

# Ham Radio

Messenger photo by John Halley  
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Let's say there was an emergency, maybe a hurricane or tornado that knocked out all the utility lines. Long distance communication would be at a standstill. In this situation, Athens County Amateur Radio Association is prepared to step in to action. That's what last weekend's "Field Day" exercise was all about. Ham radio clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada communicated with each other from a temporary ham radio station in a public space. The Athens team was located at the Athens County Fairgrounds. They raised a big wire antenna to widen their scope. The team made contact with other teams in Colorado and Wyoming in the first few hours. Satellites and UHF frequencies are used to send radio signals. Generators and solar panels supplied power. The exercise lasted for a 24-hour period. That means someone on the Athens team was talking on the microphone or on the computer trying to make contact with someone at 3 o'clock in the morning. In the photo, Eric McFadden (President of Athens County Amateur Radio Association) makes a "formal message" on a portable ham radio to someone just as the exercise requires. In the back are Paul Schulz and John W. McCutcheon, who are communicating with other teams on other systems. The event is an activity under the national organization, American Radio Relay League (ARRL.)

Hamfest Radio Exercise

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As featured on

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