



Home of the GMRS 1900 Net on the White Tanks

462.5500 Mhz

The AZ GMRS Connection

July 2025

Upcoming Events

CENET Exercise

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 10am - 11am

Location: Locations around Maricopa County

Details: This is a Community Emergency Net (CENET) exercise hosted by the Arizona Emergency Services Group. This is a COMMEX (Communications Exercise) without deployment. Using multiple stations, a net is operated across the Phoenix area and simulated emergency calls are relayed. A regular exercise, it demonstrates the response to a failure of telephone infrastructure. More information will be sent to those who register. Get involved and sign up at the following link: <https://www.azgmrs.org/event-calendar/>

Member Get-Together at Barro's Pizza

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 11am

Location: Barro's Pizza, 51st Ave and Bell Rd Phoenix, AZ (SW corner)

Details: A monthly get-together of AGRC members. Not an official meeting. A great way to meet people you hear on the air. Bring your appetite and your interest in radio!

Introduction to Two-Way Radio

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 10am

Location: Class will be available via online video (Those who sign up will be sent a link and more info)

Details: A class involving the fundamentals of two-way radio, including: comparison of GMRS, FRS, MURS and CB, FCC licensing, repeater use and protocols, tone codes, SWR and more! Great for beginners. Open to all AGRC members and anyone Interested at no charge. Make sure to sign up at this link: <https://www.arizonaemergencyservicesgroup.org/page-1>

Information is available about other events at:
www.azgmrs.org/event-calendar/

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Welcome to the AZ GMRS Connection Newsletter!

Recent News

New Net Control Operators On the Air

Our net control operators are the voice of our group and are really appreciated. We're getting more net control operators who have stepped up lately, including Michele Guy WRQ1411. Our nets are great for everyone who tunes in. They're like a meeting on the air and also keep everyone updated on new information. We have several nets, including:

- Our Traffic and Weather Net has been a staple of AZGMRS for years. It can be heard mornings and afternoons each weekday and is aimed at steering our GMRS listeners clear of traffic problems and delays.
- The 1900 Nets are on each Tuesday night at 7 pm (1900). On the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, we discuss GMRS or various other topics. Sometimes there is also a trivia net. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, we have a Tech Net. During the Tech Net, members can call in and get answers about any two-way radio questions.
- The Roll Call Net is on every Thursday night at 7 pm. It's a great opportunity to hear members you know or new members, discuss various topics or let others know you have radio equipment up for sale. One a month, we have the check your number contest.
- Each AESG Training Net is held on Tuesday nights at 8 pm. These are for the emergency preparedness training of the Arizona Emergency Services Group members.
- AESG Tactical Nets are held as needed for any emergency incidents or planned events.

Contest Winners for June

- Thursday night Roll Call Net Winner – Jason WSIP352

Each of the winners received a \$25 certificate for purchase of merchandise on the AGRC website (www.azgmrs.org). The contests take place randomly once each month during the nets. Make sure to check in!

10-Year Anniversary of AZGMRS Coming Up

Coming up in March of 2026, it will be time to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of our exceptional group. Back in March of 2016, a small group of GMRS radio enthusiasts got together and officially formed the AZGMRS organization. Do you have some ideas for the celebration? Let us know. Send an email to: president@azgmrs.org.



Arizona GMRS Repeater Club

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Online Training Now Available

New Options For Members

Members will now have the option to participate in online training classes. Some free classes, which have been available on site in the past, will be offered in a virtual version. Individuals can attend the training classes from the comfort of their own home or office.

AESG Provides Training

The Arizona Emergency Services Group (AESG), a part of the overall AZGMRS group, produces and arranges the training opportunities for our members.

Multiple Classes

"Most of these classes can now be accessed online, and hopefully in the future, can be viewed as a video on our YouTube channel," according to AZGMRS President, Gary Hefley. The classes that are currently offered, include:

- Introduction to Two-way Radio
- AESG – Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Radio Operator
- Net Operations
- Radio Direction Finding
- Nuclear Incident Preparedness

