Getting Started

Charging the battery
Connect the base unit to a power outlet using the included cable and USB power adapter. A full recharging can take up to 4 hours.

Using the BC Link
a. Place the radio in your pack, feed the cord through the shoulder strap, and clip the Smart Mic onto shoulder or sternum strap.
b. Rotate the power knob clockwise/counter clockwise to power on, raise volume, or power off.
c. To transmit, press and hold the push-to-talk button, wait one second before speaking. Release when finished speaking.
d. Lights on the Smart Mic: Solid red = transmitting, solid green = receiving, flashing green = standby.

Selecting a Channel
a. Channels 1-5 (GMRS/FRS) and 15-22 (GMRS) have better range than channels 8-14 (FRS).
b. Push Menu and use ▲ and ▼ buttons to scroll and select a channel. Stop on the desired channel code and wait 3 seconds until it stops flashing, or press OK.

Pre-setting channels on Smart Mic
The radio comes with factory pre-set channels, but you can customize them. Have your commonly used channels set ahead of time to avoid going into your pack to change channels on base unit.
a. Select a letter on the Pre-set channel knob.
b. Push Menu and use ▲ and ▼ buttons to scroll and select a channel.
c. Stop on the desired channel code and wait 3 seconds until it stops flashing, or press OK.
d. To set privacy code, push Menu button while channel code is flashing, scroll to desired channel and wait 3 seconds, or push OK button.
e. Select the next letter on the pre-set channel knob and repeat.

Weather Report Channels
a. This set of channels range from 1-11 and can be found after scrolling through channels 1-22. The weather report channels display the icon.
b. Code selection is not active, and you cannot transmit.
c. Try each weather channel to find the strongest signal.

Lock the keys
Hold down the Menu and OK button for three seconds. Holding down those two buttons will also unlock the keys.
Using a Radio

Two-way radios serve three important functions in the backcountry:

a. Allow team members to share information on the best conditions;
b. Allow team members to warn of hazards and dangers;
c. Facilitate more efficient rescue operations.

Verifying function and range
Recommended checklist for trailheads and during the day, to ensure your communication is there when you need it:

Trailhead

a. Ensure your radio is functioning by turning it on and transmitting “Radio Check” on your selected channel. Get a confirmation from each team member. “Kim, Radio check?......Copy Scott....Copy Dave....Copy Dan.”
b. If someone is not transmitting or receiving, find out why and remedy the situation, or alter your plans to assist a team member not having communications. Typical problems can be as simple as dead batteries or wrong channels.

On slope

BCA radios are designed for effective communication in mountain environments but all radios are affected by environmental and geographical factors. Test your radio’s function and range at various points of your tour. This will build your confidence in the radio’s function and uncover any communications gaps. Recommended places to test are:

a. Whenever the team is separated by relatively large distances.
b. Whenever the first person descending stops or reaches the bottom (remember to stop only at islands of safety).
c. Whenever a team member is separated by a ridge or thick tree stand.

Communication tips

a. Keep the mic 2” from mouth and talk “across” rather than into it.
b. Think before speaking, be clear and brief.
c. Remember that everything over the radio is public.

If you’re in an area you regularly travel, make note of any communication holes to better plan future tours. Remember, radios are mainly for local team communications. A cell phone can be your link to the civilized world AND search-and-rescue in case of an emergency. As you move through the terrain, check for cell phone reception as well as radio function. Use the radios as a relay link where part of the team is out of cell phone reception. Plan your emergency plans based on your radios’ AND your cell phones’ functionality.

Using two-way radios in an emergency

a. Use to warn a user of an ongoing event.
   “AVALANCHE, GO RIGHT”
b. Use to coordinate rescue efforts including:
   - Organize and direct self-rescue efforts within your touring party.
   - Relay to another party member who has a cell phone connection to a search-and-rescue group.
   - Communicate to other users on the same or other channels.
   - Keep 16” between radio and avalanche beacon when performing a transceiver search.

Read the full BC Link™ manual:
www.backcountryaccess.com/bclink_manual_1314
Channel & FREQUENCY (MHz)

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IMPORTANT NOTICE, FCC LICENSE REQUIRED FOR GMRS OPERATION

The BC LINK Series operates on GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) frequencies which require an FCC (Federal Communications Commission) license. You must be licensed prior to operating on channels 1 - 23, which comprise the GMRS channels of the BC LINK Series. Serious penalties could result for unlicensed use of GMRS channels, in violation of FCC rules, as stipulated in the Communications Act's Sections 501 and 502 (amended).

You will be issued a call sign by the FCC which should be used for station identification when operating the radio on GMRS channels. You should also cooperate by engaging in permissible transmissions only, avoiding channel interference with other GMRS users, and being prudent with the length of their transmission time.

To obtain a license or ask questions about the license application, contact the FCC at 1-888-CALL FCC or go to the FCC's website: http://www.fcc.gov and request form 605.

FCC Warning

To ensure that your expose to RF electromagnetic energy is Within the FCC allowable limits for occupational use, always Adhere to the following guidelines:

- DO NOT operate the radio without a proper antenna attached, as this may damaged the radio And may also cause you to exceed FCC RF exposure limits, A proper antenna is the antenna Supplied with this radio by the manufacturer or antenna specifically authorized by the manufacturer for use with this radio.
- DO NOT transmits for more than 50% of total radio use time (‘50% duty cycle). Transmitting more than 50% of the time can cause FCC RF exposure compliance requirements to be
exceeded. The radio is transmitting when the “TX indicator” lights red. You can cause the radio to transmit by pressing the “PTT” switch.
- ALWAYS keep the antenna at least 1.5cm (0.6 inch) away from the body when transmitting and only use the belt-clip which is listed in instructions when attaching the radio to your belt, etc., to ensure FCC RF exposure compliance requirements are not exceeded.

The information listed above provides the user with the information needed to make him or her aware of RF exposure, and what to do to assure that this radio operates with the FCC RF exposure limits of this radio.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation

NOTE 1: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the part 95 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:
- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Any changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

The information listed above provides the user with the information needed to make him or her aware of RF exposure, and what to do to assure that this radio operates with the FCC RF exposure limits of this radio.