

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE)
and
Tippecanoe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
October 23, 2008

Forward

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., (ARRL) is a noncommercial membership organization of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service, as established by the Federal Communications Commission, is the rendering of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency. Using Amateur Radio volunteers operating in the amateur frequency bands, the ARRL has been serving the public, both directly and through government and relief agencies, for more than fifty years. To that end, the League created the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARES is a major component of the ARRL's public service field organization of volunteer Radio Amateurs.

Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE) are amateur radio operators with an interest in promoting the use of the amateur radio spectrum, and own and operate an amateur radio repeater system (W9ARP) to help provide emergency communications for the community.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between Tippecanoe County ARES and Mark McGregor and R. Bruce Stewart. This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer ARES personnel will coordinate amateur radio emergency communications network resources with Mark McGregor and R. Bruce Stewart for the use of their D-STAR repeater system, located in West Lafayette, Indiana, for disaster relief communications. Included is the use of the W9ARP repeater system for special events and training activities conducted by Tippecanoe County ARES.

2. Definition of a Disaster

A disaster is an occurrence such as a tornado, violent storm, flood, earthquake, blizzard, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation accident, or other situation that causes human suffering, or causes human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

3. Recognition

Mark McGregor and R. Bruce Stewart recognize that the extensive volunteer Field Organization of the ARRL, represented by the Tippecanoe County ARES, is the official ARRL representative to Served Agencies within Tippecanoe County for providing aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters, when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

Tippecanoe County ARES recognizes Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE) as amateur radio operators with the objectives of promoting interest in amateur radio and public service, the advancement of the radio art, and the promotion of high standards of conduct among radio amateurs. It is also the desire of Mark McGregor and R. Bruce Stewart to support the objectives of Tippecanoe County ARES through the use of their repeater system in support of disaster communications when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded, or needs requiring communications are not readily available via other means.

4. Resources of Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE)

Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE) own and operate the W9ARP D-STAR repeaters on 444.300 MHz (input 449.300 MHz) and 146.730 MHz (input 146.130 MHz), which are supported through their own efforts and contributions, and with the cooperation of the Indiana Veterans Home, in West Lafayette, Indiana, in providing space and electrical power. An Internet link for D-STAR Gateway access is also provided to the repeater system, in cooperation with Kevin Crow (KA9VXS). No guarantee is provided or implied that these resources will be available at any particular time.

5. Organization of the ARRL and ARES

The ARRL is organized in relevant part, for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation; the establishment of Amateur Radio networks to provide electronic communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies; the furtherance of the public welfare; the advancement of the radio art; the fostering and promotion of noncommercial intercommunication by electronic means throughout the world; and for related purposes. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 15 persons who are elected on a regional basis 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 Field Organization covers the United States and U.S. territories. The field organization is administered by elected Section Managers in the ARRL Sections (a section is an ARRL-created political boundary roughly equivalent to states or portions 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 includes District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators, who provide leadership and training for the thousands of ARES members. The Section Manager for Indiana has appointed an Emergency Coordinator to provide support for Tippecanoe County Indiana and its municipalities.

6. Method of Cooperation

Mark McGregor (KB9KHM) and R. Bruce Stewart (N9GKE) agree to allow Tippecanoe County ARES to assume temporary operational control of the W9ARP repeater system during times requiring disaster communications as defined in Section 2, for the purpose of conducting directed nets in support of such disaster communications requirements. Included is the temporary operational control of the W9ARP repeater system for special events and training activities conducted by Tippecanoe County ARES.

Tippecanoe County ARES will cooperate in maintaining such systems during the disaster period by providing technical assistance. If material resources are required, Tippecanoe County ARES will contact Mark McGregor and R. Bruce Stewart to request and coordinate assistance in procuring such logistical support.

For the W9ARP Repeaters:

For Tippecanoe County ARES:

Name: Mark McGregor, KB9KHM
 Title: Owner, W9ARP controller, gateway,
 and 444.300 MHz D-STAR repeater
 Trustee of W9ARP license
 Date: 23 OCT 2008
 Signed: 23 JUL 2009

Name: R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE
 Title: Emergency Coordinator, Tippecanoe
 County ARES
 Date: 23 OCT 2008
 Signed: 23 JUL 2009

Name: R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE
 Title: Owner, W9ARP 146.730 MHz
 D-STAR repeater
 Date: 23 OCT 2008
 Signed: 23 JUL 2009

Name: Stephen M. Parker, WR9A
 Title: Assistant Emergency Coordinator for
 Operations, Tippecanoe County ARES
 Date: 23 OCT 2008
 Signed: 23 JUL 2009