

THE REPEATER

Newsletter of the North Shore Emergency Association

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www.NSEA.com

FCC GMRS DATA

Total Active GMRS Licenses = 75,634
Total Active GMRS in Illinois = 2,102
Number Issued in July = 2,020
Number July in Illinois = 81

NSEA DATA

Regular Voting Members = 15
Probationary Members = 1
Auxiliary Members = 8
Out-of-Area Members = 6
Applicants = 13
Affiliated GMRS Users on Roster = 49
Added on Systems - Last 3 Months = 17
Added on Systems - Last 30 Days = 6

FOR REPEATERS PERMISSION

Click this link:

<https://nsea.com/Contact.html>

FOR FCC RULES

Copy and paste this link:

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?SID=b7b411dcef7e2b190049b5ebfc58be1c&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title47/47cfr95_main_02.tpl

FOR NSEA RADIO PROCEDURE

Click here:

<https://nsea.com/Radio%20Procedure.pdf>

TRAINING FOR GMRS OPERATORS

WEATHER SPOTTING

Skywarn online training:

https://www.weather.gov/lot/spotter_talk

For Reporting: (800) 692 – 2110

GMRS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

Recently suburban communities in NSEA's locale have been experiencing a sharp rise in gangbanger intrusions at night looking for unlocked vehicles, garages, porches, etc. These often result in thefts and other crimes. These intruders seem to be largely coming from the city. With the most recent looting and disorder sharply on the rise in the city, concerns about spreading problems in the suburbs have become even more significant. Summertime, with its favorable weather, seems to be the most prevalent time for such problems.

This may well represent a golden opportunity to apply GMRS for public service in our local area. In years gone by NSEA formerly provided anti-vandalism patrols in both Kenilworth and Winnetka for Halloween. Experience from those projects proved that "Neighborhood Watch" type operations with two-way radio equipped volunteers can be highly effective in significantly reducing and deterring undesirable activities. But close coordination with and supervision by law enforcement is the only way to make such efforts work effectively. This includes direct radio communication with points inside the police station(s) involved.

With the advent of much more economically priced new GMRS radios, potential placement of base units at police stations seems more feasible. While operation under normal conditions would require a GMRS licensed person at such stations, in emergencies police personnel could also utilize such GMRS stations. §95.303 of the FCC Rules and Regulations provides:

"Emergency messages. Communications concerning the immediate safety of life or protection of property."

And §95.1705(c)(3) further provides:

POFUNG/BAOFENG MAKES MAJOR MISSTEP

In last month's THE REPEATER we discussed the GMRS technical specs and the incompatibility of "Narrow Band" radios with virtually all existing GMRS repeaters. This results from the changes in the Part 90 "commercial" radio services in recent years. In order to increase capacity of existing UHF spectrum, the FCC has mandated application of new technology. The first step was to require "Narrow Banding" of existing analog FM, thereby immediately doubling the number of available channels. And the Commission is continuing to push for new digital technology occupying even less bandwidth thus providing even more channels.

But not all of the UHF 2-way radio services have moved to "Narrow Band". Several still employ traditional ("Wide Band"), including GMRS and a smattering of other radio services such as Broadcast Remote Pickup. But many of the established manufacturers do **NOT** understand this fact. They assume that ALL UHF radios must now be "Narrow Band", and are making *major missteps* where GMRS and other surviving "Wide Band" services are concerned. The GMRS "Wide Band" spec is 20K0F3E, but FRS "Narrow Band" is 12K5F3E, 1/2 of GMRS.

One of the biggest players to make this mistake is Midland. Looking at the NSEA website and examining the list of new GMRS certified radios ("Narrow Band"), there are numerous Midland GMRS certified models, but they are ALL "Narrow Band". In years gone by many companies dual certified radios. So typical certifications included FCC Parts 22 (mobile telephone), 74 (broadcast), 95A (GMRS) and 90 ("commercial").

