

# Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association, Inc.

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October 25, 2017

Bryan Fields  
**Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association, Inc.**  
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## **Internal Revenue Service**

Exempt Organizations  
PO Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201  
ATT: Nancy Heagney  
Room 4504  
Group 7826

Dear Ms. Heagney,

In response to your inquiry for more information dated October 17, 2017 I submit the following for your consideration in this matter. If you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me via phone, email or, postal mail.

The primary activity of the Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association, Inc. (“Applicant”) is the establishment of standards for operation and facilitating communications between amateur radio licensees and organizations in the state of Florida and the United States. Amateur Radio is a radio service licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”)<sup>1</sup> intended to foster development of technical, operational, and message passing standards to provide a trained populace in times of national need. Unlike other communication services, Amateur Radio operators are not required to gain permission from the FCC before commencing fixed operation on any specific frequency. The FCC finds Amateur Radio operators have the technical skills necessary to coordinate their operations among themselves, and encourages the development of “Frequency Coordinators” recognized by licensees in a regional area.

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<sup>1</sup> 47CFR §97.1 - Basis and purpose of Amateur Radio - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/47/97.1>

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Applicant provides coordination services for amateur stations in the state of Florida for all licensees. Assistance is provided via email/phone and face to face meetings where Applicant seeks to resolve any interference issues between amateur licensees. Applicant conducts scientific research from which technical standards are developed, with input from members and the amateur radio community in served areas, enabling all licensees to make use of available spectrum with a minimum of interference. Applicant promotes cooperation with the ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio<sup>2</sup>; the Amateur Radio Emergency Service; and other organizations involved with the protection of the public during times of emergency. Applicant plans to spend approximately 40% of its time on these coordination processes with other licensees.

Applicant's Board of Directors guide general operations, while standing committees of members engage in the day to day operations and spectrum planning. The Coordination Committee works on new requests for frequency allocation planning with a goal that all FCC Licensees are served irrespective of membership status. The process committee is responsible for developing standards based on ongoing scientific research and managing these proposals (technical and planning) from members and the Amateur Radio community in Florida. These committees engage in outreach via Applicant's website/email and web forums. Applicant plans to spend approximately 30% of its time on these technical proposals and work of the process committee.

Our IT committee is responsible for development of Database and Business Support Software ("BSS") to enable our other committees to model amateur radio spectrum users and radio propagation. This consists of software which under development and will be released as Free Software under a Free Software Foundation, Inc.<sup>3</sup> approved license. Software developed will be easy to use and implement open standards for facilitating work with other licensees.

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<sup>2</sup> The American Radio Relay League, - <http://www.arrl.org/>

<sup>3</sup> The Free Software Foundation, Inc. - <http://www.fsf.org/>

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This software development is a volunteer effort; no one is remunerated for this work.

Applicant plans to spend approximately 10% of its time on maintaining this BSS software.

Applicant does not intend to charge a fee for any services as Amateur Radio is non-profit by FCC rule<sup>4</sup> but expects to have a token (under \$20/year) membership fee. A member may vote for directors, run in elections, and serve on committees. Any fees collected are used to further the goals of the organization and promote coordination of radio amateurs in the state of Florida. Applicant proposes to engage with the community by conducting educational seminars at conventions (“hamfests”) throughout the state at least three times per year. Online education will be provided via Applicants website where technical guides and scientific research will be used to educate interested parties on state of the art radio frequency modeling techniques. No members will be paid or reimbursed for travel expenses for attending such events or producing educational materials. Applicant plans to spend approximately 20% of its time on member/community outreach at such “hamfests”.

The board and members are volunteers, and devote an average of five (5) hours per week working on business of the organization. Applicant has no employees and does not plan to add any in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Fields  
Director,  
Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association, Inc.

Via Certified Mail – 7016-0340-0001-0614-6454

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<sup>4</sup> 47CFR §97.3(4) - Amateur Service Defined – A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.