

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
METRO ATLANTA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
AND
GWINNETT COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

February 20, 2003

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 Metro Atlanta Communications Group (MACG) is a group of individuals with a common interest in promoting the use of higher-frequency amateur radio spectrum and providing a repeater to help support Gwinnett ARES and the community, as well as serving as a “gathering place” for members of MACG.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between the Gwinnett ARES and Metro Atlanta Communications Group (MACG). 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 MACG for the use of MACG’s repeater, located on Gwinnett Medical Center, for disaster relief communications. Included is the use of MACG communications system for special events and training activities conducted by Gwinnett ARES after coordination with the Trustee of the repeater.

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

MACG 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 MACG as an amateur radio organization with the objectives of promoting interest in Amateur Radio and public service, the advancement of the radio art, and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among radio amateurs. It is also the desire of MACG to support the objectives of Gwinnett ARES through the use of its repeater 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 MACG

MACG operates its repeater under a Trustee and is supported through the efforts and contributions of its participating amateur radio operators, and with the cooperation of Gwinnett Medical Center in providing space and electrical power.

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

MACG agrees to allow the Gwinnett ARES to assume operational control of the MACG repeater system located in Gwinnett County during times requiring disaster

