

For Immediate Release

Stanly County Amateur Radio Club to Participate in Annual Emergency Communications Exercise

For more information contact:
Stanly County Amateur Radio Club
www.k4ogb.org

Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Capabilities

Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 25-26, 2016

Stanly Co., NC - Thousands of Ham Radio Operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend. Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio (often called "Ham Radio") was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 25-26, 2016, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse Code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

An annual event called "Field Day," is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, many ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "When all else fails . . ." is more than just words to hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create has saved many lives in the past when other systems failed or were overloaded. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Locally, the Stanly County Amateur Radio Club will participate in Field Day from a site at the top of Morrow Mountain State Park. Local hams will meet on the site Saturday morning and erect antennas and set up radio equipment. Beginning at 2pm using emergency power, the group will operate for 24 hours while contacting other Field Day groups all over the country. The public is cordially invited to visit the Field Day site during regular park hours to see what Amateur Radio can do. With a licensed operator looking on, anyone wishing to make radio contacts during the event are welcome to do so.