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MCARA

Press Release

Radio Amateurs mark Signal Corps' 150th Anniversary

At Jonathan Dickinson Park, Hobe Sound, Florida, June 19-20th, 2010:

The third weekend in June the US Army Signal Corps marks it's 150th Anniversary of "getting the message through" and in that same spirit Radio Amateurs will gather and operate worldwide radio systems at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, formerly the site of the **Southern Signal Corps School** known as **Camp Murphy, FL**. Thousands of soldiers of trained at the school during WWII learning radio and RADAR operations as part of the *801st Signal Training Regiment*; however due to wartime secrecy, much of the activity was not publicly known. The "on-air" event will be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, June 19 and 20th, 2010. The event is free and normal admission fees for the Park apply. The operations will be held near the bunker at the Hobe Mountain tower- the highest natural point south of Okeechobee.

The Southern Signal Corps School camp was named in honor of Col. Wm H Murphy, formerly head of the Fort Monmouth Signal Corps Laboratory who lost his life early in WWII. As a further tribute to Col Murphy and all Signal Corps members, our first planned "over-the-air" contact is with Col Murphy's grandson via Amateur Radio operators located in his home town near Vienna, VA.

At the beginning of WWII the Signal Corps transferred all Aircraft Warning training (AW, later called RADAR) to the Southern Signal Corps School at Camp Murphy, Florida. The camp was built in record time (about 4 months) and has over nine miles of roadways. Among others, [Colonel David Sarnoff](#) (Radio/TV pioneer, then president of RCA and NBC) was present at the Hobe Sound camp dedication ceremonies which were broadcast over a State-wide radio network in 1942.

People interested in the history, technology, and Amateur Radio are welcome to visit the operation. At 2:00 PM Saturday, Park Ranger Barry Richardson will have a presentation on the Camp History at the park Education Center. We will have a special station for visitors to use and facilitate communications around the world using state of the art methods. This is not your Grandfather's ham radio- many of today's hams use the latest computer software, state of the art gear, and digital gadgets. If you ever wondered what ham radio is about, we have friendly people here to answer any questions. Our hobby is open to people of all ages and abilities and is a vital community resource in times of emergency.

The event is sponsored by the non-profit Martin County Amateur Radio Association, serving Martin County since 1976.

Martin County Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.mcaraweb.com/signal-corps-150.html>
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MCARA is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL® <http://www.arrl.org>) affiliated club.

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