

# **Chicago Area Radio Monitoring Association**

**PO Box 514, Winnetka IL 60093-0514    <http://www.carmachicago.com>  
3-21-2004**

An open letter to MABAS Fire Chiefs:

## **Introduction to CARMA:**

The Chicago Area Radio Monitoring Association, known as CARMA, is a large club of radio enthusiasts made up of a varied cross section of people. Many participants are communications professionals within the Public Safety arena, including police officers, firefighters, dispatchers, and administrators. We also have participants who are radio installation, technician and sales people as well. Not all of our participants are professionals, some are radio hobbyists, including Amateur Radio Operators ("Hams") and passive scanner listeners.

We count over 800 participants in our activities. We have regular meetings and a website. We also arrange tours of radio facilities on occasion. Our main method of communication is an Email List Server currently hosted at Yahoo Groups. CARMA has a rather open membership policy for it's forums in that we do not control who may participate.

CARMA has a Board of Directors elected by the participants to govern the activities of the club. The Board makes decisions on such issues as acceptable behavior at events, what may or may not be discussed at meetings and on our forums, and how the CARMA participants may acquire and distribute information.

## **MABAS Box Cards:**

Recently it was brought to the attention of the CARMA Board that a person was requesting MABAS Box Cards from local agencies, supposedly to share with CARMA participants. The Board decided that CARMA Participants have no need to share this information and we decided to ban the sharing of Box Cards thru CARMA forums. It is the belief of the CARMA Board that the availability of Box Cards on public forums or websites is not advisable. Since they shed no useful information to the radio hobbyist our participants do not need them. It is our belief that agencies that choose to make their MABAS Box Cards available to the public should rethink this availability. While explaining the concept of orderly move-up of resources is commendable, the actual cards themselves add nothing to the radio hobby and can be used for targeting specific rigs by fire starters or others.

## **CARMA Response:**

The CARMA participant who has made several requests for Box Cards from some local departments has been asked not to make these requests, especially in the name of CARMA. While we have absolutely no indication he is anything other than an enthusiastic radio hobbyist, we wish to distance CARMA from these requests. This participant has declined to cooperate in our efforts to stop distribution of Box Cards. Any requests for Box Cards is made not by or for CARMA but rather for the individual making the request.

One of the main principals that CARMA operates under is that our participants fully support Public Safety endeavors. Our participants are not allowed to interfere in any actions taken by any public safety agency, nor are they allowed to respond to events. Any deviation from these ideals will result in an immediate suspension from our e-mail list.

Should you have any questions about CARMA please visit our website at <http://www.carmachicago.com> or write to us at the address above.

Respectfully yours;

## **The CARMA Board of Directors**

Rich Carlson, N9JIG      Joel Love, N9YCK  
Ted Moran, N9UQW      Fred Shabec, KB9ZYX  
Will Sperling, WA9YHX