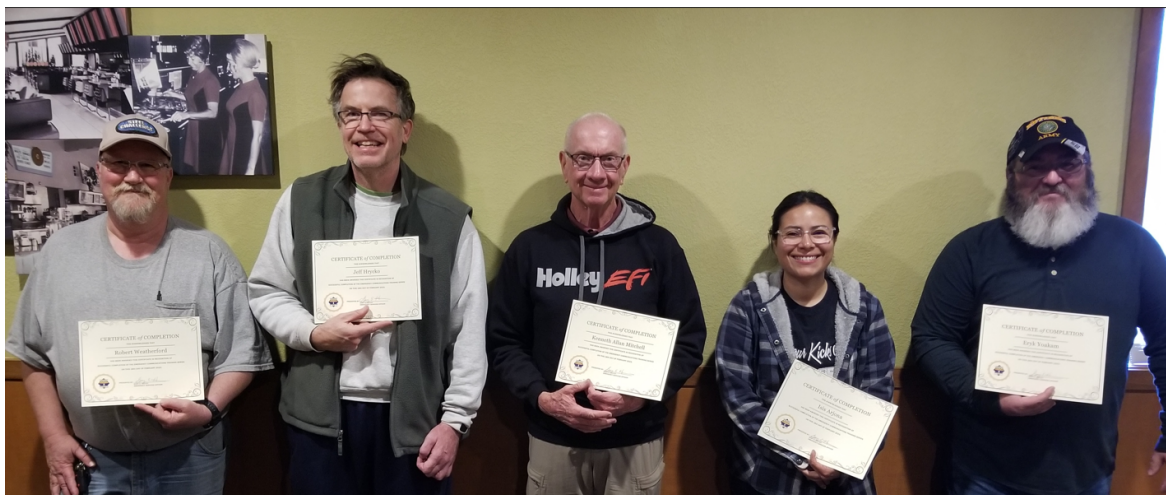
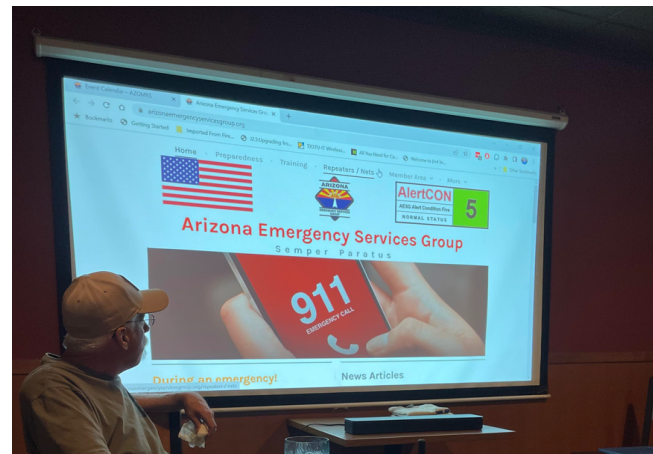
In addition, there are more classes being developed.

Training and Exercises Continue

Exercises, which involve learning while doing, will continue in the future. Our primary exercise is the Community Emergency Net (CENET) exercise, which demonstrates the capability of two-way radio to provide emergency communication in the event normal cell phone service fails. It is conducted twice a year.

Sign-up for Classes

There are many who have already taken advantage of these free training classes. Be sure to sign up for classes available in the future. For more information, follow this link: <https://www.arizonaemergencyservicesgroup.org/page-1>





