



ARKANSAS
GMRS REPEATER GROUP

**Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group
Cooperative User Agreement**

**Version 3.1
November 2023**

The Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group is an individual, currently loosely based ad-hoc volunteer cooperative effort between repeater owners based in and around the State of Arkansas. The Group is separated into Repeater Owners and General Members.

Membership/Members

Any person with a valid GMRS License that submits a request and is accepted to join at arkradio.net.

- Membership is extended to his/her family members as covered under the original Licensee.
- Members whose licenses expire will be asked to renew or will be removed. Unlicensed operation will cease immediately until the license is valid.
- Members are asked to keep a valid email up to date with the Group.
- Members are able to use all affiliated repeaters at no charge.
- There are no dues collected to join this Group. Any donations the group receives will be applied to the owner desired to donate to, or website maintenance and costs, with excess will be distributed among repeater owners as needed for projects.
- Zello transmit access, where available, is limited to repeater owners, their trustees, assigns, and Group authorities. General members can use it only for remote monitoring. Users may use the app to monitor traffic but will have no transmit privileges.

Owners

Any person with a valid GMRS license who owns/operates a GMRS repeater in accordance with FCC rules and has affiliated it with the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group.

- Owners' family members qualify as owners also by proxy.
- Repeater owners are asked to serve in an Advisory capacity to the Group as a whole and are asked to set precedent, design procedures and help the group move forward.
- Coordinators will help repeater owners communicate among the group as a whole with any issues, operate the internal GMRS linking network, membership requests or other needs affiliates may have, both repeater owners and members alike. Coordinators can be assigned certain tasks to promote the group, as needed.

Occasional passersby and transient users may be allowed on some affiliated AGRG Repeater Systems as part of an Open Repeater Initiative, which allows members and non-members alike to use their system. Each owner who allows this may indicate on his/her website repeater page and/or in person or over the air as they see fit. It is not required to “open” a repeater in order to affiliate. If permission is required, the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group will play proxy by allowing our website to collect user information and disseminate it to repeater owners on a private roster. We will not display CTCSS/PL tones on the website or any social media, when asked. This will include public Chirp files that should only be circulated to licensees on the roster via the members-only portion of the website.

Basic Rules and Disclaimers

It is expected that all GMRS licensees and repeater owners affiliated with the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group be good stewards of the General Mobile Radio Service.

Here are some tips:

1. Emergencies always take priority. As a licensee you may be helping an ATV group lost in the woods or a fellow member who has broken down. Furthermore, some systems will share severe weather alerts to notify people listening of impending dangerous weather. Please yield to emergencies and help each other out.
2. Licensed, enrolled members of the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group will be assigned an Identification Number on our roster. The Group does not ask for the individual name of each family member under one license, but at the time of admission, you will receive a “bank” of numbers and you may assign them accordingly within your family. Numbers will be given out in succession (but may not be successive over time) in banks of 10. If more is needed, you may ask for more.
3. There is no guarantee that any repeater will be available 100% of the time. Many of our sites are in locations on battery backup, emergency generator power and even grid independent. However, some are located at users homes on conventional service. Please use at your own risk.
4. Access codes that are not published on the website are private and for membership use only. Any repeater information members access is not for public consumption without the consent of the repeater owner. Members sharing private information will be removed from the Group. This includes online forums such as Facebook or Groups.io.
5. Members are to remain aware and considerate of the shared nature of the repeaters and the member has not had access privileges suspended or revoked by any individual repeater owner/group.
6. Members are required to legally maintain their GMRS license always including a valid mailing address and email.
7. Members are asked to purchase and properly maintain their GMRS radio equipment.
8. Please be courteous, considerate and helpful to other users.
9. Report suspected repeater problems to the repeater owner or Group as soon as possible.
10. Participate in on-air repeater equipment testing if needed and possible.

Repeater Affiliates

In reference to Part 95.1705 of the FCC rules, all repeater owners who affiliate their systems with the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group are compliant and simply wonderful people. While we appreciate and recognize that generosity, the Group and its repeater owners together agree to:

1. Share repeater resources on a reciprocal basis, at no charge and.
2. May donate or receive parts, money or time to the group on an individual or whole basis on their own volition and at no obligation and.
3. Will not charge a user fee to any member of the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group. Voluntary donations are perfectly acceptable.
4. Outside clubs who charge user dues to their members to support their club repeater who decide to affiliate with the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group, the club will not charge dues to the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group, its members or its affiliates.
5. Will promote the Group when possible, including keeping web pages updated by sending the latest information possible to the coordinator and/or media consultant.
6. Agree to self-coordinate with other repeater owners when constructing new repeaters, especially in areas that are close to one another.
7. Repeater affiliates retain all rights of ownership including frequency use, system naming and placing. The Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group owns no repeater and will not tell another how to run theirs, aside from being good stewards of GMRS, agreeing to this basic agreement, and following FCC rules to the best of our abilities.

Repeater Linking System

1. Participation in the Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group Asterisk Linking System is voluntary and not required to be part of the overall Group. There always stands a need for both linked and standalone systems for a healthy radio environment.
2. All equipment to be used at repeater sites is borne by the owner, or via cooperation with other owners on a case-by-case basis. This includes purchases or procurement of interfaces, Raspberry Pi mini-computers and peripherals.
3. The Arkansas GMRS Repeater Group will privately maintain servers, switches and peripherals that keep the system running. As much as we try to keep the system up 100% of the time, there are no guarantees.
4. Once linked, the repeater owner will still maintain complete control of their system, including codes used to access/remove the repeater from the link system at any time.
5. Repeater owners that are attached to the link system will assist in approving newer repeaters that are requesting to join the system to make sure proper engineering controls are in order.
6. Linked owners agree to share their systems with the other linked users, including nets or other emergencies as needed. This can be defeated by removing the link connection also as needed.
7. Repeater owners that link into the Arkansas system will not link or cross link into other GMRS systems, Asterisk systems or other software without majority approval of the other linked repeater owners. The Arkansas system is a private system designed for Arkansas GMRS Group repeaters only and is not intended to be a national service.
8. Private nodes are at the discretion of the owners' group and can be on a case-by-case basis.