

RADIO SUGGESTIONS - SCANNERS - GMRS – HAM

Scanners:

Find out what's going on. Radio receiver scans channels important to you - CalFire, OES, MROSD rangers, police. Listen only - no transmit capability. (HAM Radios can also be used as scanners)

Common brands are Radio Shack, Uniden, BearCat. Costs \$125 - 175.



GMRS Radios:

General Mobile Radio Service. Two way radios (transceiver). Push to talk - range ok for most of our neighborhoods. Registration required – about \$50 - not enforced. No test required.

Common brands are Uniden, Midland, Motorola. Costs per pair \$75 - \$100. Be careful not to buy FRS radios which are cheap toys. FRS is Family Radio Service. **Although it is also a HAM Radio, a very effective GMRS Radio, with significant range over our hills, is the Baofeng brand – cost around \$35.** More important than the type of radio is the antenna. Only buy a brand that has an interchangeable antenna – like the Baofeng. The little antenna that is supplied with most GMRS radios is not effective in our terrain. Buy a long, whip-like, antenna to replace the supplied antenna.



HAM Radios:

Two way (transceivers). License test required. License rules vigorously enforced. Can use local mountain top repeaters for large range. Technician license classes are locally available. HAM Radio is the serious two way radio. Hams aka amateur radio operators.

Common brands are Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, Baofeng. Popular locally are the Yaesu FT-60R hand held and the Yaesu FT-8800R or FT-8900 base stations. Detachable antennas. The base stations can be used in a vehicle or fixed at home. Base station advantage over battery operated hand helds is they have ten times the output power. Hand held \$35 (Baofeng) to \$200 (better quality Yaesu) or \$450 for base station w/power supply.



ham base station or



ham "HT" or hand mobile radio held battery radio

calling Minsk!