COMMUNICATIONS DIGEST

The Basics: Repeaters and Operating Practices

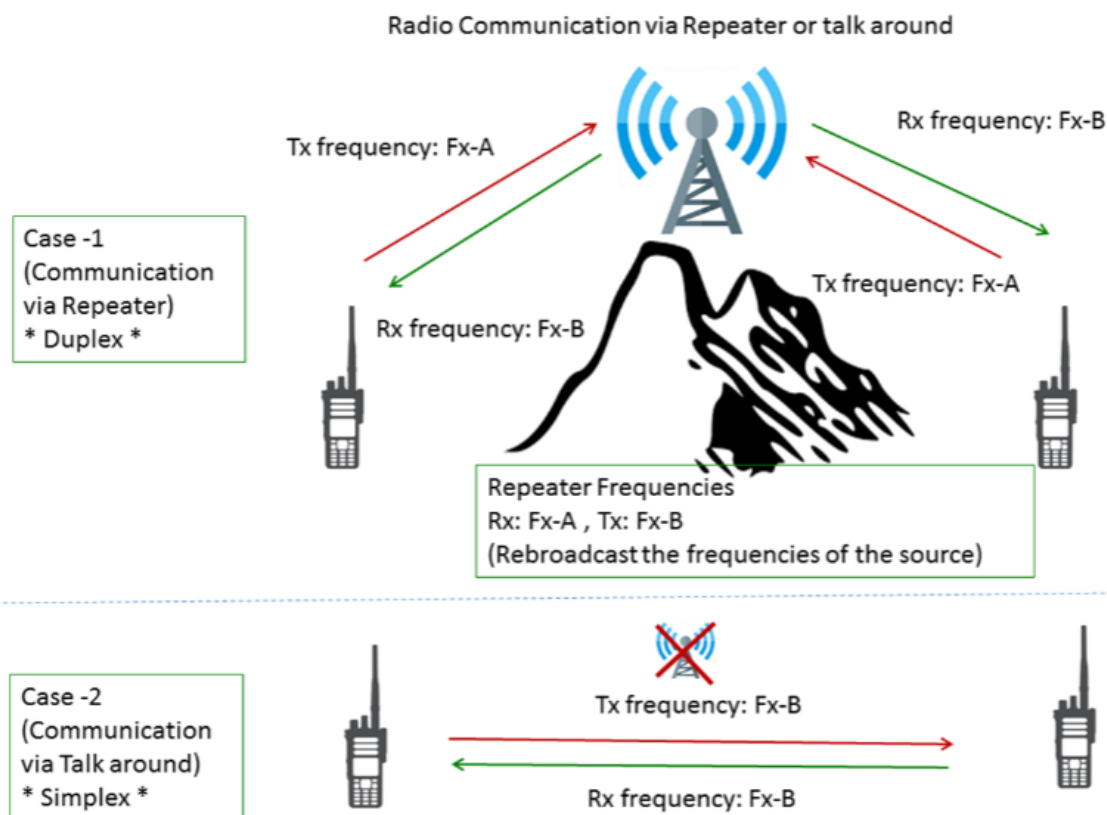
Contributor this month – Gary E. Hefley

A Series: The Basics

There are many of our members who are just getting into the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and two-way radio itself. With this issue, we are starting a series known as "The Basics" that will go over the fundamentals. To help out our friends that are new to this somewhat technical subject, a glossary has been made available that lists the acronyms and definitions of the various terms that are used. To obtain it, just visit this link and click on the glossary: <https://www.arizonaemergencyservicesgroup.org/fundamentals>

How Do GMRS Repeaters Work?

- **Elevation:** The primary advantage of a good repeater site is its higher elevation. This can take the signal from a mobile or hand-held radio and transmit it from atop a mountain, for better range. Using higher power (up to 50 watts) and a gain antenna will also result in a larger coverage area.
- **Duplex:** A repeater receives a signal from a radio on one frequency (mobile TX) and then re-transmits it on another (mobile RX). When two frequencies are used for communication, it is known as duplex. (See figure below).



Notice: This article may contain comments or opinions of the contributor. Such opinions may not be the official position of the Arizona GMRS Repeater Club, Inc. If certain companies, manufacturers or brands are mentioned, no compensation is received for doing so.



COMMUNICATIONS DIGEST

The Basics: Repeaters and Operating Practices (continued)

Contributor this month – Gary E. Hefley

- **Simplex:** Talking directly, without a repeater, is known as simplex. This mode only uses one frequency.
- **Types of Repeaters:** These transmitters are a valuable resource and are located around the state and the country. They are privately owned by a group or an individual. Repeaters are considered either open or closed. When open, it is accessible to any licensed operator. A closed repeater is only available to certain individuals or groups.
- **Accessing a Repeater:** First, determine if it is open or closed. If closed, contact the owner or operator and request permission to use the repeater. One way to find out where repeaters are located and if a particular repeater is open or closed is to visit the [website www.mygmrs.com](http://www.mygmrs.com). A list of specific AZGMRS repeaters and programming information is made available to members.
- **Resources:** A great link for member information is on our AZGMRS website at: <https://www.azgmrs.org/member-resources/>

Tech Specs

- **Tone Codes:** Repeaters are accessed by a specific tone code, which helps to reduce interference. These tone codes are either subaudible tones (CTCSS) or digital codes (DCS) and may be referred to by various terms (PL, DPL, etc.). The tones for open repeaters are usually made available to all, while closed repeater tones are restricted.
- **Bandwidth:** What is narrow band and wide band and why do I care? This has to do with the frequency width that a radio transmission occupies. Your radio bandwidth should be matched with the repeater you will be using for the best result. AZGMRS repeaters are narrow band.
- **Programming:** Need help with getting your radio programmed and set up? You can just contact one of our Ambassadors for one-on-one assistance. Just go to this link: <https://www.azgmrs.org/azgmrs-ambassadors/>

Best Practices

- **Exclusive for Members:** AZGMRS repeaters are for the benefit of our members. Remember to keep all AZGMRS repeater tone codes (CTCSS/DCS) private and never mention them over-the-air. On Tuesdays, the White Tank Mountain repeater is opened up with the travel tone (141.3 Hz), so that prospective members can try it out and also be involved in the Tuesday night nets. Also, in an emergency, we have the capability to allow any operator to use certain repeater sites.
- **Be Courteous:** Remember, our repeaters are for responsible use and meant to be family friendly. Please don't make any disparaging comments about other individuals or use inappropriate language.



