



For Immediate Release
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Local “Hams” Sharpen Their Skills for When Communication Matters Most

Fort Myers, Fla. – October 13, 2025 – When storms knock out power and cell towers go silent, a small but dedicated group of local hobbyists keeps Southwest Florida connected — the amateur radio operators of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club.

On Saturday, October 11th, club members gathered for a hands-on *Skills Day*, trading casual chatter for soldering irons, test meters, and antennas. The event focused on practical, real-world skills: soldering coax connectors for clear signal transmission, mastering test equipment, and setting up portable radios ready for emergency use.

“Amateur radio is fundamentally a technical service, and proficiency is paramount,” said **Carmine Vetrano**, club president. “Our Skills Day makes sure members aren’t just knowledgeable — they’re confident and capable when the community needs us most.”

Beyond the buzz of radios and the smell of warm solder, the day underscored what draws people to the hobby: teamwork, lifelong learning, and service. In disasters, when modern systems fail, these “hams” provide vital communication links for local emergency management and relief efforts.

Founded in 1957, the **Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC)** is one of Southwest Florida’s most active groups, affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The club promotes education, emergency readiness, and public service through training and community outreach.

To learn more or get involved, visit www.fmarc.net



From left to right, William White, Vice-President of FMARC, Rick Emerson, and Steve Clayton, Past President, FMARC, are focused upon proper soldering techniques.



Frank Bauer, KO4RTM, demonstrates the importance of watertight coax connectors to FMARC members.



William White, Vice-President of the Amateur Radio Club (left), points out the features of an emergency deployment “go-Box” to Bud Howard (front right)