



**Clay County Amateur Radio
Emergency Services**



**The Orange Park Amateur
Radio Club**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amateur Radio “Field Day” June 25 – 26 Demonstrates Science, Skill and Service

May 9, 2016 – Members of the **Clay County Amateur Radio Emergency Service** and **Orange Park Amateur Radio Club** will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 25 – 26 at **Orange Park High School from 1 p.m. June 25 until 12 p.m. June 26**. 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 cellphone 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 2015.

“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 cellphone 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.”

“Hams can literally throw a wire in a tree for an antenna, connect it to a battery-powered transmitter and communicate halfway around the world,” Kutzko added. “Hams do this by using a layer of Earth’s atmosphere as a sort of mirror for radio waves. In today’s electronic do-it-yourself (DIY) environment, ham radio remains one of the best ways for people to learn about electronics, physics, meteorology and numerous other scientific disciplines, and is a huge asset to any community during disasters if the standard communication infrastructure goes down.”

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 **Clay County Amateur Radio Emergency Service** and **Orange Park Amateur Radio Club**, it’s easy for anybody to get involved right here in Clay County.

For more information about Field Day, contact Scott Roberts (904) 759-7812 or visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

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*Repeaters: 146.925 MHz
CC ARES Station Call sign — K14UWC
Website — <http://www.clayares.org>*

*Repeaters: 146.67 MHz
OPARC Station Call sign — K4BT
Website — <http://www.oparc.net>
...an American Radio Relay League affiliated club...*