**Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue**

**Emergency Radio Operators / RACES**

**Mission Statement**

"**BEFORE** NORMAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS FAILS..."

Our group is a registered unit of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), attached to the Wood County Sheriff Rescue.

We are a group of trained and dedicated volunteer Amateur Radio Operators

with the mission to provide SKYWARN and Auxiliary or Emergency Communications Support, through Amateur Radio.

Our Group can be activated to provide extra “eyes and ears” to the Sheriff’s Office on the Fourth of July, Halloween or any other special event.

Our group also provides communications support to the Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Team and other units of the Sheriff’s Office.

Participation in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day, and provision of communications support at ARES public service events are also activities in which members may participate and are encouraged to do so.

Our goal is to maintain communications in an emergency or
disaster when normal commercial services are

"Overloaded" or "Out of Service."

In order to maintain a continual state of readiness,

members train in basic and advanced principles of emergency radio communications, including emergency power, field operations and antenna systems.

**"Amateur Radio is our hobby.  Emergency Communications is our commitment."**

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**Volunteer Membership Requirements**

  If you are interested in joining us, and can meet the membership requirements listed below, please stop by the Sheriff’s office at the Wood County Courthouse and pick up an application for the Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue with the Emergency Radio Operators / RACES addendum and either bring it to one of our monthly meetings or mail it to:

*Wood County Sheriff’s Office*

*Emergency Radio Operators / RACES*

*400 Market Street - PO Box 8095*

*Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495-8095*

Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operators / RACES members serve at the direction of the Chief Amateur Radio Communications Leader or his/her designee, who is the authority for approval of initial and continued membership. Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES is a unit of the Wood Sheriff Rescue program.

A. **Initial Requirements**

* Active Status. A current U. S. Amateur Radio license, Technician Class or higher.
* Associate Status. Persons actively working toward their amateur radio license.
* 18 years of age or older. No maximum age.
* Submission of a completed Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue application with the Emergency Radio Operators / RACES addendum and approval by the Chief Amateur Radio Communications Leader or his/her designee
* Most importantly, a desire to serve and a willingness to implement those good intentions.

B. **On-Going Requirements for Active Status**

* Possess a valid U. S. amateur radio license, Technician Class or higher.
* Maintain membership in Wood County Nixle to receive official notifications.
* Maintain EVOC yearly if authorized to operate a county owned vehicle.
* Actively participate in emergency call outs, training and meetings

C. **Participation**

Must document participation in activities totaling 12 hours each year, which may include:

* Participate in by-yearly SKYWARN training (for active spotters)
* Participate in independent training, such as online EMCOMM and ICS training courses and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.
* Participate in Amateur radio nets, including RACES, NTS, ARES, EMCOMM and MARS nets, at least once each month. Adjacent counties also qualify for count. Maintain your own records.
* Participate as an individual volunteer in Amateur Radio public service support activities, at least once each year.
* Participate in communications support of the Sheriff’s Department and other governmental units and functions.
* Participate in Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES activities.
* Participate in technical support of Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES related Amateur radio facilities.
* Participate in monthly membership meetings and quarterly exercises.
* Completion of Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES Orientation Training
* Completion of FEMA courses ICS 100, IS 200 and 700 either on-line or locally. Submit certificates to the Chief Amateur Radio Communications Leader or his/her designee

D. **Radio Equipment Requirements – Mutual Aid**

All active members will maintain personal owned or assigned two meter radio equipment programmed with the local repeater channels of 146.790 MHz, 114.8; 147.330 MHz, 114.8 and 147.180 MHz, 114.8 at minimum.

For purpose of Mutual Aid with local ARES units, all members’ radios will also be programmed with the ARES NE District Simplex frequencies as noted:

NEV 1: 146.400 107.2; NEV 2: 146.430 151.4; NEV 3: 147.420 162.2; NEV 4: 147.480 173.8

NEV 5: 146.580 186.2; NE-VPR: RX: 146.460 TX: 147.460 CTCSS: 114.8

E. **Reserved**

F. **Attire**

There is no uniform mandate at this time.

G. **ID/Membership: Duration, custody, issue and return**

* All Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES memberships are “at will”, meaning that the membership may be terminated by either the member or the organization at any time.
* Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES ID cards remain the property of the Wood County Sheriff at all times. Members must turn in their issued ID card upon separation (termination, retiring, resigning, etc.) or upon request by the Sheriff’s Department or Wood County Sheriff’s Rescue Emergency Radio Operator / RACES authority.

H. **Typical Activities**

RACES activities include:

* NWS SKYWARN Spotter Program (NOAA)
* Assist other governmental units as requested (Police, Fire, EMS)
* Public Service Events (Local, ARES, WCSO)
* Training Exercises for Field Communications and Message Handling
* Red Flag Fire Patrols
* Incident Resource Management and Tracking (ICS)
* Search and Rescue Support (WOSR)
* Health and Welfare activities (WCHD)
* Damage Assessment (WCEM)
* Support of Field PIO (ICS)
* Activities in which the unit has an interest in participating