

# **ERC-East “A Radio Is Simply A Tool”**

**25 Aug 12 / Version 1.0.1**

A radio is simply a tool for accomplishing a job. Nothing more, nothing less and not all radios are the same, meaning they all have different capabilities. Further, anyone's personal favorite radio, or what works for them in their area, may be totally inadequate for another purpose, person or in another area.

Even more important than the radio whether Amateur Radio, GMRS, FRS, or commercial VHF/UHF/800 MHz, etc, is that the user has the knowledge, skill and experience to effectively use it to solve the problem at hand. Any tool in the hands of someone who is untrained in it's use can cause more problems than it solves. For the untrained operator, the first radio instruction should always be RELEASE TO LISTEN, not push to talk.

Just because I buy a guitar, the guitar does not make me a musician, nor does standing in a garage make me a car. At the same time, if my only tool is a hammer, then every problem looks like a nail.

We must first define the communications need or problem, and only then identify the tool or tools [radio(s)] which may solve it, and finally choose the best solution based on the usual constraints of available resources. The finest tool does little good if the people who need it cannot afford to obtain it or don't know how to use it.