

For Immediate Release
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Fort Myers, Florida
Contact: Daniel Eaton
Public Information Officer
pio@fmarc.net
239-425-7914



Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club and ARES Partner for Jamboree-on-the-Air, Offering Scouts Hands-On Emergency Communications Training

FORT MYERS, FL – August 14, 2025 – The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC) is excited to announce a partnership with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for the upcoming Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), a worldwide Scouting event connecting young people through amateur radio. This collaboration will significantly expand the event's activities, offering Scouts a unique opportunity to learn critical emergency preparedness and communication skills.

Held annually on the third full weekend of October, JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world, bringing together over a million participants from more than 160 countries. The event requires no travel, instead connecting Scouts to ham radio operators, or "hams," who set up stations in local communities.

This year, the FMARC event will operate like a regular field day, with every station acting as a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. Scouts will be able to get on the air and complete Step 9a of the BSA Radio Merit Badge by logging 10-15 QSOs (contacts) in a 10-minute period. ARES's participation will add a new focus on Step 10a of the BSA Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, giving Scouts hands-on experience with emergency communications.

"We are thrilled to have ARES join us for this year's Jamboree-on-the-Air," said Ryan Bobnik, the chairman of the FMARC event. "Their expertise in emergency communications will provide an invaluable learning experience for the Scouts. This partnership aligns perfectly with our mission to recruit, train, and help ham radio operators provide essential emergency services to our community."

Scouts of all ages, from Cub Scouts to Venturers, can participate and learn about a variety of communication methods, including voice, video, and digital messaging. The event offers a chance to make contacts with people across town, the country, and even the world, exchanging information like their name, location (QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, and hobbies. Learn more about this event at <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>.

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is a volunteer organization dedicated to community service and educating the public about the benefits of amateur radio. Its members are committed to providing essential communication services during times of need.

About the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC)

The FMARC is a non-profit organization dedicated to recruiting, training, and supporting amateur radio operators. The club provides equipment and skilled operators for emergency services and is committed to educating the public about the history, function, and benefits of the Amateur Radio Service. FMARC members are dedicated to community service and adhere to the Amateur Radio Creed. Learn more about the club at FMARC.net or call 941-275-9145.

About the Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LeeARES)

ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is a national program of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio™. ARES in Lee County, Florida, is also known as LeeARES, a voluntary organization dedicated to providing emergency communications and support for events when requested by Lee County Emergency Management. ARES consists of licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer their time and skills to provide emergency communications that benefit the public when all other communication systems fail. Learn more about the Lee ARES at LeeARES.com or email acc-planning@leeares.com.