



# Fayette County ARES

## Public Service Events

As you may already know, amateur radio or "ham radio" operators volunteer their time, expertise and equipment to provide emergency communications during disasters such as the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes or closer to home, the 2003 ice storm in Lexington. These operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to pursue the hobby of radio science. This pursuit includes giving back to their communities.

What you may not have known is that these same radio operators also give back to their communities by providing logistical and if necessary, emergency communications at non-profit community events. These events include charity walks, 5K runs, parades and several events at the Kentucky Horse Park

Do you have a non-profit or charity event that would benefit from having a communications team to help deal with the challenges of conducting a public event? If your answer is "Yes," read on!



Larry George, amateur radio operator WD4RW helps with disabled and spectator shuttles at the Rolex 3-Day Event

### What Amateur Radio Can Do to Help You With Your Public Event:

Whether your event is contained in the area of a football field, or spread out over 1,000 acres, communications is a vital tool. Having the ability to communicate the status of the activities at any portion of your event area can make the difference when trying to ensure smooth operations and more importantly event participant/staff safety.

### What Amateur Radio Needs To Help You With Your Public Event:

- Your event must be not-for-profit or a 501c3 event. Under federal law, amateur radio operators are prohibited from receiving any form of compensation for their communications duties. If you offer your other volunteers a meal, or T-shirt, that is okay.
- Our organization is like yours - staffed by volunteers. In order to plan and solicit manpower, we need as much advance notice as possible. Although not set in stone, three months is a minimum.
- We need to be made a part of your event planning at the earliest point possible. Although our organization has many years of experience working public events, every event is different. We need information pertinent to providing communications over a given area, and must know in advance what is expected of our volunteers so that we can serve your needs more effectively.
- Our volunteers are accustomed to working within a clearly defined command structure. The contact person for the amateur radio group will coordinate the radio operators. The operators and the coordinator will do everything to assist you.



### The Role of UK In Amateur Radio Public Service:

In 2004, the UK Hospital Emergency Management Committee contributed a communications resource to amateur radio public service; The K4UKH amateur radio repeater. This radio system provides a platform for local emergency communication in time of disaster, or public events worked by ham radio operators.

#### For More Information - Contact Info:

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#### Amateur Radio's Role in Public Events in Lexington:

- America's Walk for Diabetes - Safety and Logistics
- Bluegrass 10,000 5K Run - Safety and Logistics
- Halloween Charity Train Ride - Safety and Logistics
- High Hope Steeplechase - Safety
- Lexington Humane Society "Mutt Strut" - Safety and Logistics
- MS Walk - Safety and Logistics
- Rolex 3-Day Event - Logistics and manpower for shuttles.

ARES or Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a registered trademark of the American Radio Relay League, the National Association for Amateur Radio.

Over the years, there have been other events that have come and gone such as the Cottontail Classic 5K Race.