West Marine

VHF600

DSC Fixed Mount Marine Radio
Maritime Radio Services Operation

Warning!

This transmitter will operate on channels/frequencies that have restricted use in the United States. The channel assignments include frequencies assigned for exclusive use of the U.S. Coast Guard, use in Canada, and use in international waters. Operation in these frequencies without proper authorization is strictly forbidden. For frequencies/channels that are currently for use in the U.S. without an individual license, please contact the FCC Call Center at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

For individuals requiring a license, such as commercial users, you should obtain a license application from your nearest FCC field office.

West Marine works to reduce lead content in our PVC coated cords in our products and accessories.

Warning!

The cords on this product and/or accessories contain lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.
# Contents

About Your VHF600 ................................................................. 2
Included With Your VHF600 .................................................. 3
Controls and Indicators .......................................................... 4
Installation ............................................................................. 8
  Choosing a Location ............................................................ 8
  Engine Noise Suppression ................................................... 9
  Antenna Considerations ...................................................... 9
  Antenna Selection and Installation ....................................... 9
  Installing the VHF600 ......................................................... 10
Operation ............................................................................... 11
  Power On/Off ..................................................................... 11
  Last Channel Memory ....................................................... 11
  Squelch ............................................................................ 12
  Instant Channel 16/Channel 9 Communications ................... 13
  Marine Distress Procedure ............................................... 13
  Triple Watch ..................................................................... 14
  Manually Selecting a Channel ............................................. 14
  Weather Channels ............................................................. 15
  Entering Channel Numbers into Memory Scan ................. 15
  Memory Channel Scan ..................................................... 16
  Triple Watch Alert Scan ................................................... 16
  Alert Scan ........................................................................ 16
  Hail .................................................................................. 17
    Adjusting the Hail Volume ................................................. 17
  Weather Alert ................................................................... 18
    About S.A.M.E. Weather Alert ....................................... 18
  Setting Transmit (TX) Power ............................................. 20
  Setting TX Output ............................................................ 20
  Sending a Distress Call ..................................................... 21
Using the Menu ..................................................................... 22
  Menu Flow Chart .............................................................. 22
  Selecting Items From The Menu ......................................... 22
  Using Digital Selective Calling (DSC) ................................. 23
    Individual .................................................................... 24
    Group ........................................................................... 25
    All Ships Call ............................................................... 26
    Position Request .......................................................... 27
    Position Send ............................................................... 28
    Standby ........................................................................ 30
    Call Wait ...................................................................... 31
Using Setup .......................................................................... 33
  Alarm Clock ..................................................................... 33
Your West Marine VHF600 marine radio is a potent combination of high technology fused with rugged durability. The radio's all solid-state design and conservatively-rated components and materials make it an ideal choice for harsh marine environments.

The radio is constructed to be well-protected from the elements and meets the stringent JIS7 waterproof specification. You can use an optional flush mount (600 FMB) to mount the radio for maximum convenience aboard your vessel.

The radio's built-in DSC (Digital Selective Calling) options let you send a distress message in an emergency situation, and send and receive position data to and from other vessels. The radio's built-in weather alert function helps you stay abreast of the latest weather conditions. You can even connect an optional GPS receiver to the radio to help keep track of your current location with space-age precision.

You should read the rest of this Operating Guide throughly to acquaint yourself with all of your radio's features and functions.

Save your receipt as proof-of-purchase in case you ever need to have warranty service on the radio.

Features, specifications, and availability of optional accessories are all subject to change without notice.

Note: Your radio meets JIS7 requirements. This means that the radio and microphone can be submerged to a depth of 1 meter for up to 30 minutes without incurring damage.
Included With Your VHF600

- VHF600 Owner’s Manual
- VHF600 Radio
- Microphone Hanger and Screws
- Mounting Bracket and Knobs
- DC Cord
- Mounting Hardware
- Accessory Cable
- Spare Fuse 250V 6A
Controls and Indicators

