

# **Field Day 2003**

## **Salem Amateur Radio Club**

Hams Gear Up to Set Long Distance Contact Records and Practice Emergency Communication Skills at Willamette Mission State Park, June 28-29, 2003 — Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators will work 'round the clock this weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the US and Canada as part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's annual Field Day.

According to Dean Davis of the Salem Amateur Radio Club, Field Day is the annual "shakedown run" for the ARRL's National Field Organization. "Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions," Dean says. "But it's also a chance to fine-tune emergency communication skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working station quickly and begin making contacts."

The ARRL Field Organization has been effective in establishing emergency communications nets during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and other major disasters. Members of formal emergency organizations such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES) regularly participate. The League estimates that more than 35,000 hams participate in Field Day every year.

Salem Amateur Radio Club's Field Day operations will be at the Willamette Mission State Park (just 10 minutes north from Salem). Set up begins at about 3pm local time on June 27, 2001.

The public is invited.

For more information, contact Dean Davis at 503.540.3270.