With the advent of the Family Radio Service (FRS) Midland jumped into that market and started getting their radios

DISASTERS (FEMA)

IS-100.c - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS);

IS-230.d – Fundamentals of Emergency Management; and

IS-700.b – An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

<https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

FEMA SID number:

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE REPEATER COULD APPEAR HERE

“(3) Any individual who holds an individual license may allow anyone to operate his or her GMRS station if necessary to communicate an emergency message.”

Law enforcement authorities interested in such an effort could provide placement of GMRS units at local police stations to facilitate the coordination and supervision necessary. These stations would normally be muted, but available via selective calling and therefore provide a vital resource to our system users to report emergencies 24 hours a day. During GMRS projects they could be unmuted to monitor volunteer activities. And the possibility for direct communication via GMRS with law enforcement units in the field is also a factor that may apply.

How do you, as a GMRS operator interested in public service, feel about setting up such a project? Of course no direct contact would be allowed with any targets - this would be a strictly *observe and report function*, but with very tight integration with local law enforcement. The potential to make a very significant difference seems high. If nothing else, the existence of such a program would likely be noticed by the targets and very likely be a significant deterrent. They may well go elsewhere where the risk of detection and arrest is substantially less.

Please think about this opportunity and whether you might be interested in participating. Before proceeding further with law enforcement your board needs to have some idea how many GMRS operators might be interested. Thanks!

dual certified for both Parts 95B (FRS) and Part 95A (GMRS). Because FRS radios were required to be “Narrow Band” from inception (in order to fit “sandwiched” in between GMRS channels), these Midland models were built and certified to operate in “Narrow Band” mode. Current Midland GMRS radios have continued in this configuration - we suspect they are just slightly modified FRS designs.

A number of Chinese companies too have failed to understand that GMRS continues to be a “Wide Band” service. FCC certifications began to be issued under the new Part 95E Rules in November of 2018 and first to obtain a new certification was TYT Electronics of China. Their model, listed as GMRS25 (a 15 watt mobile), was certified for 14K5F3E, which is neither “Wide Band” nor “Narrow Band”, but something in between. But, starting in April of 2019, all new TYT radios are specified as strictly “Narrow Band”.

In December of 2019 Retevis (another Chinese company) received certification for its RT 76 handheld, and this is correctly specified as “Wide Band” for GMRS. But their new RT97 portable repeater that was just certified in May is strictly “Narrow Band”. It’s not even compatible with their own companion RT 76 GMRS portable!

Wouxun, which has been a player in the US Land Mobile market for some years, does seem to get it. Their new 5 watt handheld, certified on April 21st, is fully “Wide Band”. But just recently (July 16
(Continued)

and 19) Po Fung, another Chinese company, has come out with 2 new GMRS handhelds, their P53U (5 watt portable), and P51UV (4 watt portable). Both of these are strictly “Narrow Band”. Who is Pao Fung? When BaoFeng began to market seriously in the USA, an enterprising person discovered they had not protected their name in US. They grabbed the rights to the BaoFeng name in the USA and began suing the Chinese company. While the litigation was pending, BaoFeng switched to the Po Fung name. Details are on the BaoFengTech.com website blog. You all probably know that BaoFeng is a company in China that makes low cost two-way radios.

You may not know there is a companion US company, BaoFengTech (in Arlington, SD, also known as BTECH) which is very active in GMRS. The US company designs and certifies radios for the US, and these are manufactured in China by the companion Chinese company. The 2 new BaoFeng GMRS radios, GMRS-V1 handheld and GMRS-50X1 mobile, are certified full “Wide Band” operation and a result of this US designed but Chinese manufactured process.

So, if Pao Fung is the same as BaoFeng in China, how is it making this major mistake with its new Pao Fung GMRS radios being “Narrow Band”? According to BaoFengTECH (US), the Chinese company “is trying to develop some radios on their own ...” It seems the BTECH US company has “stopped coordinating with [the] BaoFeng” Chinese company on Chinese designed models. While confusing enough, at least the Chinese designed “Narrow Band” radios are certified under the Pao Fung name and not BaoFeng (same as the US company)! The Chinese designers clearly are not informed regarding the General Mobile Radio service in the USA.

Would you like to contribute to The Repeater? Submissions are encouraged. Send to Randy@NSEA.com.