

# THE REPEATER

Newsletter of the North Shore Emergency Association

Vol. 54, No. 3

October, 2020

[www.NSEA.com](http://www.NSEA.com)

## FCC GMRS DATA

Total Active GMRS Licenses = 73,424  
Total Active GMRS in Illinois = 2,049  
Number Issued in September = 3,401  
Number September in Illinois = 108

## 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/Title47/47cfr95\\_main\\_02.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?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/oun/skywarn-spotter>

For Reporting: (800) 692 – 2110

## THINKING ABOUT A BETTER GMRS RADIO

By Chuck Saunders, KAD7216, KB9TAP

Are you looking for a GMRS HT or GMRS Mobile better than those made by Wouxun, BaofengTech or Retievis? If you have purchased a narrow band only radio, try to return it and get refund, asap, unless you can find a second use for that radio, other than GMRS!

The mobile I am recommending has 128 channels, which is more than you will need. There are a couple of 8 channel mobiles, but the 128 channel unit only costs \$34 more. The HT I am recommending has 128 channels also, which again is more than you will need. There are a couple of 16 channel HT's but for \$84 more you can have a 128 channel HT.

So, how do you find a better GMRS radio and not have to shop at Ebay for older radios and not know what you will get! I had to see if I could find some commercial radios, like I was able to purchase in the past, before the narrowband ruling. I took a shot in the dark and did this: I wrote to the store where I purchased most of my Icom's and explained the issue with so many new users joining NSEA and looking for a GMRS radio. So, I thought it was time to beg!

*I have purchased amateur radios from you in the past. I have purchased commercial radios from you in the past for myself and for other GMRS users. I am aware of the new narrowband 12.5kHz issue. The issue I am having is, I belong to a GMRS club and we have been receiving an increase interest in membership. To be blunt, any of the current wideband radios available for GMRS don't even come close to the quality of the commercial radio that I purchased, before the narrowband "issue"! If some of these new GMRS members were interested in an Icom F2000 or F6021, is there any chance that you would be allowed to make them work with wideband, if they or I could include a copy of their GMRS license as proof why they need wideband. I cringe at the thought of what I would be able to replace either one of my Icom IC-F6061 units, that I use in my car and in my shack if they were to stop working! Thanks.*

The store wrote back: **I'm checking with ICOM now about allowing that exception.** And later wrote back and said: **Yes I can order those in for wideband use.** For right now, the only place to order whichever Icom mobile or HT you are interested in, is from the store that I contacted and where they took the time to reach out to Icom and got permission.

So, I purchased one HT and one Mobile: These two radios are as close as I can get to \$300. Both these radios have 128 channels! The mobile is \$336.40. That includes the radio, \$276.50, the programming software and cable, \$49.95, and the shipping, \$9.95.

The HT is \$320.90. HT, \$261, ps&c, \$49.95, (not the same as the mobile), and shipping, \$9.95. You could save \$9.95 if order together and have only one shipping charge! Again, there are less expensive mobiles and HT's, that are available that would have wideband capability and cost less. But these two units give you more for your dollar!

**For right now, the only place to order whichever Icom mobile or HT you are interested in, is from the store that I contacted and where they took the time to reach out to Icom and got permission.**

## 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>

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### FCC CERTIFICATION OF OLDER WIDEBAND “COMMERCIAL” RADIOS?

FCC Certification of two-way radios is under the auspices of the Commission’s Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). And certification is governed by Part 2 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

§2.1043(b)(3) contains some very interesting language permitting “Class III Permissive Changes” to existing certifications without the need for any new application. And it appears that a “responsible party” other than the original manufacturer may seek such authority.

Since existing Part 90 certifications all required technical testing data for the entire band of coverage, presumably they already included all GMRS frequencies. Thus, hopefully, to add GMRS (Part 95E) to an existing certification for Part 90 wideband radios would not require any additional technical data.

This raises an intriguing potential possibility that NSEA or other GMRS interest groups could apply to add Part 95E to existing certifications based on technical data already on file.

I need to do more follow up research on this and maybe even discuss the concept with FCC OET personnel, but this appears to be a very real possibility. Stay tuned!

The radios arrived!

You can tell the radios are special order, because there is a sticker on the box. Which means, he has to order them directly from Icom. I can send you brochures for the Icom IC-F2000T, HT, and the Icom IC-F6021, mobile, that I am testing, or you can find them online.

Here is the mobile and the HT.



Skype is macuser1111.

Another option would a phone call or a phone call and also use TeamViewer application, to walk you through the screens and steps. If you don’t have Teamviewer, I can send you a document that walks you through the download and installation.

Again, available for questions or assistance.

Chuck Saunders

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KAD7216

KB9TAP

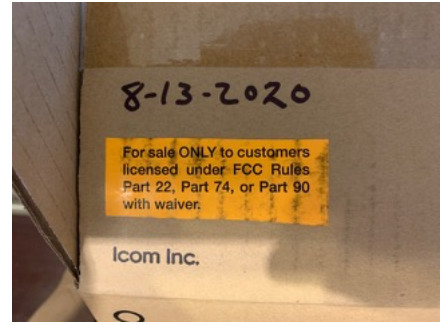
847-641-4306 (text or call and leave a message)

macuser1111 (Skype)

Skokie Repeater:

Owned by KB9TAP & KC9JXJ

443.175/448.175 PL 127.3



**There are specific instructions that have to be followed when submitting an order to make sure that you get the wideband version and NOT get the narrowband. It is just a matter of sending a couple of emails and a note in the order, so he knows the order is for wideband versions. I will help you with your ordering process to make sure you get the wideband versions and not the narrowband versions!**

**I have the instructions available if you are serious. Just email me and I will send you the step-by-step ordering instructions.**

I am on Skype most evenings from 9pm-11pm, talking to Hyman, KAE2547/KC9JXJ! My username on

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*Editor’s Note: While “commercial” radios, such as these Icoms, are much better made and constructed, they are FCC Certified for Part 90, NOT 95. While use of better “commercial” radios is common place in the GMRS community, just be aware that doing so is a technical violation of §95.1761(a) of the FCC Rules.*

**Would you like to contribute to The Repeater? Submissions are encouraged. Send to [Randy@NSEA.com](mailto:Randy@NSEA.com).**