



For Immediate Release
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ARRL Field Day Comes to Southwest Florida

Ham Radio Operators Deploy to North Fort Myers

Fort Myers, May 24, 2024 -- Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC) will be operating during this special event from Saturday, June 22nd, at 10 am until Sunday, June 23rd at 2 pm at two locations. The first at the North Fort Myers Community Park, 2000 Recreation Park Way in North Fort Myers, 33903 and the second at the Tice Firehouse Station #201, 9351 Workmen Way, Fort Myers, FL 33905. The public is invited to attend and see the action firsthand at either location. The event serves as both a practice exercise and a public demonstration of the skills and capabilities of amateur radio operators (hams). The primary purpose of Field Day is to test and improve the ability of ham radio operators to quickly deploy and operate in emergency situations, such as natural disasters or other events that may disrupt regular communication channels.

During Field Day, ham radio operators set up temporary radio stations in various locations, such as parks, open fields, or even parking lots. The goal is to simulate the conditions of an emergency response and demonstrate the ability to establish reliable communication in less-than-ideal situations.

Key aspects of Ham Radio Field Day include:

1. **Operating on Emergency Power:** Participants are encouraged to operate their radio stations using alternative power sources, such as generators, batteries, or solar power, to simulate the conditions of a power outage during an emergency.
2. **Setting Up Temporary Antennas:** Ham radio operators deploy portable antennas to establish communication over various bands and frequencies. This helps demonstrate the adaptability and versatility of amateur radio equipment.

3. **Contacting Other Stations:** Participants aim to make as many contacts with other ham radio stations as possible within a 24-hour period. Points are awarded for each contact made, and bonus points may be earned for factors like using alternative power sources or incorporating new technologies.
4. **Public Awareness:** In addition to the emergency preparedness aspect, Field Day also serves as an opportunity to promote amateur radio to the public. Many operators welcome visitors, provide information about amateur radio, and may even offer the chance for non-hams to make a radio contact under the supervision of a licensed operator.

Bob Lewis, the President of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC) stated, “Field Day is sponsored by American Radio Relay League (ARRL) which is the national association for amateur radio. Field Day is a valuable and enjoyable way for ham radio operators to hone their skills, showcase the capabilities of amateur radio, and engage with the community.” Founded as The American Radio Relay League in 1914, ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio® in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed amateurs. ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

Established in 1957, the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has been dedicated to fostering camaraderie among individuals with a shared passion for Amateur Radio. With a commitment to facilitating the exchange of information, promoting electronics and amateur radio knowledge, advocating for good radio operating practices, and advancing the art of Amateur Radio, the club strives to create a vibrant community. Additionally, the club actively sponsors and promotes various activities related to amateur radio, provides crucial public service during emergencies, and actively engages in other community initiatives. FMARC is affiliated with and sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), which is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources.

For more information about the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC), please visit <https://www.fmarc.net>, or ARRL Field Day at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.