

TACTical Communications Co.

Event and Tactical communications.



This is my proposal for a standard way to use the 7 UK Simple UK UHF channels in a radio designed around a zone or group of 16 channels such as the Baofeng 888.

Of course, this does mean using the 7 frequencies 2 or 3 times and then using CTCSS to create a set of sub-channels. When using CTCSS to create 2 “channels” on a single frequency there is the possibility of interference, so you should always programme one of the radios function keys with the “monitor” function. By pressing the monitor key you will be able to listen to the channel you want to use to see if anyone nearby is using it before using the channel.

The problem with this idea is that it puts everyone on the same small group of frequencies, but these are the ONLY UHF frequencies most can legally use other than PMR446. But on a typical Rally the likelihood of there being more than 7 groups of users close enough to interfere with each other is small.

The positive aspects are that if everyone uses this same plan, if you turn up at an event and wish to communicate with another group, as everyone’s radios would be programmed the same way, this becomes easy to do. In addition, if the organisers are using 1 or 2 channels then they could make it known which channels they are using so that everyone else knows which to avoid. For larger events organisers may be hiring radios, in which case those radios won’t be on these frequencies.

With only 7 channels to play with, this will never work for every possible scenario, but by having a common base to work from it should make it easier to avoid interference to those that need to have a clear channel (provided they tell everyone which channels they wish to use) and it makes it easier for disparate clubs and groups to get together on a single channel.

But what about everyone else that uses these frequencies??? If we wish to stay legal, we don’t really have a lot of choice other than using the very low power PMR446 radios. In the 30+ years I have been involved in event radios I can count on one hand the number of times we have actually run across other users near enough for there to be a clash. And on every one of these occasions it was only 1 channel, so we simply moved to another.

I will expand this to include the 7 VHF channels very soon, but a very commonly used radio is the Baofeng BF888 which is UHF only, so that is where I have started.

And of course – to use these channels/frequencies you must be covered by a UK Simple licence from Ofcom. This licence cost £75 for 5 years. The licence can cover anyone associated with a business, club or group. So, if a car club takes out a licence, they can authorise every member of the club to use these channels provided it is associated with club activities. You could get together with some friends and form your own club, or you could take out a licence as an individual.

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	Frequency	CTCSS TONE
1A	458.787500	88.5
2A	458.800000	88.5
3A	458.812500	88.5
4A	458.825000	88.5
5A	449.312500	88.5
6A	449.400000	88.5
7A	449.475000	88.5
1B	458.787500	103.5
2B	458.800000	103.5
3B	458.812500	103.5
4B	458.825000	103.5
5B	449.312500	103.5
6B	449.400000	103.5
7B	449.475000	103.5
1C	458.787500	77
2C	458.800000	77