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## “Radio Scouting” To Be Explored at Dayton Hamvention

DAYTON, OH – May 1, 2008 Scout Leaders will be reaching out to Ham Radio Operators at the Dayton Hamvention May 16-18 to encourage them to provide Amateur Radio opportunities to Boy Scouts back in their home towns. A forum session will given on Saturday, May 17 at 9 AM in Forum Room 2 explaining how hams can reach out to Scouts to get them involved in the exciting world of Amateur Radio. And, for the first time, an exhibit booth will be staffed by veteran “Ham Scouters” to answer hams questions and provide them with resources about “Radio Scouting”. Booth 631 in the Hamvention’s East Building will be location of the Scout Radio outpost.

Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, District Chairman of the Yolo District of the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America is leading the effort. Bill says “This is how we assure the future of your local ham community by growing the next generation of amateurs via the Boy Scouts. At the same time, we also build community awareness about amateur radio. Scouts have a built-in sense of adventure which ham radio complements”.

Hams will also learn how to teach Radio Merit Badge and help their local Scouts participate in Scouting’s largest annual event, the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). “Each October, a half million Scouts around the world talk to each other via Amateur Radio. Tips on how hams can let their local Scouts participate will be shared”. Visit <http://YoloBSA.editme.com/Dayton> for further information.

Hams can also learn about a new program being developed for 2010’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. “Scout Camps On The Air (SCOTA) promises to be a fun way for hams to help encourage Amateur Radio Operations at Scout Camps and other large Scouting Events”, says, Matt Murphy, KC8BEW, of the Muskingum Valley Council, BSA, who is coordinating that program.

The Boy Scouts of America currently serves more than 4 million youth and adult members. So stop by booth 631 and the forum session to learn how you can help some of them become the next generation of hams.

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