

THE REPEATER

Newsletter of the North Shore Emergency Association

Vol. 54, No. 11

June, 2020

www.NSEA.com

FCC GMRS DATA

Total Active GMRS Licenses = 73,424
Total Active GMRS in Illinois = 2,049
Number Issued in June = 2,843
Number April in Illinois = 9

NSEA DATA

Regular Voting Members = 15
Probationary Members = 1
Auxiliary Members = 8
Out-of-Area Members = 8
Applicants = 10
Affiliated GMRS Users on Roster = 50
Added on Systems - Last 3 Months = 13
Added on Systems - Last 30 Days = 6

FOR REPEATERS PERMISSION

Click this link:

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

FOR FCC RULES

Click this link:

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b7b411dcef7e2b190049b5ebfc58be1c&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title47/47cfr95main_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/oun/skywarn-spotter>.

For Reporting: (800) 692 – 2110

SOME THOUGHTS ON REPEATER “LINKING”

Like it or not, internet “repeater linking” is now an accomplished fact in GMRS. The fact that the FCC has given an official interpretation to permit this does not void any of the other long-established Rules for the Service, however. At least 6 different sections of the existing FCC Rules and Regulations continue to apply, especially in a “repeater linking” environment. These are discussed below.

§95.359 Sharing of channels.

Unless otherwise provided in the subparts governing the individual services, all channels designated for use in the Personal Radio Services are available for use on a shared basis, and are not assigned by the FCC for the exclusive use of any person or station. Operators of Personal Radio Service stations must cooperate in the selection and use of channels in order to avoid interference and make efficient use of these shared channels.

This is one of the prime foundation pillars of the GMRS Rules since its founding in 1947. At least 2 key concepts flow from these provisions: (1) This is a SHARED service, no one can take over or monopolize any channel. (2) Cooperation in selection and use of channels MANDATES monitoring before transmitting to avoid covering existing on-going communications. This is a serious problem for repeater linking. Interference is virtually certain to take place.

§95.325 Interference.

Operators of Personal Radio Service stations experiencing or causing interference must first attempt to eliminate the interference by means of mutually satisfactory arrangements. If the operators are unable to resolve an interference problem, the FCC may impose restrictions including specifying the channels, maximum transmitting power, maximum antenna height and geographic area or hours of operation of the stations concerned.

Where repeater linking results in interference, the repeater operator MUST cooperate with other GMRS users to correct the problem. Period.

§95.343 Station operator responsibility and requirements.

Each Personal Radio Services station must have an operator whenever the station is transmitting. The operator of a Personal Radio Services station is responsible for proper operation of the station in compliance with all applicable rules in this part.

(a) Unless the station is operating under automatic control, the operator of a Personal Radio Services station must be located at a control point and monitoring communications while the station is transmitting.

Any operator keying linked repeaters is bound by these Rules to assure proper operation of ALL the linked repeaters he is keying. He is responsible to share ALL the channels in ALL the locations that are linked and to prevent interference to any on-going communications at ALL such locations and channels. I am very doubtful any linking configuration can come anywhere near meeting these requirements.

§95.367 Transmitting power.

For transmission of emergency messages, where operators of Personal Radio Services stations have the ability to select transmitting power levels, the highest transmitting

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>

WEATHER SPOTTING TRAINING

Save the date! Tuesday, August 14, 2020 at 1:30 - 4:00 P.M. Northwest Central Dispatch System is presenting a Skywarn training class at 901 Wellington Avenue, in Elk Grove Village. This is near the corner of Biesterfeld Road and Arlington Heights Roads NW of O’Hare in the north end of the Village.

For all of you who have not taken or renewed the Skywarn training recently, this is an excellent opportunity and a live class is usually much more rewarding than an online presentation.

Our goal is to get every GMRS volunteer fully trained and certified for Skywarn. And the training is valuable experience for your own personal and family preparedness, too.

The internet link to register for the class is:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/77353962785>

We urge everyone who is not currently Skywarn Certified to take advantage of this excellent opportunity!

power available may be used. In all other circumstances, the minimum amount of transmitting power necessary to carry out the desired communications must be used. See section 324 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. 324).

This provision builds upon Section 95.359 that GMRS is a shared service. Limiting power obviously facilitates greater reuse of the limited frequencies available. How can linking be configured to promote this core GMRS concept?

Actual field experience has revealed that linked repeaters promote extended technical discussions and attempts to locate new acquaintances in other geographic areas. Long lasting “idle chit chat” is the rule, not the exception. But this is contrary to express provisions of the FCC GMRS Rules.

§95.357 Duration of transmissions.

Except as otherwise provided, the operator of a Personal Radio Services station must generally limit transmissions to the minimum duration necessary. See e.g., §95.2357. Some Personal Radio Services have specific duration limits, which are set forth in the subparts governing those services. See e.g., §95.957.

This is only natural in a shared service with limited spectrum. Users of linked systems are even more responsible to limit duration of messages due to wide coverage of multiple channels/geographic areas.

§95.1733 Prohibited GMRS uses.

(a) In addition to the prohibited uses outlined in §95.333 of this chapter, GMRS stations must not communicate:

(8) Messages which are both conveyed by a wireline control link and transmitted by a GMRS station;

(10) Continuous or uninterrupted transmissions, except for communications involving the immediate safety of life or property; and

In June during a band opening, I listened to a conversation between 2 GMRS operators on the Valparaiso .675 system that lasted 2 hours and 14 minutes, non-stop. If this is not a prime example of violation of subparagraph (10), nothing is and the Rule is meaningless. Variations of such behavior can be heard just about any day on linked systems.

Since repeater linking is here to stay, it’s time for responsible GMRS operators to start demanding better compliance with long established Rules that continue to govern such use.

NSEA will be discussing linking over the coming weeks and months. These materials are provided for your thinking and future participation. Let me know if they are helpful.

When we take up this subject, be ready. What do you think?

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