EMERGENCY MEASURES RADIO GROUP

TRAINED VOLUNTEER
RADIO OPERATORS
PREPARED TO PROVIDE
COMMUNICATIONS IN AN
EMERGENCY

GENERAL MEETING

All members and anyone interested in joining EMRG

DATE: Saturday January 25, 1997

TIME: 9:00AM to 1:00PM
 (It will start at 9:00 & end at 1:00)

LOCATION: 111 Lisgar St.; Ottawa
                        RMOC Building;
                        Champlain Room

COFFEE: YES Starting at 8:45

AGENDA ITEMS:
- New photo IDs will be taken at this meeting
- Harold Murphy, Emergency Measures Unit manager, will be in to say a few words
- Display Day is coming and we need to organize the event
- What role can EMRG play in helping prepare local amateurs for all types of emergency situations

NETS

Wednesday Nights   8:00
Repeater: 147.150+   (VE3MPC)

Sunday Mornings   11:00
Simplex: 147.525

INTRODUCTION

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and is now ready to settle in to enjoy the winter. The activities of EMRG have been slow in the past few months, mostly due to my work commitments.

In December, I had the opportunity to speak to the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC) about EMRG. It is important that all local amateurs know about EMRG, even if they don't plan to join.

I have been in contact with the RMOC regarding the role of EMRG in an emergency. This news letter will talk about this and the emergency plans that guide us.

On a sad note, December ended with amateurs assisting in a search in the Meech lake area. This has been making me think about what is required to help ensure we have amateur volunteers who can survive and be useful in all types of emergencies.
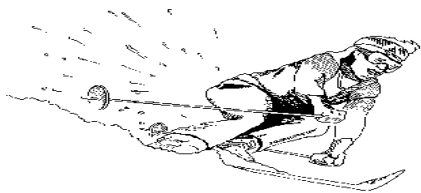
I would like you to think about EMRG and some of the roles it could play in Ottawa-Carleton.

Peter Gamble (VE3BQP)
Team Leader -EMRG
236-0580   gamble@igs.net

EMRG WEB PAGE

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

I started working on getting EMRG established on the internet some time ago. The internet has been a very useful tool for me in tracking down information related to emergency communications in Canada and around the world. Now we can share our information with others.

Ski Marathon: Feb 8 & 9

Here is an opportunity to test those winter communication skills. This year the route will go from Lachute to Montabello on Saturday and Montabello to Gatineau on Sunday.

If you are interested in helping out with this years marathon, please contact Harrie Jones;
Home: 739-9365   Work: 738-2372

Role Up J-Pole

Anyone have a good set of instructions that work? If so, please let me know. -Peter

If you have any interesting information or articles that you want to share with the other team members, just forward it to me in a letter or Email.

EMRG DISPLAY DAY!

Display Day would be an opportunity to bring together a collection of communications equipment and people in one place, to provide an opportunity to view, discuss and get new ideas.

Some initial thoughts:
- One day (or morning) event
- On a Saturday
- During the spring time
- EMRG members only (?)
- Various radio communications equipment such as a Packet station, ATV, repeater, cross-band mobile repeater, cellular, assorted antennas, battery power and more

Display Day would provide an opportunity for people to view some of the communications equipment they may not have seen and to ask a few questions.

This would also be an opportunity for local officials to see EMRG and some of the communications equipment available in an emergency.

The next step is to form a group to organize this event. Details of the type of event, size, list of displays etc. needs to be put together.

If you are interested in working on this, or if you have an idea for a display, please contact Ed Strange at the next meeting or give him a call. 828-4804

LOGO

What do you think of the logo on the cover page?

EMERGENCY PLANS

There are many plans in place for dealing with an emergency in Ottawa-Carleton. The decision on which plan(s) to use depends on the nature of the emergency and which agencies are involved.

For the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, the main plan is the Regional Emergency Plan.

"This plan has been formulated to assign responsibilities and to guide the actions of key officials after the onset of an emergency."

The Regional Emergency Plan is 70 pages long and provides information on the following:
⇒ When, Why & How the plan can be activated
⇒ Key groups and positions along with their responsibilities.
⇒ Names and phone numbers of representatives for the key groups and positions outlined on the plan
⇒ Listing of other related plans which provide greater detail in specific areas

Is EMRG In The Plan?
EMRG shows up in two spots in the present Regional Emergency Plan. These two items are one page each and cover the broad responsibilities and expectations of the two primary EMRG contacts: the Communications Officer (Now called Team Leader) and the Field Representative.

The following are quotes taken from the Regional Emergency Plan

What is an Emergency?
Emergencies are defined as situations abnormally affecting the lives and/or property of our society which, by their nature or magnitude, require a coordinated response by a number of agencies, both governmental and private under the authority of the appropriate elected official, as distinct from routine operations carried out by agencies as normal day-to-day procedures, e.g. fire fighting, police activities, normal hospital routine.

When is the Regional Emergency Plan Activated?
⇒ At the request of an area municipality
⇒ When two or more municipalities are affected by an emergency
⇒ At the discretion of the Regional Chair when Regional resources are consumed in such a manner as to place a strain on these resources
⇒ When Regional facilities are threatened

EMRG COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
The Regional Emergency Plan does not explain what EMRG is or how communications will be provided. This detail is located in another plan called the EMRG Communications Plan.

*More on this in the next news letter!

Planning solves a lot of problems before they happen!

EMRG'S ROLE IN AN EMERGENCY

One of the key tasks for EMRG is to plan and train, in order to be ready for an emergency. This raises the following question:

> What does the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) Emergency Measures Unit (EMU) expect of EMRG?

I spoke with Harold Murphy, the EMU manager about this. The two key points are:

> The EMU looks to EMRG as a flexible resource which can provide communications from anywhere in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

> EMRG would be required when existing communications systems cannot handle the load or if the existing communications systems should fail.

There are no specific designated sites in which EMRG would be expected to operate, other than the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which is located at the RMOC building.

EMRG'S NEXT STEP

EMRG can play an important role in shaping the future emergency planning in Ottawa-Carleton.

While the RMOC does not have specific sites designated for operation by EMRG, there is a need for EMRG to identify any locations within the Ottawa Carleton Region that can benefit from improvements in communications capabilities. The 2m radio at the Kanata fire hall, provides an example of an infrastructure that can be put in place to provide points of operation that are local to an area around the region.

BEYOND THE RMOC

The Emergency Measures Radio Group can do more than sit and wait for the Emergency Measures Unit to call. There are other groups within Ottawa-Carleton that can use the resources of radio operators.

EMRG should be the focal point for any organization that requires the assistance of radio operators for an Emergency. These organizations may be within the Ottawa-Carleton area or could be neighboring radio groups needing additional resources.

MEMBER DATABASE

Yes there is a database and we are still getting it organized and up to date.

The final page of this newsletter is a membership form. Please fill it out and drop it off at the next meeting, or mail it to the address shown on the form.

There are over 100 names on the membership list, but only 35 to 40 are attendees at the meetings. We need to verify if the remaining names still want to be members and if the member information is correct.