

### Strategies

1. Find an easy to program radio
2. Play with various models to see what radio logic makes sense to you
3. Decide how important it is to be able to program on the fly
4. Decide between cost and features – often the more features the harder the radio is to operate
5. Conversely the cheaper the radio often the harder it is to program
6. Decide if you will need to add or delete memories often
7. Have multiple radios to fit multiple needs – for example, if I anticipate having to go simplex or add in a repeater out in the field, I bring my FT-60 – it is intuitive to program most functions; my alincos serve specific needs, such as 220/900 MHz needs, or 1.2 MHz needs. They do not program as easily, so they stay home
8. Mobiles are similar – if in the car, you need a radio easy to operate without looking, or with most controls handled by the mike which can be kept in eyesight more easily.
9. Even when programming a mobile while at a rest stop or pulled over into a parking lot, you want it to program easily, change options easily etc.
10. Regardless of the radio, know how to program it by hand or leave it at home. Force yourself to do it, even if only practicing, for any radio you will be taking out of the house. Your life could depend on it.
11. Know how to go simplex, how to turn off CTCSS/PL codes and offsets; how to switch between VFO and Memories, and how to transfer a memory to VFO – it could come in handy
12. Know how to save frequencies – it sounds basic, but some radios are designed, it would seem, to keep you from using the memory slots!
13. Don't get carried away with alphanumerics – it is too easy to forget the actual frequencies, and should your memories get zapped by you or by Murphy's Law, you need to be able to remember repeater frequencies, shifts, and PI Tones

### Memories

Memories are a topic to themselves almost, but in general most radios offer several options which are very useful

- individual channels can be scanned one at a time
- ranges of channels can be scanned such as a band, or a range of frequencies
- memory banks are usually in units of 50 or 200 channels per bank; this

allows you to organize frequencies into categories which fit your needs

-- local repeaters could be one, simplex frequencies could be another, and public service channels another

-- there may be other options as well

-- some radios offer a smart search feature which let you scan for repeaters in a new town, for example, and store them in memories.

-- there are also call or home channels which allow you to program in one or more frequencies per band for quick access to the most important repeater or simplex frequency in that band.

Our radios are capable of a lot more than we usually use, this is why reading the manual is so important!