



**TRAINED VOLUNTEER
RADIO OPERATORS
PREPARED TO PROVIDE
COMMUNICATIONS IN AN
EMERGENCY**

www.igs.net/~gamble/index.htm

GENERAL MEETING

All members and anyone interested in joining EMRG. Tell a friend!

DATE: Saturday 1999-April 10

TIME: 9:00AM to 12:00PM

LOCATION: 111 Lisgar St., Ottawa
RMO Building;
Champlain Room

COFFEE: Starting at 8:45

AGENDA ITEMS:

EMRG Update

- Exercise review
- Call out list
- Year 2000

XM49er Presentation

- Who are the XM49ers
- What do they do?

APRS

- What is APRS?
- What equipment is required?

Displays

- Portable Repeater VA3EMV
- Cross band mobile repeater
- APRS using DOS & Windows

WEEKLY NET

Monday Nights 8:00 (Part of the
Capital City FM Net, As Required)
Repeater: 146.940 - (VE2CRA)

Team Leader's Message

EMRG has an opportunity to be the emergency radio group we all want. We now have contact with local municipalities, but EMRG must be able to deliver trained resources for joint exercises and emergencies.

Please take some time and think about your commitment to emergency radio communications. What are you looking for in EMRG? What days are best for training and exercises?

As part of the plan to get EMRG active, we have two presentations for this meeting as well as equipment displays.

Repeater VA3EMV will be set up in the meeting room, give a call on 145.490- once you get near the RMO building.

The EMRG call out tree is attached to this newsletter. See where you are on the list and save the list in a safe spot. It will be tested, very soon!

Peter Gamble (VE3BQP)

Team Leader -EMRG

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EMRG EVENT

EMRG will be having an event on the weekend of April 24. During the April 10 general meeting, we will decide as a group, the best day (Sat-Sun) and time (Morning, Afternoon, Evening).

PHASE 1 COMPLETE

Congratulations!

After the ice storm in 1998, several deficiencies were identified in EMRG. The consensus was that changes & improvements were critical to the continuation of EMRG.

It has taken a year to summarize the issues, create an action plan and initiate improvements, but change is happening and the response has been fantastic.

Four Improvements Identified

1. Clarify the relationship between the RMOG and EMRG.
2. Become an active organization, not just meetings.
3. Become known by, and involved in, the local Municipal emergency response community.
4. Clarify EMRGs role with the Red Cross.

Making Changes

1. RMOG - EMRG Relationship

- EMRG is an independent group of volunteer radio operators, made up of Amateurs and members of the XM49ers.
 - EMRG and the RMOG have a partnership, which includes a signed agreement for EMRG to provide communications for the RMOG in an emergency.
 - EMRG is free to operate in any manner it chooses and to provide assistance to any other groups or organizations that it so chooses.
 - EMRG is not part of the RMOG.
- 2.

3. Getting Active

- EMRG had two communications exercises in the past 6 months and the process is in place to ensure they continue with a minimum of 3 per year.
- Repeater VA3EMV was activated as part of the last exercise. This was the first time it was deployed in its new role as a portable repeater on 145.490 -.
- Basic training courses are being planned.
- Local fire departments have expressed interested in joint exercises.
- EMRG is now the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group for Ottawa-Carleton.

4. Getting Known

- On January 20, EMRG sent an information package to all 11 Municipalities in Ottawa-Carleton. The information package provided information on EMRG and the services we can provide in an emergency.
- The information package is being followed up with face to face meetings.
- The response from the Municipalities has been fantastic!
- EMRG communications exercises target different Municipalities.

5. EMRG & the Ottawa Red Cross

- Signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) on January 23. This provides the basis for ongoing work between the two groups.
- Now working on the details of how EMRG can meet the needs of the Red Cross.

Photo IDs

This meeting will NOT be a photo ID session. The next photo session will probably be in September.

EMRG PHASE 2

With phase 1 now complete, local municipalities and the Red Cross are aware of EMRG and have expressed great interest.

Phase 2 deals with ensuring that EMRG has the resources to meet these needs.

Phase 2 Has Three Components

1. Stimulate greater participation from the existing membership
2. Promote EMRG to the greater amateur community to get new members
3. Demonstrate a committed working team to local municipalities through joint exercises.

Phase 2 Action Plan

1. **Stimulate Greater Participation**
 - Discuss why participation in exercises is low. Is it the dates, Sat Vs Sun, time of day?
 - Develop an exciting, well planned and controlled exercise. Request participation in advance, with selected tasks assigned prior to the exercise date.
 - Discuss what EMRG members are looking for in EMRG.
- 2.

3. Promote EMRG

- EMRG will have an information table at the OVMRC flea market on May 1. The booth will have EMRG displays and a pamphlet visitors can take which provides information on EMRG and how to contact us.
- EMRG team leader, Peter Gamble is contacting local clubs, offering EMRG as an option for a guest speaker.
- Publish news bulletins about EMRG to local clubs for inclusion in their newsletters.

4. A Committed Team

- Interest has been expressed by several fire departments, for joint exercises with EMRG. This is an opportunity to meet primary response agencies and show what EMRG can really do.
- Positive contact with local emergency responders is the only way to gain respect and ensure the effectiveness of EMRG in an emergency

XM49 EOC RADIO

At this time, there is not a radio in the Emergency Operations Centre, for the XM49ers. For the last exercise, Keith Fish brought in a radio and set up operation, but this is not always a possibility.

