

Amateur Radio Club

My previous experience with communication spans across numerous forums – a police dispatcher in a small town in Illinois, a Computer Service Dispatcher at Data General, a supervisor of switchboard and communication center at The Forum in Inglewood Ca. (where the Lakers and Kings played prior to moving to the Staples Center. Overall I have over 35 years of experience as a Dispatcher / Switchboard Operator. In fact, my first Switchboard position was one in which you connected calls by plugging in cables – not pushing buttons (Not dating myself or anything!). I even took a road trip with my husband to Vegas – following our close friends and staying in touch using hand held radios – only because we did not have cell phones at the time. My Husband and I even used the hand held radios to stay in touch within the casino.

At first look the radio may appear to be complicated to use, but trust me it is not. Simply turn it on, select the channel you want to use and it is ready to go. Selecting or changing a channel is very easy to do. All you do is press the menu button once. The channel number in the display will start flashing and when you press the + or – button you will either increment or decrement the channel number. To talk you simply press and hold the PTT button. PTT stands for Push To Talk. When finished talking you release the PTT button. With the PTT button released you will hear any broadcasts that are taking place on the channel that you are on. If there is too much “traffic” on your channel, simply switch to a different channel.

For “planned” communications you will want to make sure that the person or persons who you want to communicate with are all on the same channel. Because the unit uses this “Push-to-talk” method, only one person can talk at a time and everyone else should be in listen mode – sort of like the way standard verbal communication should be 😊.

I feel that the ARC (Amateur Radio Club) is a great way to make use of my previous experience while learning a whole new method of communicating and to also learn more about being prepared in the event of an emergency. I saw ARC as a natural extension from the EPP group that I was already involved with.

Our meetings are on the last Friday of the month at 10AM In the Card room. See you there!

Judie Kaczoroski