

*For Immediate Release
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Amateur Radio Field Day Set to Begin Saturday

Beginning Saturday, June 25, members of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will join thousands of radio operators in North America who will participate in The American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) annual Field Day radio event.

The 24 hour event is the single most popular on-the-air amateur radio event held annually in the United States and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate radios from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

Several members of the Lewisville club will operate their radios from a campsite area on Lewisville Lake. There they will set up tents, cook their meals, and try to contact as many other radio operators as they compete in contests designed to make the event even more fun. The contests seek to encourage operators to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate their radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

Ham operators use these same skills when they help with events such as marathons, bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters.

Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations. The Lewisville club has sixty members and offers education to become an FCC registered amateur radio operator, and classes on continuing education covering a wide variety of subjects including emergency communications, weather reporting, and antenna technology.

For more information on how you can learn how to become a Ham Radio operator or participate in ARRL's Field Day, visit the webpage of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association at <https://w5lvc.com>