

**Genesee County**  
**Radio Communications Meeting Notes**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**3:00 PM**

Introductions were made.

**Attendees:**

Dave Ackley	Genesee County 911
Jen Boyer	Genesee County Emergency Management
Bob Cairnduff	Genesee County Fire Chiefs Assoc/Fenton City Fire
Brent Cole	Genesee County Fire Chiefs Assoc/Swartz Creek Fire
Dale Collins	MSCG, Inc. (Michigan Specialized Communications Group)
Jeff Frost	MSCG, Inc.
Bob Grieve	MSCG, Inc.
Tom Lange	MSCG, Inc.
John McDonough	ARRL Michigan Section
Eric Merriam	Genesee County Fire Chiefs Assoc/Swartz Creek Fire
Joe Tuscher	ARES District 3 Coordinator
Dale Williams	ARRL Michigan Section
Tami Yorks	Genesee County Emergency Management

T. Yorks has brought everyone together today to cut through the he said, she said and find out what is going on with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group. All of the agencies here at the table are affected by the changes and would like this group to decide on how we are going to move forward from here with radio communications. Tami turned the meeting over to Eric Merriam who asked for the meeting.

E. Merriam would like to know what is going on with the Amateur Radio Group.

D. Collins through trying to correct problems of the past and to move forward and continue to offer services in Genesee County, our group has gone through a name transformation and reorganization. The negative emails everyone has been receiving is from a group of four or five people that are unhappy with the changes.

**History:**

1978	Genesee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (Genesee County ARES) incorporated.
1979	Filed for 501c Status
1981	Did not update 501c status (and lost the status without knowledge)
1985	ARRL registered the ARES name and any organization using that name had to run under ARRL rules. Genesee County ARES decided to keep their name and adopt the ARRL rules.

GCARES was a registered corporation that held the equipment and insurance for Amateur Radio Operators (the business side of things).

ARES doesn't own anything it is just made up of operators.

When GCARES recently went to provide information to a company that wanted to donate equipment to them, it was realized that 30 years ago the organization at that time did not continue to follow through with the paperwork and the organization had lost its 501c status. In order to keep that status GCARES would have to show the last 30 years of accounting, and with an organization made of volunteers, many of those that were handling things 30 years ago no longer around, this task was impossible. So the only other option was to create a “new organization” and dissolve GCARES under it.

At the last GCARES Board Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>, GCARES Board all voted to transfer equipment and dissolve under MARET (who has a registered name and liability insurance and is currently filing for 501c), except one Board Member, which passed the motion.

MARET has every intention of working with ARES and RACES. MARET would like to expand what services it can offer to the community.

D. Ackley stated that he heard that one of the ARES members had an 800 mhz radio that belonged to the Genesee County 911 system and would like it back to his office by tomorrow.

D. Collins said he was given one by City of Flint 911 director Steve Todd and Dale notified a supervisor at Genesee County 911 of the radio ID and that he had it.

After much discussion it was determined by the group that at this time things will continue to run as in the past. The Office of Emergency Management authorizes RACES cards and will be consulting local Law Enforcement and Fire about individuals before issuing a RACES card and at any time the Office of Emergency Management has the right to pull that RACES card and the individual would not be able to respond. The group would like to see agencies to sign agreements with MARET using only those members with RACES cards and that they are properly identified on scenes. It most likely will take a few months before this will be complete due to drawing up agreements and giving time to increase RACES membership.

T. Yorks would like to get together with Fire and Police Chiefs Association representatives, as well as 911 Dispatch to put a process together of review applicants for RACES cards.

Definition/Notes:

ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Requirements: 18 years of age or older/HAM license

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (Blue Card)

Requirements: ARES requirements and IS 100, 200, 700, 800 and Background Check.

GCARES - Genesee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

MSCG, Inc – Michigan Specialized Communications Group, Inc.

MARET – Michigan Amateur Radio Emergency Teams

Requirements: RACES (Blue Card).