

June 25, 2011

### **MARC starts Field Day operations today from staff reports The Meridian Star**

MERIDIAN - This weekend members of the Meridian Amateur Radio Club, along with other "ham" radio operators throughout the United States, will take to the airwaves for their annual Field Day event.

The event is organized by amateur radio's national organization, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Meridian area "hams" will gather on the property of Ross and Wanda Wingo at 3416 Causeyville Whynot Road in Causeyville for 24 hours of on-the-air operation, honing their skills and having some fun as club members have done since 1941.

The Field Day event begins at 1 p. m. today and will continue until 1 p. m. Sunday. For driving directions or more information about Field Day or MARC, visit the Web site [www.meridianarc.org](http://www.meridianarc.org). For more information about the National Association for Amateur Radio visit the Web site [www.aarl.org](http://www.aarl.org).

"We do this for several reasons," said Russell Brown, a member of the MARC's Field Day committee. "We want folks to come see what we do and how we do it. We want our members to practice the skills needed to quickly set up a station when we respond in emergencies. And not least of all, we do this because it's fun. There's a feeling I can't explain that comes from using basic equipment and hastily built wire antennas to talk all around the U. S. and Canada and beyond."

Brown also said that in recent years Field Day has attracted the interest of local emergency management and relief groups.

"They've had visitors and participants from the Emergency Management Agencies in Lauderdale and Newton counties and from Red Cross. It's not all about emergencies, but it's one of the things we do," Brown said.

"These agencies know that we can often provide communications when other systems fail. We're glad to help and some of our members are also members of these other agencies."