

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
AND
GWINNETT COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

May 7, 2002

FOREWORD

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., (ARRL) is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs, bonded for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation, for the relaying of messages by radio, for the advancement of the radio art, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, for the maintenance of fraternalism, and a high standard of “on the air” operating conduct. A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio service, as established by Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission’s regulations, is the performance of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency when normal communications are not available. Using Amateur Radio operators on frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service, the ARRL has been in the forefront of this service direct to the general public and through government and relief agencies, and continues to do so. To that end, in 1935, the ARRL organized the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, now called the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and in 1949, the ARRL created the National Traffic System (NTS). Together, ARES and NTS comprise the ARRL’s public service field organization of volunteer Radio Amateurs.

The Gwinnett County, Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Gwinnett ARES) is the local representative of the ARRL’s national structure and represents those Amateur Radio operators in Gwinnett County with an interest in providing communications services support to agencies serving the public during emergency situations.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between the Gwinnett ARES and Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS). This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer ARES and NTS personnel, of the ARRL field organization, will coordinate Amateur Radio emergency communications network resources with GARS for the use of GARS’ communications assets for disaster relief communications. Included is the use of GARS communications assets for a regular Gwinnett ARES directed net and special events and training activities conducted by Gwinnett ARES after coordination.

II. DEFINITION OF A DISASTER

A disaster is an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, blizzard, fire, explosion, volcanic eruption, building collapse, commercial transportation accident, or other situations that cause human suffering or human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

III. RECOGNITION

GARS recognizes that the extensive volunteer Field Organization of the ARRL, represented by the Gwinnett ARES, is the official ARRL representative to Served Agencies within Gwinnett County for providing aid in maintaining the continuity of communications, during disasters, when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

The Gwinnett ARES recognizes GARS as an amateur radio organization located in Gwinnett County Georgia, with the objectives of promoting interest in Amateur Radio, and public service, the advancement of the radio art, the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among radio amateurs, the promotion of allied activities, and the encouragement of family participation in amateur radio activities. It is also the policy of GARS to support other amateur radio groups with kindred objectives. GARS has demonstrated a special interest in serving the community, having been recognized as an ARRL Special Service Club, and desires to support Gwinnett ARES with technical assets in support of disaster communications when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded or needs require communications not readily available via other means.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF GARS

GARS is governed by its officers of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Is also has a Board of Directors comprised of the President and the past two presidents to function in legal matters pertaining to the organization. Chairpersons are appointed for specific functions such as Field Day coordination, repeater support, information and others.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The American Radio League is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the 15 persons who are elected by the membership. Its headquarters is located in Newington, Connecticut. Since 1914, the ARRL has been the standard-bearer in amateur radio affairs throughout the United States. The ARRL has a field organization that covers the United States and U. S. Territories. The field organization is administered by elected Section Managers in the 69 ARRL sections. (A section is an ARRL created political boundary roughly equivalent to states or portion thereof.) Emergency communications are provided by the ARRL sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Organized under the Section Manager, and directed by a Section Emergency Coordinator, the ARES field organization consists of District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators, who provide leadership and training for the thousands of ARES members. The Section Manager for Georgia has appointed an Emergency Coordinator to provide support for Gwinnett County Georgia and its municipalities.

VII. METHOD OF COOPERATION

GARS agrees to allow the Gwinnett ARES to assume operational control of GARS repeater systems located in Gwinnett County during times requiring disaster communications as defined in Section II for the purpose of conducting formal nets in support of such disaster communications requirements.

Gwinnett ARES will assist in maintaining such systems during the disaster period by providing additional technical assistance.

If material resources, such as fuel for generator operation, are required, Gwinnett ARES will solicit support from its served agencies to provide assistance in procuring such logistical support.

For Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society:

For Gwinnett ARES:

Signature

Signature

Name: Ike Chapman, K4WEC

W. Stanley (Stan) Edwards, WA4DYD

Title: President

Emergency Coordinator

Date: 5/7/2002

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