The RMOC has agreed to move an existing VHF emergency radio, which is no longer required due to the new trunked radio system. The radio will be moved once the new 800Mhz radios are in installed in the EOC.

**IS THIS
NECESSARY**

Some people argue that amateur radio operators and XM49ers have been using radios for many years and do not need to waste time with training and meetings. In an emergency, lots of radio operators will respond if someone really needs help.

In a recent comedy routine, the comics line went something like this; *"he once looked down from a building and saw the police, or were they just people dressed up as police, but then that's what police are, people dressed up as police."*

The point is, we would not feel safe if we knew we were being protected by a group of people dressed up as police. The difference between people dressed up as police and real police, is training.

Most amateurs operate using repeaters, avoiding areas with a poor signal. If you have a choice, you can wait until you reach a better location to send your message. But what if the spot with the poor signal is the spot where the emergency is happening. You now have no choice, you must communicate from that spot.

Exercises and training provide several important items:

1. Developing an effective team requires practice as a team. We need to know our teammates, their strengths and weaknesses.
- 2.

3. Trust and respect must be earned. In an emergency, primary response agencies will rely on those groups they know they can trust. Emergencies are not the time to meet primary response agencies for the first time.
4. The best time to think about how to overcome an obstacle, is before you are faced with the real obstacle. Exercises force us to deal with situations that we do not normally deal with.

Another important aspect of planning and organization, is knowing how to contact radio operators in a hurry. If an emergency happened while you're asleep, you don't know to listen to the radio for directions. Call out lists ensure that resources can be contacted quickly.

RADIO TIP

- How many people have a radio that they cannot program without the manual?
- Do you carry the manual with you in your emergency kit?

To save a lot of aggravation and embarrassment, create a "cheat sheet" for your radio(s).

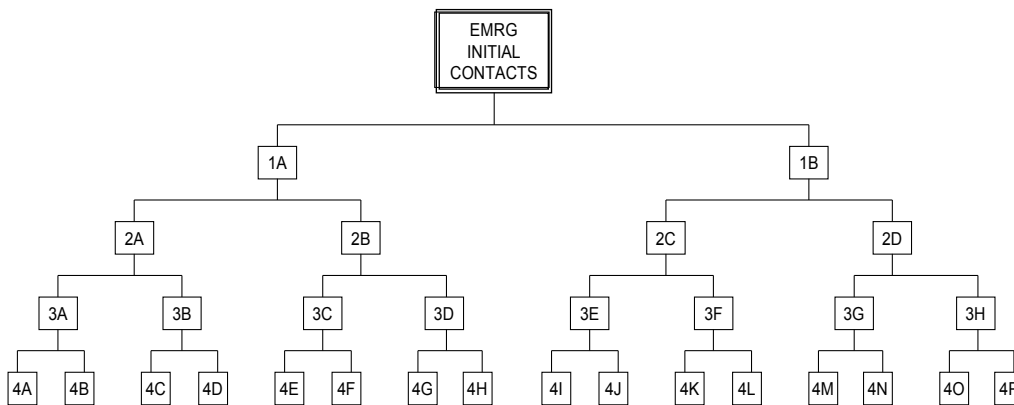
- List each memory channel and the frequency and repeater name programmed.
- List the main functions for your radio and the button sequences needed to perform these functions. Examples are; adding new frequencies to memory and how to set a PL tone.

Emergency Measures Radio Group Call Out Tree

The EMRG call out tree is for activation of EMRG in the event of an emergency. Members have provided contact numbers that may only be intended for use in an emergency. Do not use this list to supply phone numbers to other people.

The EMRG call out tree is divided into groups of three names. The groups form a pyramid with group 1A above groups 2A & 2B. The first person called in a group, will phone the other people in their group, designating one of these people to phone the next line in the call out tree. This continues as the calls work down through the list.

Figure 1 EMRG Call Out Tree



OPERATION OF THE TREE

1. In an emergency, the Emergency Measures Unit (EMU) will call the EMRG team leader or one of the other people designated as the EMRG Initial Contacts. This will activate the EMRG call out tree.
2. The person who receives the call from the EMU will phone the other people in their group, designating one of these people to phone the next line in the call out tree.
3. The person in the EMRG Initial Contacts, designated to phone the next line in the call out tree, will phone 1 person from group 1A and 1 person from group 1B.
4. The person in group 1A who receives the call from one of the EMRG Initial Contacts, will phone the other people in group 1A, designating one of these people to phone the next line in the call out tree.
5. The person in group 1A designated to phone the next line in the call out tree, will phone 1 person from group 2A and 1 person from group 2B.

WHAT IF

What if none of the EMRG Initial Contacts are available?

- The EMU would call someone in group 1A
- If no one was available in group 1A, they would try calling someone in group 1B

What if you receive the call from the group above, but no one else in your group is available?

- You will have to make the calls to the groups below you

What if you cannot contact anyone in one of the groups below you?

- You will have to make the calls that they would have made
- For example; if you are in group 2A and cannot make contact with anyone in group 3A, then you will have to call groups 4A & 4B.

WHAT TO SAY

When you receive a call, write down the message and repeat it back to the person to ensure that you have the full, correct message.

When you call someone,

- identify yourself by name
- state that this is an EMRG call out
- tell the person when or where to meet, either on the radio or a location