

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Summit county Amateur Radio Emergency Service

and

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

1. Introduction

- A. A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service, as established by Part 97 of the Federal Communication Commission's regulations (47CFR), is the performance of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency when normal communication systems may be disrupted or inadequate.
- B. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a nationwide field organization sponsored by the American Radio Relay League Inc. (ARRL) and is managed by respective Emergency Coordinators at the state, district, and county level. It is at the county level where most of the emergency preparedness planning, organizing and training is accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders have direct contact with ARES members, amateur radio clubs and groups, and officials of the served agencies.
- C. The Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (hereafter referred to as SUMCO-ARES) is comprised of licensed amateurs who reside and/or work within Summit County, Ohio and who have voluntarily registered their equipment and skills and have expressed a desire to organize, train and be prepared to provide auxiliary communication services for public service agencies and other relief organizations when disaster strikes or whenever called upon.
- D. The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (hereafter referred to as CFARC) was originally founded in 1955 to provide communications for Civil Defense in Northern Summit County. CFARC is an ARRL affiliated club and was incorporated as an Ohio Not For Profit Corporation in 1993. CFARC functions to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism, and individual operating efficiency, to promote public service and disaster communications, and to conduct Club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in Summit County.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to strengthen the existing cooperative relationship between SUMCO-ARES and CFARC and to establish an understanding within which SUMCO-ARES and CFARC will provide and coordinate Amateur Radio communication networks, equipment, and volunteers to support disaster relief operations within Summit County, Ohio.

3. Recognitions

- A. SUMCO-ARES recognizes CFARC as an autonomous Summit County amateur radio club which owns, operates, and maintains repeater facilities as well as conducting public service, educational and other club activities.

- B. CFARC recognizes SUMCO-ARES as the local organization responsible for planning and coordinating overall countywide emergency preparedness and operations in Summit County in support of Summit County public safety agencies, the Summit County American Red Cross Chapter and other Summit County agencies and disaster relief organizations.

4. Method of Cooperation

For the communications resources of SUMCO-ARES and CFARC to be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, CFARC and SUMCO-ARES have agreed to the following:

- A. CFARC agrees to make its repeater system available to SUMCO-ARES for use during times of emergency such as earthquakes, floods, fires, transportation accidents, hazardous material releases, civil unrest, and other natural or manmade disasters.
- B. CFARC also agrees that its repeater system can be used for SUMCO-ARES training and public service events upon request. SUMCO-ARES agrees that requests to use the repeater system will be made to the CFARC prior to the proposed date to avoid conflict with other scheduled use of the repeater system. CFARC approval will not be unreasonably withheld.
- C. CFARC will also encourage it's members to participate in the SUMCO-ARES program and take emergency communications training to prepare to be of service to the residents of Summit County when needed.
- D. CFARC and SUMCO-ARES will make available copies of this agreement to their respective organization's members and include it with their organization's documents.

5. Implementation

- A. CFARC agrees that emergency use of its repeater system can begin without notification to CFARC officials in the event of an emergency incident such as those described above.
- B. The CFARC repeater system is privately and reasonably maintained by CFARC. CFARC cannot be held liable for failure, whether or not the failure is caused by emergencies described above, or the future availability of the repeater system. CFARC cannot be required to effect repairs to restore communications.
- C. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by the CFARC President, the CFARC trustee of W8VPV, and the SUMCO-ARES Emergency Coordinator. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties. Either party may terminate this memorandum upon 60 days written notice.

Robert McFadden Date:12-Oct-2005
Robert McFadden, K8RJM, President,
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Inc

Lawrence Fields Date:18-Oct-2005
Lawrence Fields, WD8ITF, Emergency Coordinator
Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Bruce M. Ferry Date:12-Oct-2005
Bruce M. Ferry, AK8B, Trustee, W8VPV
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc