

Making Sure Your Radio Is Heard

or

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

To communicate using our so-called “Yellow Radios” you have to be heard. You’ve encountered instances where your cellphone had no coverage even though wireless networks cover a lot of territory by installing access points in as many places as they can. The Manzanita area has but one access point for our yellow radios, and much of our communication is radio-to-radio. We need to know how best to use them.

Remember:

Signal Coverage

Obstructions hinder communication.

- Go outside of the building or auto.
- Go where you can see toward the destination.

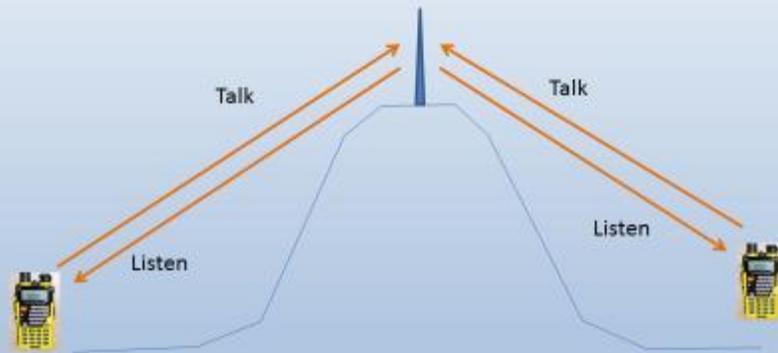
Short antenna works around neighborhood or city.

Long antenna is more efficient. Use when transmitting between cities.

These ideas help whether you’re transmitting directly to another radio on a direct channel or relaying through the Manzanita repeater.

Remember! When you are using the repeater on Channel 119, you are not talking directly to someone else’s radio. You are talking to and listening to the repeater’s radio located on the hill at the west end of Poysky Avenue. (This applies to ham operators using Channel 5 as well. The ham repeater on Channel 5 is also located there.)

How a Repeater Works



On the repeater channel, everyone talks to and listens to the repeater.
The repeater listens on the talking signal and retransmits it on the listening channel.
Radios do not talk directly to each other using the repeater channel; they talk to the repeater.

Communication using Channel 119 tends to be easier because the device is located on a high point within Manzanita. Success is somewhat like the cliché used in real estate sales, location is everything. Remember this if you are having difficulty making contact. Find the highest spot you can. Find a spot that is as open as possible. Objects such as buildings and even trees tend to block your transmitted signal.

Remember:

- Go outside of any building or automobile you are in
- Look for as open and elevated spot possible.
- Use the extended antenna that came with your yellow radio
- Shift your location as little as 12 to 18 inches in any direction
(Believe it or not, the characteristics of these radios make such a small position change work)

Additional Ideas:

The above applies to the equipment you purchased. As location is all important, antennas are also significant. It is possible to attach a totally-different antenna to the yellow radio thus increasing the radio's effectiveness. An antenna on your car is one possibility as is one attached to your home. This will be explored later, best at a face-to-face meeting.