



Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club

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Amateur radio operators demonstrate science, skill, and service

Milledgeville, GA - Members of the Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 24th at the Georgia College West Campus Pavilion. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

For over 100 years, Amateur Radio — sometimes called ham radio — has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. Field Day demonstrates ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network. Over 35,000 people from thousands of locations participated in Field Day in 2016.

"It's easy for anyone to pick up a computer or smartphone, connect to the Internet and communicate, with no knowledge of how the devices function or connect to each other," said Sean Kutzko of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio. "But if there's an interruption of service or you're out of range of a cell tower, you have no way to communicate. Ham radio functions completely independent of the Internet or cell phone infrastructure, can interface with tablets or smartphones, and can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. That's the beauty of Amateur Radio during a communications outage."

"Beyond preparing for a wide spread communications emergency, Field Day has grown into a major social event," says Daniel R. Simpson, Vice President of the Milledgeville club. "It is a chance to all get together, show off our equipment, learn from each other, and enjoy time and a meal together, all while being an open house for the hobby."

Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are over 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 5 and as old as 100. And with clubs such as Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club, it's easy for anybody to get involved right here in the Milledgeville community.

For more information about Field Day, visit wb4doj.org.

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