

GOOD NEWS

Our Community

IN FOCUS



Meet some of the interesting people who help make this area a great place to live, work and shop!

Ham Radio Operators Are Heroes

by Diana J. Cathan

With all the excitement and big crowds of the Great Geauga County Fair, occasionally a child loses track of their parents. On Labor Day Monday, September 3, at the fairgrounds in Burton, a girl named Carly somehow became separated from her family. The missing child was reported to the Sheriff Department and her description was sent out to deputies patrolling the fairgrounds. The girl's description was also announced at various activities on the grounds, including the Frog Jumping Contest taking place in the Arena at the time.

At the amateur radio base station, net control Marc heard the sheriff's broadcast and quickly sent out the girl's description to all of the hams (amateur radio operators) at various locations on the grounds. The hams quickly went into action scanning the crowds for the missing girl.

Amateur radio operator Valerie was just coming onto the fairgrounds when she heard the alert. She signed in at the amateur radio booth, confirmed the girl's name and description and headed out to help search. Valerie had been on the fairgrounds for barely ten minutes when she found Carly, who didn't even realize she was lost. Valerie escorted the girl to the nearest sheriff department post and Carly was quickly reunited with her family.

Valerie, the mother of a 2½-year-old daughter, said it was her "mother's instincts" that helped her spot the girl in the crowd.

Local hams are proud to say that it was one of their own who located the missing girl. This one success story made their many hours of service at the fairgrounds well worth the effort.

If you are interested in learning more about amateur radio, the public is invited to monthly meetings of the Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA), held at the Geauga County Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month; the next meeting will be held on September 24. Meet local hams and learn how to get your own license and join the local ham community!