

CONSTITUTION OF THE MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE CORPS

PREAMBLE

Amateur radio is a service devoted to technical investigation, communication and public service. After passing an examination, Amateurs are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Amateurs have worldwide communications capability, conduct propagation experiments, engage in public service communications, contribute to the advancement of the radio art, advance their skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art, maintain a reservoir of trained operators, technicians and technical electronics experts and contribute to international good will. The Amateur Radio Public Service Corps encompasses the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) programs.

NAME

This organization shall be known as The Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps.

PURPOSE

The purposes for which the organization exists are as follows: Emergency and Public Service Communications. This organization is structured for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, and shall restrict its activities to those permitted under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ORGANIZATION

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES): Every licensed Radio Amateur in Monroe County (including those living outside the county but whose interest lies in the county) whether or not a member of the ARRL or any other organization is eligible for membership in the Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The only qualification other than possessing a valid amateur license, is a sincere desire to serve.

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is organized independent from any other club or group of amateurs in the county and participation in this organization does not obligate anyone to join any other club or organization.

Since the Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is an Amateur Radio service, only FCC licensed Radio Amateurs are eligible for membership.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a part of the nationwide Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, which is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, of Newington, Conn. However, each local ARES group functions as an independent local unit. The Monroe County ARES attempts to provide emergency communications to the Monroe County area, and to assist other ARES units when requested to do so. The leadership of the Monroe County ARES shall lie with the Emergency Coordinator and his assistants, who shall form the emergency planning committee. The Emergency Coordinator (EC) shall be formally appointed by the Michigan Section Manager of the ARRL, following the recommendations of the local ARES planning committee, Board of Directors and general membership. There shall be as many Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC) as deemed necessary to properly serve the various agencies requesting emergency and public service communications. These AECs shall be appointed by the Emergency Coordinator from the membership, and each shall have a specific area of responsibility (but will not be solely limited to that area in his or her service). AEC appointments shall be for one year or until the next January 1, whichever is lesser.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES): RACES is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States government. RACES is a part of the Amateur Radio Service that provides radio communications for CIVIL PREPAREDNESS PURPOSES ONLY, during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. RACES operation is authorized by the FCC at the request of a state or federal official and is strictly limited to official civil preparedness activity if there is an emergency communications situation. These emergencies are not limited to war related activities, but can include natural disasters such as fires, floods and earthquakes.

The Monroe County RACES will operate under the guidance of the RACES Radio Officer as appointed by the Monroe County Director of Emergency Management. The Monroe County RACES Plan will be activated upon order of the Emergency Management Division Director/Coordinator or his duly appointed alternate. This would be expected under any or all of the following conditions:

- A. Notification from State Government of "Increased Readiness Posture".
(RACES Station will be manned on a 24-hour basis.)
- B. Notification from State Government of "Highest State of Readiness".
(Provide dual man coverage of RACES Station on a 24-hour basis and activate RACES Network.)

Operation under either of the above conditions will follow a format which varies from normal ARES operation.

- A. Operation will be conducted on assigned frequencies as directed by the County RACES plan and as dictated by the state RACES plan.

- B. As with all emergencies, the precise network format will be determined by the nature of the emergency.

The Monroe County RACES Plan will be amended, if necessary, to provide full interface with the state and national programs.

Requirements for RACES membership are (1) the possession of a valid amateur radio license, (2) the certificate of successful completion of the IS-2 training program,(3) a sincere desire to provide public service and (4) additional training as directed by Monroe County Emergency Management Division and/or the state plan.

Security measures under the RACES plan will comply with Section XI of the Monroe County Communications Annex.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than three persons. With the exception of the original Board members, the Board shall be elected from the general membership at an advertised annual meeting. No more than one Director shall hold an elected or appointed position with the Monroe County Radio Communications Association. No more than one Director shall hold an elected or appointed position with the River Raisin Repeater Association. Directors shall be elected for one-year terms, election shall be held at the December meeting of each year. Term shall be from January 1 to January 1. The function of the Board of Directors is to oversee and approve the disbursement/spending of any funds. The Board of Directors will be responsible for creating an annual report; this report shall be presented to the Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer for approval and signatures. One copy of the annual report shall become part of the Monroe County ARPSC records, a second copy will be presented to the Monroe County Radio Communications Association. The Board of Directors will not have any effect on the actual operation of Monroe County ARPSC. Daily/disaster operations will remain under control of the Emergency Coordinator and his assistants and the Races Officer and his assistants.

NATURE OF SERVICE

The primary function of the Monroe County ARPSC shall be to provide emergency communications for public assistance in times of need or distress. The role of ARPSC is not to replace, but rather augment existing communications systems during a communications emergency. A communications emergency is said to exist when customary communications circuits are interrupted or overloaded, when a need for communications exists, when there are no customary communication circuits or when interagency communications needs must be met.

The Monroe County ARPSC will to the best of it's ability, realizing that it is a volunteer organization, provide needed emergency and public service communications for governmental and private helping agencies. All activities and communications will be under Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations.

Agencies to whom service will be offered will include but not limited to the National Weather Service, Emergency Management Division, Police and Fire Departments, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and similar organizations through the ARES program. The priorities of service may change and therefore will be determined by the Emergency Coordinator and/or assistants depending upon the nature of the specific conditions. When time and conditions permit, the ARES may also elect to serve various agencies such as the March of Dimes, National Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, etc. with non-emergency public service communications.

The RACES program will supply communications support for governmental agencies, such as the Emergency Management Division. The priorities of service may change and therefore will be determined by the RACES Officer and Emergency Management Director or his designate.

An emergency plan shall be maintained which will provide detailed instructions concerning the organizations or the Monroe County ARPSC, its relationship with its served agencies and instructions for actual emergency procedure. This plan shall be updated and maintained as required to meet the changing needs of the community.

EARNINGS

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furthering the purpose set forth. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

In the event of dissolution, all assets, real and personal shall be distributed to such organizations as are qualified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future United State Internal Revenue Code.

AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The amending of this document shall be done in the following manner: (1) Any amendment proposal must be presented in the form of a motion with proper second and approval by the membership. (2) Publish proposed amendment 30 days in advance include: existing wording, proposed wording, proxy ballot and date, time and place of the meeting. (3) 51% affirmative of votes received, in person, or by proxy shall constitute an acceptable amendment.