our large antenna towers—it can be impressive footage!

This year, we will be doing setup on Thursday afternoon (5pm on), Friday, and Saturday morning. The most interesting photo and video opportunities include:



Raising four 50-foot military masts (AB-621/G) from self-contained crates (expected Thursday afternoon after 5pm)



Raising a 50-foot tower mounted on a trailer, with our largest (40-meter) antenna (expected Friday)



Our best coach for teaching people who have never worked an HF radio before starts his shift at 11am on Saturday—this is a great time for a reporter to see our operation in full swing and talk to people operating the stations.