

# **King Radio Operating Procedures For Wilderness Steward Volunteer**

## **General Care and Etiquette**

- 1) Radios are kept clean and dry. Put in a plastic bag if raining. Don't drop. They cost big bucks.
- 2) Keep conversations short, professional, and to the point. However do not be intimidated to use the radio.
- 3) Make sure you know before you go which Channel/Repeater will work for your location(s).
  - Mt. Adams south and west – Channel 12 Flattop
  - Mt. Adams north – Channel 2 Burley or Channel 1 South Point
  - Indian Heaven northeast – Channel 12 Flattop
  - Indian Heaven southwest - Channel 11 Defiance
  - Trapper Creek – Channel 11 Defiance
- 4) Turn radio on with right knob. Adjust squelch with left knob by turning clockwise until you hear the squelch, adjust volume, then back off squelch until you no longer hear it. Keep levers on to top pointed down (low power, scan off, priority off).
- 5) Leave radio on during daylight hours. Turn off at dusk to save battery.
- 6) Radio is normally kept on the channel appropriate for your locations (see above). You can tell if you are hitting the repeater by keying the mike and listening for the "kachook" sound. If there is no "kachook", then there is no use calling out because you aren't hitting the repeater. Channel 4 and 9 are work channels. They don't work off of repeaters work only line-of-sight. They can be used for a longer conversation with someone nearby (like if you were out with me, but we split up for a while.)
- 7) The battery is still good when the red light stays lit when the mike is depressed. If the battery is low, change by removing battery pack from base of radio. To remove, depress silver lever at top of battery pack, twist, and remove. Reinstall fresh battery by lining up curved edge of battery pack with curved side of radio (it will be slightly ajar), then twist to lock in position. Check to see that red light stays on when mike is keyed.
- 8) Keep the radio oriented vertically, with the back of the radio facing the direction the radio waves need to travel. If you are unsuccessful from one location, move to higher ground or try from another location. Often times you don't have to move far at all.
- 9) Take one extra battery pack so that you will have all the juice you need in the event of an emergency.
- 10) Be mindful that all your conversations are public including the neighbors listening in on their scanners.

## **Transmitting on Radio**

### **Call Initiation**

- 1) Depress transmit button (bumpy button on left side) and hold one second, speak “name of person being called” (pause) “your last name” (pause) “repeater name” (pause) then release mike. Example – depress transmit button (pause) “Vancouver” (pause) “Nakae” (pause) “Flattop” (pause) release transmit button. Or alternatively “**Vancouver**, this is **Nakae** on **Flattop** repeater”.
- 2) They will reply in a similar fashion, or if calling dispatch, they may just respond with “Vancouver”.
- 3) Depress transmit button (pause) and speak your message clearly (pause) and release transmit button. If your message is long, end the first part by saying “break”; wait a couple seconds, then transmit the rest of your message. If message is understood, the recipient will usually say “copy”. If you are calling dispatch, they may sign off by using their call letters (e.g. KOE 568) and may add the time in military hours. You sign off by saying “your last name” (pause) “clear”.

### **Initial Trip Check In**

OK you know which channel to use based on your location. At the trailhead, before you depart, call Vancouver and provide your name and itinerary. Keep it simple. “This is Nakae; I am at Thomas Lake Trailhead and I will be at Blue Lake by tonight.” Don't be surprised if they seem a little confused on who you are. If they seem confused, tell them you are a wilderness volunteer and they should understand.

### **During your trip**

When out in the field, check in with Dispatch three times daily. Call in the morning at about 8:00 and let them know your current location and your travel plan for that day. For example “I'm checking in from Blue Lake. I plan to be at Bear Lake by tonight”. Call around noon “noon radio check”. Finally call in the evening at about 5:00 and let them know where you are camping. The radio works best from higher elevations or areas where ridges are not obstructing the repeaters, so it is important to try from a different location if necessary.

### **After you trip**

When you have returned back to the Ranger Station, call Vancouver and tell them “This is “last name” and I have returned to the Mt. Adams Ranger Station (or Wind River Work Center).”

### **Emergencies!**

- 1) CALL VANCOUVER!! Don't be afraid to tell them that you are a volunteer wilderness ranger, and you need a little coaching on what to do. Vancouver is in service from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, seven days a week from June 1 to September 30. They will stay in service longer if there is a fire or another emergency.
- 2) If you are not able to reach Vancouver on the channel that should work best, try one of the other channels/repeaters listed above. Flip the high/low power switch to high, make sure

priority switch is off (pointed down), and try again. If still no contact transmit "Vancouver or ANYBODY (pause), this is \_\_\_\_ with an EMERGENCY on \_\_\_\_ repeater."

3) If you have a cell phone or talkabout radio, try it. Call 911 directly.

### **Recharging (For your information)**

- 1) Nicad rechargeable batteries are recharged after each trip; this is the battery with the little silver bumps on the bottom. Once a month, these batteries are fully drained down and recharged, with the percent charge and date recorded on the battery. When the battery only holds a 60% charge we take it out of service.
- 2) You will also have a "clamshell" battery pack for back-up. This type uses AA batteries. Clamshell battery pack do not have metal contacts on the bottom. Instead you will notice the seam where the inner core is surrounded by the outer casing. To change batteries, push the inner core down and out. Remove old batteries and insert fresh with terminals oriented correctly.