AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
SCOTT COUNTY, MN
www.scottares.org

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2015

"Who ya' gonna call? Scott ARES Radio Hams!"

Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 27th

Savage, MN June 5, 2015 – Despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark. Tornadoes, fires, storms, ice and even the occasional cutting of fiber optic cables leave people without the means to communicate. In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been Amateur Radio. These radio operators, often called "hams" provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station. Scott County's "hams" will join with thousands of other Amateur Radio operators showing their emergency capabilities this weekend.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including the California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio's people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 27-28, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with Scott County's ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as hams across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. Their slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works" is more than just words to the hams as

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they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"The fastest way to turn a crisis into a total disaster is to lose communications," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "From the earthquake in Nepal, tsunami in Japan to tornadoes in Texas, ham radio provided the most reliable communication networks in the first critical hours of the events. Because ham radios are not dependent on the Internet, cell towers or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available. We need nothing between us but air."

In the Scott County area, the Scott County Amateur Radio Emergency Service group will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Canterbury Park in Savage, MN on Saturday, June 27th. Canterbury City Park is located at 13400 Inglewood Ave. in Savage.

They invite the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

Amateur Radio is growing in the US. There are now over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. To learn more about Scott ARES go to www.scottares.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what **modern** Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

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Scott County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Field Day 2015 Site

Canterbury City Park
13400 Inglewood Ave.
Savage, MN