Front Panel/Microphone

1. **PTT Switch** - Press to transmit and release to receive.
2,7. **16/9/TRI** - Press briefly to instantly change to Channel 16, Channel 9 or the current channel. Press for more than two seconds to activate the Triple Watch Feature.
3. **+/−** - These keys are used to change the channel number up or down. They are also used to adjust the outgoing volume for Hail mode and to move the cursor in Menu mode.
4. **PUSH/SEL** - This is used to manually select the desired Communication Channel (01-28 and 60-88), or Weather Channel (0-9). In the Menu mode this is used to select the menu options. It is also used to display the GPS mode and to adjust the outgoing volume for the HAIL mode.
5. **MENU** - Press briefly to enter the Menu mode.
6. **PWR(Power)/VOLUME** (On/Off/Volume) - Turns the unit on or off and adjusts the speaker volume.
8. **WX/ALERT** - Selects Weather channel and Weather Alert mode. Press briefly to listen to active NOAA Weather channels. Press and hold for 2 seconds to set the radio to its Weather Alert mode.
9. **SCAN/MEM** - Press briefly to activate the memory channel scan feature. Press for more than two seconds to place the currently selected channel into memory. Press for more than two seconds again to delete a channel from scanning memory.
10. **HAIL** - Use as a public address system and for two-way voice communication.
11. **H/L** - Press briefly to change the transmit power to either High (25 watts) or Low (1 watt).
12. **DISTRESS** - Lift the flap and press this key for 5 seconds to send a distress signal in case of emergency.
13. **SQUELCH** - Rotate clockwise to eliminate background noise when a signal is not being received.
Rear Panel Connectors

1. DC Jack
2. ACC Connector
3. Remote Connector
4. Antenna Connector

ACC Connector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin number</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Signal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ORG</td>
<td>NMEA OUT (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>External Speaker (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BRN</td>
<td>Hailer (+) Horn Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GRN</td>
<td>GPS DATA IN (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>YEL</td>
<td>NMEA OUT (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BAR</td>
<td>GPS DATA IN (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BLK</td>
<td>External Speaker (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>BLU</td>
<td>Hailer (-) Horn Speaker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To VHF600

Orange : NMEA OUT (-)
Black  : External Speaker (-)
Green  : GPS DATA IN (+)
Red    : External Speaker (+)
Bare Wire : GPS DATA IN (-)
Brown  : Hailer (+) Horn Speaker
Blue   : Hailer (-) Horn Speaker
Yellow : NMEA OUT (+)
1. **TX** (Transmit) - Indicates the radio is transmitting.
   **TRI** (Triple Watch) - Indicates Triple Watch Mode is in effect.
2. **HI (High)** - Indicates transmit output is 25 watts.
   **LO (Low)** - Indicates transmit output is 1 watt.
3. **USA** - Indicates US Channel Mode.
   **CAN** - Indicates Canadian Channel Mode.
   **INT** - Indicates International Channel Mode.
4. **ALT** - Indicates Weather Alert Mode has been activated.
5. **MEM (Memory)** - Indicates Memory Scan Mode status for each selected channel.
6. **WX** - Indicates Weather Channel Mode has been activated.
7. **CHANNEL NAME** - Shows the currently-tuned channel's name.
8. **Channel Display** - Indicates the current Channel Number.
9. **ALARM SET** - Appears when the alarm is set.
9. **ALARM ACTIVE** - Blinks when the alarm clock is sounding.
9. **GPS OK** - Appears while the VHF600 is receiving valid GPS data from an external GPS receiver (GPS receiver is optional).
9. **CHECK GPS** - Appears when the GPS data is invalid.
9. **WHAM (Wireless Handheld Access Microphone) OK** - Appears when the VHF600 is connected to the WHAM's control unit.
9. **BATTERY HIGH** - Appears when the battery voltage is too high.
   (The Battery High icon appears in this illustration).
9. **BATTERY LOW** - Appears when the battery voltage is too low.
GPS Indicator (External GPS Source Required)

The GPS Indicator screen appears if you connected an optional GPS receiver to the radio and press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

1. **Date** - Shows current date.
2. **Time** - Shows current time.
3. **Speed Data** - Shows current speed.
4. **Angle Data** - Shows current compass direction.
5. **Latitude** - Shows current position information.
6. **Longitude** - Shows current position information.
7. **Channel Display** - Shows the currently-tuned channel.

**Notes:**
- "POS SEND", "TIME ADJUST", "DAYLITE SAVINGS", and "ALARM CLOCK" do not appear on the display if an external GPS receiver is not connected to the radio.
- When the radio is in one of the following modes: WX Alert mode, Channel 16/9 mode, Scan Mode, or Triple Watch mode and the user presses **MENU**, all of these modes are cancelled.
- The Menu mode is cancelled if the radio receives a DSC call or any key except + / – or the **PUSH – SEL** knob is pressed.
Installation

Caution: The VHF600 will only operate with a nominal 13.8 volt negative ground battery system.

Keep in mind the flexibility designed into the VHF600 so that you can most conveniently use it. Features which should be considered are:

1. The universal mounting bracket may be installed on either the top or bottom of a shelf, on a bulkhead, or for overhead mounting.
2. The REMOTE speaker wires can be used with an auxiliary speaker.
3. All connections are "plug-in" type for easy removal of the radio.
4. By using an optional WHAM (Wireless Handheld Access Microphone), the VHF 600 can be mounted completely out of the way.
5. Also optionally available is a flush mount bracket (White - FMB600).

Choosing a Location

Some important factors to consider in selecting the location for your VHF600.

1. The VHF600 is completely waterproof, but will last longer if protected from spray and splash.
2. Keep the battery leads as short as possible. Direct connection to the battery is most desirable. If direct connection can not be made with the supplied power lead, any extension should be made with #12-14 AWG wire. Long extensions should use larger gauge wire.
3. Keep the antenna lead-in wire as short as possible. If you must use a long lead-in wire as in the case of a sailboat masthead antenna installation, we recommend you upgrade your lead-in wire according to the following table:
   - RG-58 <20'
   - RG-8X <35'
   - RG-8U <60'
4. Locate your antenna as high as possible and clear from metal objects. The reliable range of coverage is a direct function of the antenna height.
5. Select a location that allows free air flow around the heat sink on the rear of the radio.
6. Select a location well away from the ship’s compass. Auxiliary speakers also should be located away from the compass.
Engine Noise Suppression

Interference from the noise generated by the electrical systems of engines is sometimes a problem with radios. The VHF600 has been designed to be essentially impervious to ignition noise and alternator noise. However, in some installations it may be necessary to take measures to further reduce the effect of noise interference. The VHF600 radio DC battery wires, antenna lead, and accessory cables should be routed away from the engine and engine compartment, and from power cabling carrying high currents.

In severe cases of noise interference, it may be necessary to install a noise suppression kit. Contact your West Marine store or dealer where you purchased the radio for more information.

Antenna Considerations

A variety of antennas are available from a number of quality suppliers. In general, we recommend 8’ 6dB rated antennas for powerboats, and 4’ 3dB antennas for sailboats.

In general, communication range is increased by using a high-gain antenna placed as high as possible above the water line. Antennas should be located away from metal objects. Keep coax feed cables as short as practical.

Antenna Selection and Installation

Your VHF600 has been designed to accommodate all of the popular marine VHF antennas. However, the selection and the installation of the antenna is the responsibility of the user or installer.

The FCC has determined that excessive radiation poses a health risk to people near radio transmitting antennas. Therefore, the antenna used with this radio should be installed using the following guidelines to ensure a suitable distance between the antenna and persons close by.

- Small whip antennas (3 dB) or smaller should be installed keeping at least 3 feet separation distance between the radiating element and people.
- Larger antennas (6 dB or 9 dB) should be installed keeping at least a 6 feet separation distance.
- No person should touch the antenna or come closer than the separation distance when the radio is transmitting.
Installing the VHF600

After you have carefully considered the various factors affecting your choice of location, position the radio (with the bracket, microphone, power cord, antenna and any auxiliary cables installed) into the selected location to assure there is no interference with the surrounding items. Mark the location of the mounting bracket. Remove the bracket from the radio and use it as a template to mark the holes to be drilled for the mounting hardware. Drill the holes and mount the bracket with hardware compatible with the material of the mounting surface.

Note: *This HEXAGON HEAD BOLT is only for mounting the bracket with hardware. Do not use it for installing the radio in the mounting bracket.*

Connect the red wire of the supplied power cord to the positive (+) side of your distribution circuit or battery. Connect the black wire of the supplied power cord to the negative (−) side of your distribution circuit or battery. The power cord is equipped with a fuse to protect the radio. Use only a six (6) amp fast blow fuse for replacement. Connect the power cord to the keyed connector on the power "pigtail".

