



# Tech Talk



## *Tips for Operating your CB Radio*

*Source – Larry Rains - Retired Auto Mechanic Instructor*

I am trying to give people ideas on how to use your CB radio. I am not an expert but maybe some of these tips will help.

The first thing is a few major controls. We may have to use different channels. You need to know how to change channels on your CB. Once that is determined there are a few channels we shouldn't use:

- Channel 9 is for emergency use.
- Channel 19 is for the truckers
- Channels 36-40 are for single side band only – we shouldn't use these either

I tried to look up what channels we should use. What I found were channels 17-25 might have the least chatter. We will just have to experiment to find out.

The “squelch button” is another major control. You turn the button counterclockwise until you hear static. Then turn it back clockwise until there is no static. The more you turn it clockwise the less distance, however.

Next, find the “volume button” so you can control how loud your speaker is. With my type of radio the speaker is in the microphone. If you set the mic down, this can make it hard to hear. I found I was always holding my mic near my ear. This doesn't work very well. I have since plugged in an ear bud headset to my radio. I can hear perfectly all the time. You can buy these at most electronic stores. I would recommend these if you want to hear.

The “Push to Talk Key” is important if you wish to talk. The say to push the button 1/2 second before you want to talk. Speak briefly, say 5-10 seconds and then say “over”. When your “Push to Talk key” is depressed (keyed) on one else can talk. If

2 mics are keyed at the same time no one can hear anything. If you lay the mic down and accidentally push the "Press to Talk" button, no one can talk or hear.

Here are some terms I picked up:

- "Over" means you are done talking
- "Say again" means you didn't understand
- "Roger" or "10-4" means you do understand

I hope these ideas help. Using or CB radios can be informative, helpful and a safe way to travel in a group.