

Be a ham for HAM

Frederick Amateur Radio Club (FARC) is seeking volunteers to support the Hike Across Maryland (HAM) event on May 7, 2022. HAM is sponsored by the Mountain Club of Maryland, and has been a biennial event (mostly) since 1984. The FARC will provide communication and tracking support as approximately 100 hikers traverse the entire Maryland portion of the Appalachian Trail (41 miles) in a single, very long day.

Volunteers will:

- Provide communications support for ten checkpoints – many are located at a roadway, but a few require a short hike (couple hundred yards at most) from parking area
- Log hikers out of each checkpoint using hiker bib number
- Periodically communicate logged hikers to net control via controlled net.
- Assist with equipping and monitoring communication gear for sweep hikers.

Volunteer would need:

- Technician or higher amateur license
- Portable dual-band (VHF/UHF) radio – HT will be fine for many checkpoints, although higher-gain antenna (roll-up J-pole or similar) and spare batteries would be a benefit. Please don't let lack of equipment keep you from volunteering, as we can easily partner you with another ham.
- Appropriate clothing for the weather, whatever that might be on May 7th (forecast currently shows sunny and 70F)
- Clipboard if handy (don't buy one)
- Couple of pens
- Bug repellent
- Water and whatever snacks you may need.
- May want a camp chair or similar.

Notes about the event:

- The HAM hike begins at PenMar park at the PA line near Cascade at 5am and ends at Harpers Ferry WV, generally around 9pm
- Checkpoint staffing start time is staggered through the day as hikers work their way south.
- Early checkpoints are generally short assignments as most hikers get through the early trail segments quickly. Later checkpoints are staffed by two shifts.
- We don't expect volunteers to work the entire day – the longest shift is approximately five hours, although we're happy to have you work longer.
- Very few checkpoints have commercial power or modern facilities.
- Three checkpoints are at regional parks along the trail, three are at trail intersections or shelters (short hike from parking) and four are where trail crosses a public road.

To volunteer, please send a note to Mike Forrence (K3MMM) at K3MMM@arrl.net or call/text 240-409-1583