

COLORADO HILL CLIMB ASSOCIATION

RADIO GUIDELINE

The 2-Way Radio is an essential tool used to conduct and manage our race. Hill Climb racing is set in a mountain venue and spread out over a large area. Two-Way radio communication is essential to convey our safety related commands.

Radio Etiquette

Radio channels are used to transmit official race business only. Avoid discussing sensitive or medical issues on open channels unless directed by Race Control.

Good radio etiquette demands that all users limit their communication to essential radio calls only.

- Consistency is important! Everyone communicating the same reduces mistakes.
- Listen to radio communication that may indicate special instructions needed in your area.
- Keep your radio with you at all times.
- Avoid stepping on other transmissions.
- Avoid “keying” your microphone (PTT held down)

Normal Transmitting

Press radio key firmly, hold, pause for a second then begin speaking into the microphone. Direct your call to the person first, then announce yourself. Example: “Control...flag one.” Wait for acknowledgement “Go ahead flag one”, and then state your message.

Emergency Transmitting

Press radio key firmly, hold, pause for a second then speak clearly, “yellow, yellow, (then your station) flag one.” Wait for confirmation from Control “Go ahead flag one”. State the incident, vehicle involved, and all pertinent information. Example: “Sportsman 1 stopped in grove.” Control will advise you how to proceed from there. All other radio chatter stops unless simultaneous emergencies occurring.

Announcing Vehicle & Number

Always identify the vehicle class then each number in the singular tense. Example: Champ 26 is ‘Champ two six’, Rally 112 is ‘Rally one one two’.

Remain calm and speak clearly.

Remember, we train for this. Remaining calm increases our reaction time which allows us to make good, safe decisions.

Do's

- **Be brief and to the point.** When the race is on, stay off the radio unless absolutely necessary.
- **Listen before you begin your transmission,** and always wait a second before you speak after keying the push to talk button.
- **Speak directly and clearly** with an even tone into the microphone at a distance of 1 inch.
- **Acknowledge the receipt of all messages** directed to you regardless of how trivial.

Don'ts

- **Talk too much.** Only speak when absolutely necessary. Safety information must take priority.
- **Swear.** This is an open radio channel.
- **Shout into the radio.** Only distorts the resulting transmission.
- **Abuse the antenna.** Break it and you have an effective range of 10 feet.

Terminology	Meaning
Affirmative	Yes
Acknowledge	Confirm you understand my message
Clear	No obstruction and ready for race conditions.
Confirm	My version is ... Is that correct?
Control	Radio call name for Race Control (Director of Communications) for race activities
Correction	I made a mistake, correct version is.....
Do you read	Made more than one attempt to reach, please acknowledge.
Finish	Race vehicle has crossed the Finish Line and received checkered flag.
Green	Indicates the course is clear and ready for race conditions.
Groove	The path on the race course that the majority of drivers choose to travel. A well defined path on the race course.
Go Ahead	Listening, proceed with your message.
Impact Area	Any area on or off the course that out of control race vehicles may travel or stop for mechanical reasons.
Incident	Occurrence on the race course – never use “accident”
Line	The path a driver may choose to take through a corner.
Negative	No
Not Under Power	Vehicle is not running
Off	Race vehicle has left the race course.

Over	Message completed, reply expected.
Parked	Race vehicle has ceased moving in an area clear from the line or groove.
Stand By	Busy, please pause for a moment.
Start	Race vehicle began its session or race and received the green flag.
Stop	Race vehicle has ceased movement in an area obstructing the groove or line that impedes progress of following vehicles.
Sweep	The procedure of physically checking a section or the entire race course to ensure “green course” conditions.
Under Power	Vehicle is running
Yellow	Indicates an incident has occurred.

Prohibited Words	Why.....
Dead	Could be mistaken for driver condition. Use Not Under Power
Hello	May be heard as “Yellow” referring to incident
Red	May be heard as “dead”; refer to a red car as “crimson”
Roll	Only use to indicate a vehicle has rolled ove – never “en route”
Tire	May be heard as “fire”; use wheel to describe the condition (flat wheel)
Profanity	Official radio channels must adhere to federal regulations; conversations are public, never use profanity over the airwaves.

Words to avoid		
Oops	Oh God.....Stop!	Are you there?
What	Wait a sec...	Okey Dokey
Huh	Yeah, what!	Got it!
Yep	Nope	Ahhh

Radio Codes	Meaning
10	Race Delay
20	No vehicle at Start line
30	Two minute warning in effect
40	Other problem – will talk later
50	Situation that needs reinforcement (Sheriff, etc.)
60	Ask Race Control a question, but tell me NO!
70	Down for 15 – 20 minutes
80	Not sure – waiting for detail
90	Sever incident, down for 20 minutes plus
100	Roll over
Driver Condition	Meaning
1	Minor – driver OKAY
2	Medical Mandatory
3	Life threatening situation

Radio Parts

- **On/Off-Volume Knob:** Also controls volume which only affects incoming sound.
- **Squelch Control:** filters out the background "static" noise that would otherwise be heard when the channel is not being used. Most radios have an automatic squelch which can be bypassed by pressing a button to momentarily release the filtering action of the squelch setting when trying to listen to weak signals that keep cutting in and out. If the radio has a knob for squelch adjustment the setting should set just past the point where the radio becomes silent.
- **Push To Talk Button (PTT):** Normally on the side of your radio, find it and only use it when you want to transmit. Remember that you must wait a second before you begin to speak after "keying" the PTT transmit button. A typical but sometimes interesting issue with this button is when it inadvertently gets jammed. This is less than ideal if you happen to have the radio with you in this condition when visiting the "blue room". Other people on the same channel tend to learn more than they want to know in this circumstance.
- **Channel Selector:** Make sure you know what channel is being used and set the radio correctly.
- **Speaker/Mic:** The most important factor in your outgoing transmission quality is the relative position of your mouth to the radio's built-in microphone. Know where it is and speak directly into it at a distance of about 1 inch. Speak at a moderate pace, neither too slow or too fast, avoid slurring your words, and never shout - increasing your voice level will only cause distortion of your voice by the microphone.
- **Antenna:** will give you best performance if placed in the vertical position. Never bend it. Doing this will drastically reduce radio performance.
- **Battery:** Most radios have a battery that is attached to the back of the unit. The method of attachment varies.

Precautions to avoid rapid discharge of the battery include:

- Keeping the volume knob turned down lower than full blast
- Limiting the duration of your transmissions