

Your New (Used) GMRS Radio

This radio was purchased used. It was refurbished by unpaid volunteers in the local neighborhood. The radio is sold to you at cost. There is no profit. No guarantees come with these radios other than to say they have been tested and performed to specifications when they were sold to you.

You must obtain an FCC license (\$35) to be assigned a call sign. You must use your call sign when talking on this radio. The license and call sign are good for 10 years for everyone in your family. There is no test for the license.

You need to practice using the radio on the **local Neighborhood Radio Watch** channel once a week in the evenings. During these practice sessions you will test the alert channel and practice using correct procedure. Following is a description of what the buttons on your radio do:

On the Front

S = Scan. Click for ON and click again for OFF to start and stop scanning.

A = Add to or from the Scan List. Press to remove a channel from scanning, press again to add it.

B = No Function

C = No Function

On the Side

Top button: No Function

Large, center button: PTT (Push to talk) Hold the button down to talk. You must let go of the button to listen.

Bottom button: Light - Push to turn on the light, push again to turn it off.

At the Top

Tall dial = Scroll Channels Rotate this dial to scroll through the channels.

Short dial = On/Off/Volume - Rotate to the right to turn the radio on and to raise the volume. Rotate to the left to lower the volume and turn off the radio.



Selecting Channels

The Repeater Channel. This channel is first in the list of channels and has the spelled-out name of your NRW. It connects you with everyone in your radio net (and a little beyond). Each radio net has its own name, such as Oak Hill, Cosumnes R, Coloma/L, Pollock P, etc.

When you use your neighborhood's repeater channel, your transmission is received by a much more powerful radio (a repeater station) on a high point in your area. From there, it is rebroadcast to reach everyone with a radio tuned to that channel and within range of the repeater. In this way, the repeater makes your small radio into a much more powerful one.

You should only use your repeater station for serious events, radio checking and for practice once a week at the direction of the Net Controller. You should not use it for informal conversations with your neighbors, unless those conversations have to do with safety issues of general interest to the community, such as power cut-offs, loss of telephone reception, information about a wild fire, etc.

Repeater channels are often monitored by a "Net Controller." When interacting on these channels, you should follow the direction of the Net Controller. He or she will receive and direct all traffic.

The Alert Channel. At night, you may wish to tune your radio to the "Alert" channel and turn up the volume. You cannot talk on the Alert channel, only receive alerts (loud beeping). If the alert is triggered by the Net Controller you will be awakened by very loud beeps that indicate the Net Controller has an important message. The beeping won't stop until you turn the knob to your local repeater channel to hear the message.

Some people prefer not to use the "Alert" channel but instead leave the radio tuned to the local repeater channel which also broadcasts the alerts. When you hear the alert you will not have to change channels to hear the message since you will already be on the repeater channel.

The Other Repeater Channels. Down the list of channels are all or most of the other repeater channels. Each has its name spelled out. Follow the same radio etiquette when using these repeater channels as when using your local repeater channel. You will not be able to contact all the repeater channels because some will be too far away.

The Talk-Around Channel. Your primary repeater channel is followed by a Talkaround channel. This channel allows you to talk on the same frequency as the repeater channel but without going through the repeater -- your transmission will not be broadcast widely across the entire neighborhood. Use the Talkaround channel to communicate with neighbors at normal power while keeping the repeater station free available for emergencies.

Extra Informal Channels. Following the list of repeater channels are some extra channels (GMRS 15 - 22). You can use those channels for home things and for informal talk with neighbors. In general, it is best to use these extra channels when talking informally with family and friends.

**On the Left: A Typical Channel List
As it Appears on the Radio Screen**

Cosumnes R.	your local repeater
ALERT	your local alert
TalkAround.	your local talk around
Coloma L	a neighboring repeater
Pollock P	another neighboring repeater
Oak Hill	another neighboring repeater
Placerville	another neighboring repeater
GMRS CH 15 To Ch 22	informal, no repeater

What If My Hand-Held Can't Reach the Repeater? Almost always, the 4-watts of power in your hand-held radio will provide plenty of power to reach the local repeater. But if you live on property that is blocked from the repeater, you may need a more powerful radio. The EDCARC can provide a reconditioned, tested, used base station. These "base station" radios have from 15 to 40 watts of power, up to 10 times more than a standard hand-held radio. They vary in cost depending on what items are required for your particular installation. You will need to mount an antenna in your home, in the attic, on an eave, or on the roof, depending on your circumstances.

To learn what base station radios are available, you need to contact the same volunteer who provided you with a hand-held radio.

Typical 15-40 Watt Base Station with Power Supply



In this example there is a TM8200 Tait radio and a PSV150 12 A power supply

Charging the Battery

Your TK-380 radio comes with a new power supply, charging cradle and battery — similar to that shown on the right. Please read the following paragraphs carefully before using the radio or its charger.

- **Maintaining battery performance**

Do not expose a battery to very high or very low temperatures for extended periods of time. Doing so will shorten the service life of the battery.

Very high: above 113°F (45°C)

Very low: less than -22°F (-30°C)

Charge the battery at a room temperature between 50°F and 77°F (between 10°C and 25°C). This temperature range is the optimal charging range.

- **“Prime” a new battery before using it**

Fully charge (‘prime’) a new battery before using it for the first time.

Priming takes up to 14 hours and is most effective if completed without interruption. You can “prime” the battery by placing it in its charger with or without the radio attached. Leave it in the charger until the charger light turns green. Do not interrupt the priming charge.

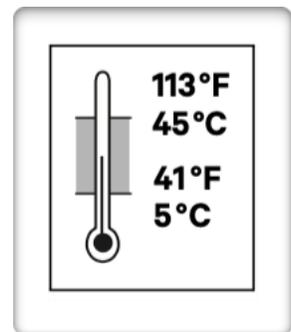
- **Condition your battery once every three months**

Leave the radio switched on and ignore any ‘low battery’ warnings from the radio. When the radio switches itself off, the battery is fully discharged and ready to be recharged. Recharge the battery without interruption. Conditioning enables a battery to hold its charge for longer.

- **When not in use for a month or more, batteries should be stored correctly**

Remove the battery from the radio before storage. Store the battery (in either a charged or discharged state) in a cool dry place.

** These exceptions on charging a NiMH battery were taken from the “Battery Charging Guide” for the Tait TP9100 Radio.*



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