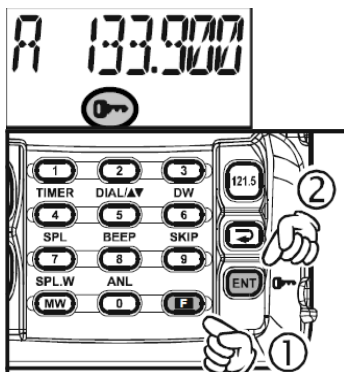# Vertex Handheld Radio -- Essential Need-to-Knows
10/27/16

The handheld radios can play a very important role in safe club operations. Ground crews should have them readily available and know how to use them. Those flying 233's should take them along. The radio is a complicated…this guide is intended to convey the essentials.
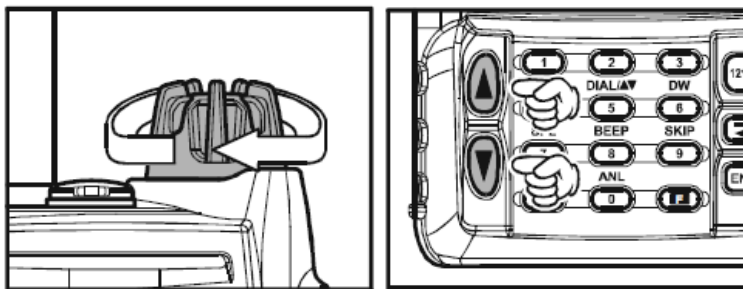
The complete manual is in the Crew Chief's notebook

- If the radio won't turn on, remove the battery and reinstall
- CCSC Traffic Frequency is 123.300
- If stuck on EMER, WX freq or some other page, unlock the keypad (if necessary), press the "ENT" key until "VFO" is displayed and times out, and then *depress the transmit button*
- If you hear continuous static, first try momentarily pressing the black circular Monitor button on the left side of the radio. If the static does not go away, adjust the squelch per below.

KEYPAD LOCK: Keep the keypad locked unless making changes to frequencies or modes. To lock/unlock the keypad, press "F" and then "ENT." A lock symbol will appear on the screen when locked.

VOLUME AND FREQUENCY CONTROL: The DIAL knob on top OR the keypad UP/DN arrows can control the volume and frequency settings. Which does what depends on setup; DIAL is the default for volume control and the UP/DN arrows are the default for frequency control. With the KEYPAD LOCK active, you cannot use the UP/DN arrows. Therefore, it is best for the DIAL knob to be set for volume control (since that is used more often) and the UP/DN arrows set for frequency control.

ENTERING A FREQUENCY (SHOULD BE SET TO 123.300 AT CCSC):
1. Unlock the keypad if locked (press "F" and "ENT")
If the LCD screen does not show a frequency:
2. Press "ENT" until "VFO" is displayed; wait ~ 3 seconds for time out & continue with step 3 below
If the LCD screen shows a frequency:
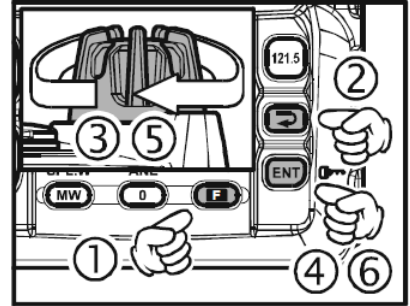3. Manually type in the frequency; alternatively use the DIAL or UP/DN arrows (setup dependent)
4. Lock the keypad (press "F" and "ENT")

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SQUELCH: The squelch <u>should be set as low as possible</u> to ensure reception of transmissions from airborne aircraft. Set it to 1 if possible; if static is present, set it to next highest value where continuous static is not heard. Set the squelch as follows (steps below do no correlate with numbers in the figure):

1. Press the "F" key and then the "ENT" key to unlock the keypad
2. Press the "F" key and then the ⟳ SET key
3. Wait ~ 3 secs for the "SET MD" display to time out
4. Rotate the DIAL until "SQL" appears (if not already displayed)
5. Press the "ENT" key; "SQL" value begins to flash
6. Rotate the DIAL knob to select setting (set to 1 unless receiving static)
7. Press the "ENT" key to save setting
8. Press the transmit button to exit
9. Press the "F" key and then the "ENT" key to lock the controls

NOTE: You can override/disable the squelch by depressing the Monitor button on the left side of the radio for 2 seconds. Squelch is re-enabled by momentarily pressing the Monitor button.