

TAASC has Marine Radios to enhance safety and help with boat operations. The "TAASC Marine Radio procedures and training guide" is required reading in addition to this Quick Start Guide to complete the TAASC Marine Radio Endorsement. Marine Radio use is regulated and requires following FCC rules. This Quick Start Guide is divided into three sections. Section 1: FCC rules summarized for TAASC operations. Section 2: Radio procedures. Section 3: Operating the HX300 radios.

Section 1: FCC Marine Radio Rules and Regulations summarized for TAASC operations.

1. **A license is not required for individuals (TAASC volunteers)** when applicable FCC rules are followed.
2. **TAASC marine radios are "licensed by rule"** and must be operated in accordance with FCC rules and regulations.
3. **It is illegal to:** make fake/false distress calls; use improper channels; use profane language; to transmit on a channel while someone else is transmitting; use false identification; or call "all" vessels except in an emergency.
4. **Channel 16 is the Emergency Distress Channel** and is to be monitored when not communicating on another channel (and is also the primary hailing channel in this area). After hailing on Channel 16 you must immediately switch to a working channel for communications (US Channel 78A is the normal TAASC working channel).
5. **Communications must be for marine operations** or safety and must be brief (only a few channels to share)
6. **You must identify your vessel/station** in each transmission (see Section 2 radio procedures).

Section 2: Marine Radio Procedures (with focus on TAASC operations)

1. **Make sure** radio is charged and the charge port cover is closed and the battery compartment cover is latched.
2. **Radio with:** Pink wrist strap is for the beach (call ID: TAASC BEACH); Red wrist strap is for the safety boat (call ID: TAASC SAFETY BOAT); Orange wrist straps for boats (call ID: TAASC KAYAK xx) or TAASC center (call ID: TAASC ONE)
3. **Be sure Boardmaster writes "RADIO"** by your boat number/name when you take a radio out, erases it upon return to the beach, or transfers the "RADIO" designation to another boat/name if you hand off the radio on the water.
4. **Set radio volume** high enough to get your attention (medium/high for Kayaks, maximum for Beach & Safety Boat)
5. **Keep on TAASC working channel 78A** unless congested and all switch to alternate channel (71, 68, 69).
6. **Use 1-watt power setting "L" when in line-of-sight**, use 5-watt power setting when not in line-of-sight (no L).
7. **Set the radio to Dual-Watch mode (DW).** Communicate only on working channel. Monitor (and hail) Channel 16.
8. **Listen for clear channel and identify yourself** in each transmission. Examples: "TAASC BEACH, this is TAASC KAYAK xx, I need _____, Over", or "TAASC KAYAK xx, this is TAASC BEACH, return to beach for _____, Over".
9. **If you do not get an answer** on the working channel, hail on channel 16 by pressing the 16/9 key until 16 is in the main display to transmit then return to the working channel after contact by pressing 16/9 or PRESET key.
10. **Keep transmissions brief** and marine safety or marine operations related (others use same few channels).
11. **"MAYDAY" is only for life-threatening emergencies and is transmitted on Channel 16. All non-life-threatening emergencies should use working channels. You must read the full guide regarding emergency communications!**
12. **After a session or event is over** be sure to clean and dry the radio then connect it to a charger.

Section 3: An abbreviated guide to operating the Standard Horizon HX300 Marine Radios.

1. **Turn radio on** by pressing and holding the power key (bottom key with a circle and part of a vertical line).
2. **Press VOL/SQL key twice** and ▼ key (while SQL is blinking) until squelch is off then press CLR/WX (or wait)
3. **Press VOL/SQL key once** and ▲▼ keys (while VOL is blinking) to set desired volume then press CLR/WX (or wait)
4. **Press VOL/SQL key twice** and ▲ key (while SQL is blinking) until random noise is gone then press CLR/WX (or wait)
5. **If Channel 78A is not in main channel display**, press PRESET key to bring up Channel 78A (TAASC working channel).
6. **The ▲▼ keys change channels** unless the VOL/SQL key is pressed first.
7. **Press the H/L key** to change between 1 watt (low power/ "L" in display) and 5 watts (high power/no "L" in display)
8. **Press and hold SCAN/DW key** until you see "16" in the lower right corner with a "DW" above it. Note, if you see the channels flickering between 16 and 78A it means you did not hold the SCAN/DW button long enough and are in scan mode, not DW mode. Press the button again briefly to get out of scan mode then press and hold.
9. **Listen for channel to be clear** then press Push-To-Talk (PTT) button for one second and hold radio ½ to 1 inch from mouth with antenna pointing away from you when transmitting. Say "Over" or "Out" as appropriate at end.
10. **If you hear a long beep**, it is a weather alert. Press the CLR/WX key to cancel the beep and hear alert information.

11. **Press and hold the power button** until the display goes off to turn the radio off when you are done with it.

It is important you are comfortable and knowledgeable about using the radios. Ask if you do not understand something!