February 15, 2013

Re: KCRACES / SAR / Community Giving
Radio Armature Civil Emergency Service / Search and Rescue

The Kent County RACES/ SAR is an active element of our Emergency Response system in Kent County. The RACES/SAR has provided thousands of hours of volunteer assistance to the Sheriff's Department's Patrol and Emergency Management divisions. The team not only assists the Kent County community; they are frequently called to assist law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions in our state finding missing persons, which include lost children and Alzheimer's patients. The SAR team is a partner in Project Lifesaver, which is a joint venture between the Autism Society of Kent County and the Kent County Police Chiefs. This program is activated when a participating family of a child with autism is missing. The team responds on a 24/7 basis, this includes nights, weekends and holidays. The team also participates in numerous community outreach events.

The RACES / SAR team participates in and assists with preparedness exercises, as well as providing staffing to the Emergency Operations Center in severe weather and other emergency events. Every year the team sponsors SKYWARN, which is a weather spotter training course. This event is well attended by community members, as well as weather spotters.

It should be noted that the RACES /SAR team members do not receive taxpayer funding for their training, response, and other community activities. They assume the cost of fuel for their personal vehicles, as well as training for themselves and their K-9 partners. They have provided training for hundreds of responders in search and rescue techniques, as well as achieving awards for their accomplishments in those areas. We have had great success with, and are very proud of the dedicated, self-sacrificing members of our KCRACES / SAR team

Sincerely,

Jack Stewart
Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator