

THE REPEATER

Newsletter of the North Shore Emergency Association

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www.NSEA.com

FCC GMRS DATA

Total Active GMRS Licenses = 68,866
Total Active GMRS in Illinois = 1,927
Number Issued in April = 3,081
Number April in Illinois = 121

NSEA DATA

Regular Voting Members = 15
Probationary Members = 1
Auxiliary Members = 15
Out-of-Area Members = 8
Applicants = 5
Affiliated GMRS Users on Roster = 48
Added on Systems - Last 3 Months = 20
Added on Systems - Last 30 Days = 15

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

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

NSEA LISTED ON myGMRS

The NSEA Repeater Systems are now listed on the nationally recognized myGMRS website. The main system appears as NSEA Heritage 675, and second system as NSEA Evanston 700. While, as we all know, Marc's other repeater is currently down pending relocation, it is also listed on myGMRS as our 3rd system, NSEA 650. This listing advises that the 650 System is expected back on the air 3rd Quarter, 2020.

These join Matt's Evanston 725 system providing a strong GMRS showing for the North Shore.

Randy reports that he has recently had constructive telephone and e-mail conversations with Rich Dunajewski (WQEI 577), founder of myGMRS. They have seen discussing the Future of GMRS Project, and trips to visit the FCC in Washington. The new listings are an outgrowth of this new collaboration.

myGMRS lists 1,662 GMRS repeaters in 50 states. The website currently links to 6 "Local Radio Groups", including the Lakes Area GMRS Repeater Group (LAG), and, now, NSEA, too. We have installed a link to their website from ours, as well.

Randy also reports that the Future of GMRS Working Group has now begun drafting a list of topics and potential positions. Any interested GMRS user is welcome to submit material for consideration or inclusion.

MINNESOTA ON LINE WEATHER TRAINING

Thanks to Todd Marshall (WRC 466), we learned about the NWS Twin Cities online *Skywarn* training that was presented April 22-29th in time for GMRS operators to attend. The course was

MORE ON NEW BAOFENGTECH MOBILE RADIO (GMRS-50X1)

Two of these innovative new mobiles are now on our system. Keep an ear out for units 502 and 775. Experience so far is very good with this unit.

The features are truly most impressive. Dual/Triple/Quadruple "Watch" function with "Transmitter Following" is fully integrated. This provides receive scanning, but with an important additional feature. When TMR (their term for scanning "Watch") kicks in, the transmitter also "follows", and you can key to talk back to the operator(s) involved on the other frequency automatically.

"Watch" scanning of a limited number of channels in addition to your main selected channel is a feature more familiar to users of VHF Marine Radio. It's often utilized to maintain a radio "watch" on VHF channel 16, while also listening to a working channel. It's very cool to see this now available in the GMRS world.

"Transmitter Following" is a feature that has been seen in some "commercial" gear, such as ICOM. It's especially useful for "Transient" GMRS users traveling in unfamiliar territory. This facilitates finding and communicating through repeaters away from home, particularly for travelers' assistance.

And if you want to discover the exact tone frequency for future use, that is easy with this unit, too. The GMRS-50X1 "tone scanning" feature displays what tone is being used for any particular transmission, right on the display. E.G., "141.3".

Traditional receive scanning is provided also, with plenty of channel positions (up to 255) to monitor the full VHF and UHF band. This is further complimented by VFO capability, with tuning knob

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>

NSEA REACHES OUT TO EVANSTON CERT

For many years NSEA members have been rubbing elbows with Evanston CERT volunteers at the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks. They're the ones with the green vests and FRS Walkie-Talkies. And, some years back, we even ran a few Nets out of their Com Center.

Bob and Sandy Burns, whom many of you remember from the 4th of July Parades, ran the program for the City, and both had full fledged GMRS handhelds and unit numbers on our systems. Mike Perlman was also involved, and now that Bob and Sandy are out of the picture due to medical reasons, Mike is, temporarily, at the helm once again.

With the recent advent of very reasonably priced, FCC certified new handheld radios, a unique opportunity has come into view. At these prices GMRS is now within reach of the average CERT volunteer. *Real* radios that work on repeaters!

We've written to Mike and suggested making the giant leap forward now. With both our 700 System as well as Matt's 725, actually **in** Evanston, this makes for an ideal match. We would probably need a new unit number series, but no matter. And the picture for CERT volunteers is really attractive since they would get everyday benefit from the new equipment for their money.

CERT could run their own Net, or participate in ours. What do YOU think?

quite well done and gave good insights into allowing time to consider condition changes before making a report. As usual helpful stills and videos were included.

A 14 page .pdf of the stills was made available as well as a 72 page "Weather Spotter Field Guide". We've downloaded both of them and will make them accessible for everyone on our website. An excellent Certificate was provided following conclusion of the session.

PROGRAMMING CHART PUBLISHED

BaoFengTech's new GMRS-X01 mobile unit is chock full of all sorts of user customizations. This results in maximum flexibility, but also maximum detail and programming learning curve. NSEA has addressed this issue with its new Guide to GMRS-X01 Program Settings. This is now published on our website, and also at myGMRS.com.

Most of the material is found in the BaoFengTech GMRS-50X1 User Manual, but it's broken up into numerous small pages. Our chart has all the information in one place at a glance. Because the User Manual is copyrighted, we formally requested permission to publish our compilation in writing, and BaoFengTech gave us permission back in writing.

For any other system users interested in this innovative new model, feel free to download our Guide. If copies of CHIRP programming image files are needed, e-mail Randy@NSEA.com. We expect to hear more of these cool new radios on the systems as time goes on.

UNUSUAL BAND OPENINGS

Summertime approaches once again and temperature inversions have returned! We're hearing ALL KINDS of things. 675 isn't bad, but 700, woaah! 700 Valparaiso (141.3, +75 miles), is dead, full quieting! I was recently treated to a toggle switch, motor mouth who rambled on, and on, and on, for 2 hours and 43 minutes :(Patience, everyone!

ease.

The system for "on-the-fly" programming changes while on the air is most ingenious. Usually programming is a complex and less than easy task. Multiple keystrokes for a single command are all too commonplace. In short, most people find external programming difficult and burdensome.

BaoFeng has avoided these pitfalls very nicely. A single key press on the mic puts you right into memory. Two more digits select the parameter, and you're ready to adjust settings. This is really very convenient for often repeated everyday operations, such as changing transmit or receive tone, for example.

Display on this radio is absolutely amazing. Virtually no information is left out. Channel names can be customized.

Included on display are, output power setting (L,M,H), Mode selected (Wide or Narrow Band), Main (TX/RX) Channel currently selected with rotary knob, A, B, C, & D multi-watch channels, Tone currently set for RX or TX (while keyed), DC voltage supplied to the radio, and programmable slot (I have my name displayed). What more could you possibly want?

All this is attractively priced at \$180 retail from BaoFengTech, but does not include an antenna. And you will also need the free CHIRP programming software and PC-04 programming cable (\$20.46 from BaoFengTech). By the way there are versions of the software for Windows (from 7 to 10), Mac (Intel System X), LINUX, and others.

The free, open source CHIRP software runs flawlessly on my Mac mini with Mojave (10.14) and the BaoFengTech PC-04 cable. The cable has integrated hardware and does not require any driver installation.

One caveat: The radio has every selective calling tone system known to man (2T, 5T, DTMF, Tone Burst, etc.). Don't go wildly overboard with this or I will hunt you down! Just kidding, well, maybe. The radio even receives FM broadcast, do that instead :)

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