

WEGC Range Radio Communications Protocol

West End Gun Club is piloting radio communications at the range to further coordinate communications between RSO's, Match Directors and Members with GMRS radios.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this is to establish protocols to aid in the event of but not limited to:

- Range wide cease fire
- Fire coordination and suppression
- Range event coordination
- Emergency medical assistance
- Vehicle assistance
- Bay and member coordination

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a popular public radio communication system in areas where cell phone reception is non-existent. Many WEGC members use GRMS already, thus the intent of this protocol is to establish a working protocol and encourage the use of GRMS as an additional resource for communication between members and staff (including matches) while on WEGC property. Members would not be required, but are encouraged to use GMRS. Low power GMRS radio checks have been done throughout the range property and the radio signal covers all areas of WEGC, all the way to the entrance of the canyon at the creek crossing.

In the event of an emergency during the weekday (Mon-Thurs) radio communications may not be monitored by range staff or other members. When arriving it's good to do a radio check-in.

LICENSING

GMRS is an FCC licensed frequency band and it is assumed that each member has their own license. Note that having a license is not required by WEGC to communicate at the range however it's highly encouraged to obtain an FCC license. GMRS FCC licenses cost \$35, are good for 10 years and apply to your entire immediate family; there is no test. The steps to get a license can be found here: <https://radiothoughts.com/how-to-get-gmrs-license/>

In case of an emergency anybody can use a GMRS or Ham radio to get help.

RECOMMENDED RADIOS

RADIO	COST	AMAZON	FEATURES
TD-H3	\$30.31	https://tinyurl.com/bdzxvnc9	Bluetooth enabled and wireless programming
Baofeng UV-5R	\$28.39	https://tinyurl.com/5a5dp98j	5W Programmable with CHIRP, widely used
Baofeng AR-5RM	\$24.14	https://tinyurl.com/52fykd3n	10W, Programmable with CHIRP

Table 1: Recommended Radios. Note that popular off the shelf brands like Midland and Cobra GMRS radios will also work.

RADIO CHANNEL USE

Here is a table of the channels we will be using. Note that these channels are subject to cross talk from nearby OHV users. Please keep range communications concise and to a minimum.

CHANNEL	FREQUENCY MHz	MAX POWER	PRIMARY USE
1	462.5625	5W	Default range wide frequency for RSO's, Members and Directors
2	462.5875	5W	Maintenance
3	462.6125	5W	Event coordination
4	462.6375	5W	Match coordination
5	462.6625	5W	Match coordination
6	462.6875	5W	Match coordination

Table 2: WEGC Range Channels, Frequencies, and Protocols. Note that if more channels are needed, a match director can go up to channel 22 at their discretion.