

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**The Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (AKA
LeeARES Inc.) and
The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

Introduction

The 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, particularly in times of emergency when normal communication systems may be disrupted or inadequate.

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 levels. It is at the county level where most of the emergency preparedness planning, organizing, and training is accomplished. The county level 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.

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (hereafter referred to as FMARC) is an ARRL-affiliated club and was incorporated as a Florida not-for-profit Corporation. FMARC 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 to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in Southwest Florida. FMARC is an ARRL Special Services Club. As part the designation as a Special Services Club, FMARC recognizes the need to support and participate in ARES and to provide assistance in emergencies.

The Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, also known as LeeARES Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation (hereafter referred to as LeeARES) is comprised of licensed amateurs who reside and/or work within Lee County, Florida, 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 called upon.

Purpose

- The purpose of this document is to strengthen the existing cooperative relationship between LeeARES and FMARC and to establish an understanding within which LeeARES and FMARC will provide and coordinate, including but not limited to Amateur Radio communication networks, equipment, and volunteers to support disaster relief operations within Lee County, Florida.

Recognitions

- LeeARES recognizes FMARC as an autonomous Amateur Radio Club that owns, operates, and maintains amateur radio facilities as well as conducts public service, educational, and other club activities.
- FMARC recognizes LeeARES as the local organization responsible for the providing amateur radio back up emergency communications under the direction of ARRL, the FCC and Lee County Emergency Management. LeeARES coordinates in-depth planning and implementation of the amateur backup communications plan which is part of the overall countywide emergency preparedness and operations in Lee County. It supports Lee County public safety agencies, other Lee County agencies and disaster relief organizations.

Method of Cooperation

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

- FMARC agrees to make amateur radio facilities available to LeeARES for use during times of emergency including but not limited to, hurricanes, floods, fires, transportation accidents, hazardous material releases, civil unrest, and other natural or manmade disasters or major events.
- FMARC also agrees that its amateur radio facilities can be used for LeeARES training and public service events upon request. LeeARES agrees that requests to use the aforementioned facilities will be made to the FMARC prior to the proposed date to avoid conflict with other scheduled uses. Further FMARC approval will not be required in the event of emergencies.
- FMARC will also encourage its members to participate in the LeeARES program and take emergency communications training to prepare to be of service to the residents of Lee County when needed.
- LeeARES will encourage its members to join and become involved in FMARC to further their understanding and support of amateur radio.
- LeeARES will annually share its membership information with FMARC so that FMARC may solicit membership in its organization.
- FMARC and LeeARES will make available copies of this agreement to their respective organization's members and include them with their organization's documents.

Implementation

- FMARC agrees that emergency use of its aforementioned facilities can begin without notification to FMARC officials in the event of an emergency incident such as those described above.

- The aforementioned FMARC facilities are privately and reasonably maintained by FMARC. FMARC cannot be held liable for any failure. FMARC cannot be required to effect repairs to restore communications.
- FMARC and LeeARES recognize the usefulness of the FMARC Emergency Communications Trailer. LeeARES may request deployment of the trailer and equipment during an emergency, upon the request of a served agency. FMARC's policies and procedures regarding transportation of the trailer will be adhered to by LeeARES unless a specific exception is granted by the President of FMARC or their designee. In the event of activation or deployment by LeeARES, the actual operation of communications equipment in the trailer will be under the direction of LeeARES and by LeeARES designated and trained individuals.
- This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by the FMARC President, and the LeeARES Emergency Coordinator. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties. Either party may terminate this memorandum upon 60 days written notice.

Date: _____

**Robert Lewis, N8GU, President,
 Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Inc**

Date _____

**Richard Schnieders, KR4PI, Emergency Coordinator
 Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 LeeARES Inc.**

Date _____

**Barry Porter, KB1PA, Section Manager
 South Florida Section
 ARRL**