

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Woods River Chapter of the American Red Cross
And
Twin County Emergency Amateur Radio Service
(EARS)
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
(RACES)**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between the local EARS/RACES Unit and the local jurisdiction or served agency with that jurisdiction. This document will serve as a framework with which volunteers, EARS/RACES personnel will coordinate amateur radio emergency communications, equipment, and personnel in the event of a communications emergency or disaster.

II. Recognition

The local EARS/RACES unit recognizes the political jurisdictional leaders or leadership of the Served agencies as having the responsibility to manage and coordinate the resources of the government or their agencies to respond to disaster and other civil emergencies. The local political jurisdictional leaders and served agency leaders recognize EARS/RACES as the Official amateur radio organization to respond to non-declared disasters and emergencies as well as declared emergencies and disasters. The served volunteer agencies recognize the EARS Radio Officer as the chief message handler for their respective agencies. The local governmental agencies recognize RACES (Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Service) under the leadership of the Emergency Radio Officer as their chief message handler.

III. Lines of Responsibility

The jurisdictional political leaders and served agency leadership will call upon the EARS/RACES organization when they deem support for their

communications would be enhanced and supported by trained amateur radio operators. These operators will serve without any compensation. They will not originate any messaging, but will only pass the messages of the jurisdictional or served agency leaders. EARS/RACES will also try to make itself available to cooperate during disaster training, communications exercises, and simulated emergency test set up by jurisdictional or served agency leadership.

IV. Plan of Operation

EARS/RACES will assist in supporting the Red Cross with communications within Carroll, Grayson, Wythe Counties and the City of Galax, or when the ARC is deployed to other counties. Our assistance will be provided by operating from the base station at the chapter house, and in the field. The EARS/RACES teams will make themselves available especially in areas and at times when maintaining communications with the Red Cross communications system is difficult or impossible.

V. Effective Dates

This agreement will be initiated as of the date indicated below and shall remain in effect. Unless terminated by written notification from either party to the other.

Signed this day, 12-19-08

Signature of Joan Isom

American Red Cross

(Jurisdictional or Served Agency Leader Name) (Title)

Blair H. Sage W4GHS
(EARS Emergency Coordinator for Volunteer Agency)
(Emergency Radio Officer for government agency)