

March 28, 2003

FROM:

*John Lorang, President
West Valley Amateur Radio Association
Phone: 408-445-8527*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS SUMMARY: San Jose Hams Gear Up to Set Long Distance Radio Communications Records and Practice Emergency Communication Skills

San Jose ham radio operators will work 'round the clock **June 28-29** to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the USA and Canada as part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's event called **Field Day**. Hundreds of hams from the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and other local radio clubs will participate.

According to John Lorang, President of the San Jose based West Valley Amateur Radio Association, Field Day is the annual **emergency preparedness** "shakedown run". More than **35,000 hams** from 2000 radio clubs participate every year.

"Field Day is a chance to fine-tune emergency communication skills," John says. "We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working emergency communications center quickly and begin making contacts. We will need this sort of emergency communications in the next **major Santa Clara county disaster** like an **earthquake** or a **forest fire**."

The West Valley Amateur Radio Association Field Day operations will be at Charlie and Bobbi Norman's place, 29111 Loma Prieta Way, Los Gatos. Operations will run from 11 AM Saturday, June 28 through 11 AM Sunday, June 29. **The public is invited.** For more information, contact Marc Ziegler at 408-353-2832. Go to <http://www.wvara.org/fd/2003/directions.shtml> for a map.

SUMMARY: Loma Prieta Amateur Radio operators to contact thousands of other hams throughout the US and Canada in the nation's largest ham radio on-air event.

WHO: Licensed Amateur Radio Operators in Loma Prieta.

WHAT: Hams will set up and operate emergency field radio stations to contact other hams throughout the US and Canada over 24 hours. Objective is to see who can make the highest number of contacts during the contest period.

WHERE: Charlie and Bobbie Norman's place, 29111 Loma Prieta Way, Los Gatos

WHEN: 11 AM Saturday, June 28 through 11 AM Sunday, June 29

WHY: Participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day. Amateur Radio operators practice communication skills under primitive conditions, with generator and battery-powered equipment and portable antennas. Field Day is a competition as well as a "trial run" for emergency communication skills used during disaster situations.

Photo opportunities, interviews, activities of local participants in important national Amateur Radio event will be available. See all Amateur Radio communication modes in action, including voice, code, packet radio, teletype, and satellite.

CONTACT: Marc Ziegler at 408-353-2832.