

News Release

Allen Pitts, W1AGP
Media and Public Relations Manager
(860) 594-0328
apitts@arrl.org

Young People Get “Radio-active” on Kids Day

Newington, Conn., January 7, 2007 -- On January 7, 2007, hundreds of young people throughout the country will be chatting with other kids, not via the Internet or cellphone, but over the airwaves using Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") technology during Kid's Day. Now in its twelfth year, Kid's Day is sponsored by ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio.

Many of today's scientists, radio engineers, astronauts and Amateur Radio enthusiasts became involved with science and technology in their youth. Often this was through a relative or a neighbor that took the time to show them how things worked. During this event, licensed Amateur Radio operators will encourage children, young people from the neighborhood or even a local scout troop to experience the enjoyment of ham radio firsthand.

“Getting kids on the air is an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.” says Mark Spencer, WA8SME, of the ARRL’s Field and Educational Services. According to Spencer, “To make it a productive experience we try to keep it simple. Contacting rare foreign locations is fun, but local, quality contacts often work better and in most cases make a more lasting impression.”

Today there are nearly 680,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. Visit ARRL on the Web at www.arrl.org . You can also contact a local club in your area. To find a ham radio club near you, go to www.arrl.org/findaclub .

###