

# Hurricane Season is Coming!

## Emergency Communications is Ready!



Amateur radio is “a **voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications,**” according to federal law.<sup>1</sup> When a disaster hits, amateur radio provides additional communications to help manage the disaster. It’s “amateur” because according to the same law, hams cannot be paid for their services.

**HAM RADIO OPERATORS:** No one knows why they’re called “hams”, but they practice their emergency skills in a variety of ways. One of the most interesting is “**Field Day.**” Hams around the country simulate disaster conditions by operating from temporary makeshift facilities without commercial power. Everything is set up one day, the hams operate the stations around the clock, and then take everything down the next day—similar to what they would need to do in an emergency.



Computers are integral to ham radio for digital communications, television, or even to send messages from radio to internet and back to radio. There are **amateur radio satellites (including one built by grade school students)** and two ham radio stations on the International Space Station. There’s voice communications, of course, and many still enjoy Morse code telegraphy. Hams communicate across town or across the globe, as a hobby or in support of a disaster.

The **Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service (CARS)** will conduct their Field Day operation **June 22 and 23, 2019, at Deep Creek Lock Park**, 300 Luray St., Chesapeake, VA near George Washington Highway and Moses Grandy Trail. All are welcome to stop by.

For further information, check out the CARS web site at <http://w4car.org>, or email [emcom@w4car.org](mailto:emcom@w4car.org).

<sup>1</sup> Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47: Part 97, Subpart A, §97.1(a)

**Field Day 2019**