Become a Net Control Operator

Free Training – Contact:
communications@azgmrs.org



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Membership Resources

Get Involved & Connected with AZGMRS

Our strength lies in our members. The more you participate, the richer our community becomes. As a member of AZGMRS, you have numerous opportunities to get involved, share your knowledge, and help shape the future of our club. Our events are the heartbeat of AZGMRS. By attending and participating in these activities, you help build a stronger, more connected community. Whether you're a seasoned radio operator or just getting started, AZGMRS offers a welcoming community and valuable resources to enhance your GMRS experience.

Dive Deeper with Our Members-Only Forums

For those looking to dive deeper into the world of GMRS, our members-only forums on the AZGMRS website offer a treasure trove of information and interaction. You can access the forums by visiting azgmrs.org/forums and clicking login on the top right.

Here's what you can do on our forums:

Ask Technical Questions: Our forums are the ideal place to get detailed answers to your technical queries from experienced radio operators.

Discuss Radios and Equipment: Talk about the latest radios, antennas, and accessories. Get recommendations based on firsthand experiences and reviews.

Share Tech Tips: Have a tip or trick that has made your GMRS experience better? Share it with the community and learn from others.

Buy and Sell Equipment: Looking to upgrade your gear or sell old equipment? Our buy and sell section connects you with local buyers and sellers, ensuring you get the best deals.

Why Get Involved?

Getting involved with the AZGMRS club means becoming part of a supportive community that shares your passion for GMRS. By participating, you'll gain access to:

Expert Advice: Benefit from the collective knowledge of experienced operators.

Community Events: Join us for regular events, net check-ins, and meetups.

Enhanced Communication Skills: Improve your radio operation skills through hands-on advice and practice.

Club Net Information



GMRS 1900 Net

AZGMRS' primary net, held every Tuesday, is an informal gathering of club members to get announcements, share news and stories and whatever else comes to mind. As it's held on Tuesdays, visitors with the Travel Tone are welcome and encouraged to check-in and participate. The use of only Part 90 & 95 radios is strictly enforced. The use of out-of-band or modified amateur radio equipment is prohibited.



Morning & Evening Traffic

The traffic around the valley can be crazy, avoid the problems by listening in on the traffic reports Monday through Friday from 0630-0900 in the morning, and for your drive home between 1630-1830. Many members also report conditions where they are as they travel throughout the day.



Roll Call Thursday Net

Join us each Thursday at 1900 (7 pm) for the Roll Call Net. It's a great opportunity to hear who's on the air. When checking in you can also ask for a signal check and let us know if you have a comment or question for the club. Looking for a radio-related item to sell or purchase? Pass that on to the net! Throw out your call sign and be counted!



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Leadership Team



Gary Hefley
President



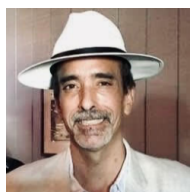
Michael Manning
Vice President



Kelly Cantrell
Secretary



Chris Guth
Treasurer



John "JC" Chavez
Communications
Officer

Club Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors are dedicated members who are ready to field your questions and provide technical support to our entire membership. If you need technical assistance or advice on how to make the most of GMRS please contact one of our Ambassadors listed below.

David Janke – WRJF513
david.janke@azgmrs.org

Steve Morales – WRCS363
steve.morales@azgmrs.org

Frank Scaglione –
WRVG584
frank.scaglione@azgmrs.org

Matt Snow – WSAK802
matt.snow@azgmrs.org

Lew Williams – WRKY709
lew.williams@azgmrs.org

Kenneth Mitchell –
WQJT335
ken.mitchell@azgmrs.org

Contact Information

General Correspondence Address:

Arizona GMRS Repeater Club
8050 N 19th Ave
Unit 263
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Club Treasurer:

Arizona GMRS Repeater Club
Chris Guth
PO BOX 545
Wittmann, AZ 85361

Club Hotline Numbers:

AZGMRS - 623 - 294 - 4611
AZESG - 623 - 294 - 2374

Social Media Links:

facebook.com/AZGMRS

youtube.com/@AZGMRS

x.com/az_gmrs

Daily Traffic & Weather Nets:

Weekdays (Except Holidays)
6:30am-9am - Morning Traffic &
Weather 4:30pm-6:30pm - Evening
Traffic & Weather

Newsletter Editor

Shaina Van Kilsdonk

AZGMRS Member

If you have any ideas for content or articles in our upcoming newsletters please email her at editor@azgmrs.org