

Monday Night Net Subject
Base Stations
07/07/25

Okay, so this month we are touching on areas to help operators build better Comms for you and your family. We encourage people to get beyond operating solely HT equipment because of the substantial limitations they have with range. They have a great purpose but operating solely on HT's can be discouraging especially if you are looking to communicate with others outside of your Neighborhood. As most everyone knows on this net, getting into a repeater allows for greater range and you have the ability to reach further out. This is good for many reasons. It opens up your range circle quite a bit. If you happen to be in range of a repeater with your HT that means you might be able to actually communicate 40-50 miles with an HT! Quite impressive, right? Well, remove the repeater and you might be down to just a few miles... Big difference. We've talked about simplex operations before so most of you know the challenges of simplex ops. Trees, terrain, low power and rubber ducky antennas just don't get you much luck. Hurricane Hellene brought many challenges to all levels of communications, for vast areas as well. Guess what was mostly unaffected? Two way simplex analog Comms. If you emergency power, you could still operate. Your station determined how successful and far you could communicate. The goal here is to help you increase your coverage area, so you can reach further, possibly into other repeaters, and when they are not available, increase your simplex range for safety and emergency Comms.

This month we are gonna touch on getting that base station set up and running. We will discuss the following areas over the next 4 weeks.

- Base Station Radios
- Power Sup[plies
- Antennas
- Coax & Grounding

Okay – Tonight Base Station & Mobile radios – Mostly one in the same because they really don't make GMRS Base Stations at this time. Lots of options out there. Also a wide range of pricing out here too. Let's talk about power. They'll come in 15-25-40-50 watt ranges. Might as well go in for the 40-50 versions of these radios. You can always dial the power back if you don't need much, but there might be the time when you do, so at the very least you have it. There is a Price range from around \$175-\$400. Truthfully you don't need to put all your dollars into a radio, because at the end of the day, antenna, antenna height and coax will be your best friend. These brands are all available off of their respective websites and are very capable GMRS radios. Also, Midland and Wouxan are available off the BTW Radio site linked on our website.

(Sale through midnight tonight.)

- Retevis
- B Tech
- Radioity
- Wouxan
- Midland

Another option are used Part 90 Business radios such as Kenwood and Motorola. These are very sturdy radios that can be repurposed legally to GMRS use. Great option if you can find one. Good 40 watt used UHF radios can be found in the \$150-\$200 range. Need to trust the source though. Vet them as good as possible. Ebay, Marketplace and Used-radios.com are some locations to find these.

If you are looking for feature rich options, the new GMRS radios are the way to go. If you don't need too much of that and low tech is okay for you, than those used repurposed Business radios might be the way to go. Don't forget, using converted modified amateur radios on GMRS isn't really legal. Not recommended for a lot of reasons but mainly FCC prohibits it. Now, I'm beginning to see dual Certification on some of the newer radios and that is a good thing.

Okay – so that is the condensed version on purchasing a mobile/base radio for your home location. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to stay behind and answer those. First we're gonna see if there are any other checkins for the Net.

Close out the Net....