

# New Castle Sailing Club VHF Radios – Guidelines and Operating Instructions

## Guidelines

The purpose of the VHF radios is to enhance the safety of club members primarily during club sanctioned events such as racing and club cruises. The radios are stored in the sail house.

During racing, the radios are reserved for the use of the race committee. One radio will be on the committee boat and the second radio will stay in the sail house. Both radios should be switched ON and set to Channel 9 while simultaneously monitoring Channel 16. This will allow communications between the race committee and observers on land on Channel 9 which is reserved for use by recreational boaters.

Channel 16 is reserved for emergency communications. The Coast Guard monitors Channel 16. In an emergency use Channel 16 to call the Coast Guard.

Note that the Goodwill Fire Company and the County Emergency Dispatcher do NOT monitor marine radio channels.

Limit the use of the radio to channels 16 and 9.

### Definitions:

**Channel 16** - International Distress, Safety and Calling. Ships required to carry radio, USCG, and most coast stations maintain a listening watch on this channel.

NOTE: The Coast Guard announces storm warnings and other urgent marine information broadcasts on VHF channel 16 before making the broadcasts on VHF channel 22A and 2670 kHz respectively. Storm warnings and forecasts are also made by [NOAA Weather Radio](#)

**Channel 09** - Boater calling (commercial and non-commercial boats)

The Federal Communications Commission established VHF-FM channel 9 as a supplementary calling channel for noncommercial vessels (recreational boaters) at the request of the Coast Guard. A ship or shore unit wishing to call a boater would do so on channel 9, and anyone (boaters included) wishing to call a commercial ship or shore activity would continue to do so on channel 16. Recreational boaters would continue to call the Coast Guard and any commercial facility on channel 16.

## Operating Instructions

This is an abbreviated list of operating instructions for our IC-M24 hand held VHF radios. The complete instructions can be found on the web site and in the race committee box.

Charging: A charging station for both radios is in the sail house. To charge the radio open the cap on the top left of the radio, next to the antenna, and insert the jack. **DO NOT USE THE RADIO WHILE IT IS CONNECTED TO THE CHARGER.** When the radio is fully charged remove the jack and completely lock the cap back in place to waterproof the socket.

The radios float and a light flashes when the radio is immersed. Please don't try this unnecessarily because the radios should be washed down after this happens.

- To turn the radio ON, press button 1.
- To adjust the **volume** press button 2 [**VOL/SQL**] once (VOL symbol will flash) and use the UP/DOWN arrows.
- To adjust the **squelch** (static) press the [**VOL/SQL**] button twice (SQL symbol will flash) and use the UP/DOWN arrows.
- To **select the channel**, use the top left button [**16/9**] to toggle between channels 16 and 9. To go to channel 9, press the [**16/9**] button for about 1 second.
- To **use Channel 9 while monitoring Channel 16**, go to Channel 9, then press [**SCAN/DUAL**] for about 1 second until 16 appears on the right of the screen. **This should be the default setting**, and it should appear when the radio is turned on if the radio was turned off in this mode.
- To **talk** on the radio, press the **PTT** button on the side of the radio. To listen, release the button.
- To listen the weather radio, press [**CH/WX**] once or twice until you hear the radio. You can select the weather channel with the UP/DOWN arrows.
- To return to communications mode press [**CH/WX**] once to return to Channel 16.
- Then you can press [**16/9**] for one second to select Channel 9, and press [**SCAN/DUAL**] for one second to monitor Chanel 16.
- To hail a boat or ship on the river, use Channel 16.

