Notes from EMRG meeting Jan 22 2005

- There is a growing amount of information and documents appearing on the EMRG website. The documents are posted as they are put into a standard form. http://www.emrg.ca/documents/official_documents/official_documents_index.htm

- A newsletter was written, but not distributed. This is an improvement over past issues, which didn't even get written. The current edition is posted on the EMRG web site. www.emrg.ca

- The agreement with the city has been renewed. It includes a grant of $5,000 in the first year and $1,000 in years two and three. There is provision for an optional subsequent year. The rules for the use of this money are in place, and posted on the website. Our reports to the city will be in terms of the usefulness to them.

- Peter VE3BQP is in year nine as team leader. There was general agreement that he should continue.

- The rest of the mangement team was introduced:
    Richard VE3UNW -admin asst & gofer
    John VA3JBS -exercise planning and follow up
    Rick VE3IHI -technical specialist & inventory manager
    Mike VE3FFK -too slow to duck a request
    Harold VA3UNK -membership coordinator

- Our primary partner is the City of Ottawa, via their Emergency Measures Unit. We receive support from Ottawa Fire. We also have support arrangements with the Red Cross, but expect that if we are working for the Red Cross, they in turn will be working for the city.

- Our short term operational objectives as a group are:
    1. To maintain our infrastructure and make it more robust.
    2. To be able to provide voice communications throughout the entire city
    3. To be able to move data in a limited way throughout the urban core of the city.

- Current projects in support of these objectives are:
  - Battery back up and DC power distribution for communications equipment at Randall
  - Installation of a remote repeater interface, so the repeater can be accessed from the communications room without using a second radio.
  - Building a standard radio interface and audio output (later input) splitter for EMRG radios
  - Local area network wiring within Randall

  - Also in the works are plans for cross band portable repeaters.

- Info re packet: Packet sessions moved to spring.
  - Session 1: getting the software going
  - Session 2: Getting the hardware going

- Discussion about how Winlink network functions, and local Telepac node operate. More info on Prescott Russell Ares website www.pr-ares.org (winlink faq). Prescott Russell ARES link off EMRG site (www.emrg.ca) web site ARES section.
  - Bottom line is that the spokes of the network don't need very fancy computers but the hubs do.

Exercise preview:
- Response to an incident requiring evacuation.
- Red Cross Personal Disaster Assistance team (PDA) deals with evacuations of fewer than 50 people. (Typically a house fire)

- The next level of response is the Emergency Response Team (ERT). They deal with shelter set-up, Registration and Inquiry (R&I) and First Aid at shelters. Their response is limited to the first 72 hours of an evacuation. (Typically an apartment building evacuation)

- The leading edge of the ERT is the Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) who have a four hour response time and a 72 hour endurance.

- For evacuations beyond the scope of the ERT, the Disaster Response Team (DRT) responds. They are tasked with large scale, long duration responses, such as the Manitoba floods, Kelowna fire, or the tsunami of 2004.

- In the Red Cross debrief of the Donald Street apartment evacuation, it was decided that EMRG would have been useful there. They were not called because the Red Cross did not think of us in the immediate instance. This is a failing on both their part, for not thinking of us, and our part for not being in their mind as an automatic response.