

**Contact: Doug Shields**  
Martin County Amateur Radio  
Association, Inc  
Phone 772-349-7820

PO Box 1901  
Stuart, FL 34995-1901

**MCARA**

# Press Release

## **Martin County Amateur Radio Association Free “Hamfest” Radio Show**

**At Stuart, Florida, March 21, 2009:**

On the third weekend in March each year hundreds of Amateur Radio operators and people interested in technology from all over the state come to the Martin County Fairgrounds in Stuart, Florida for the Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) **Stuart Hamfest**. The 34<sup>th</sup> annual event will be open from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

The Stuart Hamfest will host educational forums where anyone may learn about emergency communications, amateur satellite communications, talking to hams all over the world, and how to get started in the hobby. We have a prize drawing at the end of the day with over \$1500 in Amateur radio prizes on raffle.

**A special feature will be a presentation by Mr. Scott Spratt, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, from the Melbourne office of the National Weather Service.** Mr. Spratt will show us how to identify hazardous weather conditions and report them to the National Weather Service.

Amateur Radio operators or "Hams" meet at our hamfest to buy, sell, and trade radios, computers, and electronics. You may see anything from vacuum tubes to the newest high tech gadgets offered by hams, non-hams, and commercial vendors. If you ever wondered what ham radio was about, several additional ham clubs from nearby areas will be in attendance with friendly people to answer any questions you may have. The hobby is open to people of all ages and abilities and is a vital resource in times of emergency such as natural disasters.

We will have an exam session scheduled for 12:30 PM for those wishing to take their first Amateur Radio license exam or license upgrade. If you put off getting your license because of Morse code, you should be aware knowledge of Morse is no longer required. Ask us for details on the next ham radio class in Stuart.

**Admission is free.** Outside tailgate (vendor) space is also free. Contact us for availability of inside swap tables and commercial vendor spaces at modest rates. **Anyone interested in Amateur Radio, electronics, emergency communications, weather watching, and technology is invited to join the fun and learn how to make new friends all over the world.**

More information:

Martin County Amateur Radio Association

<http://www.mcaraweb.com>

Hamfest Chairman: Doug Shields W4DAS

Email: [hamfest@mcara.com](mailto:hamfest@mcara.com)

MCARA is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL® <http://www.arrl.org>) affiliated club.

**For Release 9 a.m. EDT, March 12, 2009**