Connect the antenna and all other auxiliary cables and accessories. Install the radio in the mounting bracket and connect all cables and accessories to the appropriate jacks and connectors.

Note: *Do not use mounting knobs other than the ones supplied. Do not insert the knobs without attaching the bracket.*
Operation

Power On/Off

Turn on the radio by rotating the **PWR/VOLUME** control clockwise. Then adjust the volume to a comfortable level.

When you turn on the radio, you hear a beep and the greeting message below appears on the display for 2 seconds. Then the main display shown on page 6 appears on the display.

To toggle between the main display and the GPS Indicator screen (if you install an optional GPS receiver), repeatedly press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

Last Channel Memory

The **VHF600** memorizes the last channel selected before you turn it off. For example, if the **VHF600** is tuned to Channel 16 when you turn it off, it tunes that channel when you turn it back on.

*Note:* You must tune a channel for at least 3 seconds before the radio will memorize that channel.
Squelch

Turn **SQUELCH** fully clockwise. This raises the “Squelch Gate” so high that only very strong signals can get through.

Turn **SQUELCH** fully counterclockwise until you hear a hiss. This lowers the “Squelch Gate” so that everything gets through - noise, weak signals, and strong signals.

Turn **SQUELCH** back clockwise until the hiss stops. Now the “Squelch Gate” allows only strong signals to get through.
Instant Channel 16/Channel 9 Communications

The radio tunes to Channel 16 (Hailing and Distress) the first time you press the 16/9/TRI key, even if it is tuned to another channel. The radio tunes to Channel 9 (Hailing and Distress) the second time you press the 16/9/TRI key. Press 16/9/TRI a third time to return to the original channel you tuned before you pressed 16/9/TRI. The selected channel appears on the display.

To cancel Hailing and Distress Channel 16/Channel 9 communications:

- Repeatedly press 16/9/TRI until the previous channel setting appears.
- Briefly press WX/ALERT, + / - on the microphone, or SCAN/MEM.

MARINE DISTRESS PROCEDURE

Speak slowly – clearly – calmly.

1. Make sure the radio is on.
2. Tune to Channel 16.
3. Press the PTT button on the microphone then say: "MAYDAY – MAYDAY – MAYDAY."
4. Give your vessel’s ID.
5. Say "MAYDAY [your vessel’s name]."
6. Give your location (including any nearby navigational aids or landmarks).
7. State the nature of your distress.
8. Give the number of persons aboard and the conditions of any injured.
9. Estimate present seaworthiness of your vessel.
10. Give a brief description of your vessel (meters, type, color, hull).
11. Say: "I will be listening on Channel 16".
12. End message by saying "THIS IS [your vessel’s name or call sign] OVER."
13. Release the PTT button and listen. Someone should answer. If not, repeat the call, starting at Item 3 above.
**Triple Watch**

Triple Watch lets you monitor Channel 16, Channel 9, and the current Marine Channel (home or normal channel) or Weather Channel.

To activate Triple Watch, press and hold **16/9/TRI** for 2 seconds. **TRI** appears on the LCD, indicating Triple Watch mode is in effect. If a signal is received on Channel 9 the radio keeps watching channel 16.

Press and hold **16/9/TRI** for 2 seconds to cancel the Triple Watch mode.

**Note:** While in Triple Watch mode, you can change the currently selected channel using the **PUSH–SEL** knob. A momentary press of the **16/9/TRI** button interrupts Triple Watch mode and remains on channel 16, or on channel 9 if you press **16/9/TRI** once more. To return to the Triple Watch mode, simply press the button briefly again.

**Manually Selecting a Channel**

To manually select a channel, rotate the **PUSH–SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number or counterclockwise to decrease it. You can also repeatedly press + or – on the microphone to change it.

Communication channels are located on channel 01-28 and 60-88. Weather channels are located on channels 0-9.

**Note:** In the US, the Coast Guard may refer to Channels 21, 22, 23 etc. as 21 alpha, 22 alpha, etc. The **VHF600** shows these channels in the USA mode as channel 21, 22, 23, etc.
Weather Channels
To select Weather Channels 0-9, press WX/ALERT briefly. The radio will tune to the last selected Weather Channel. Press + or − on the microphone to select a different Weather Channel. It also can be changed by the PUSH – SEL knob on the base.
To exit the Weather Channel, press WX/ALERT briefly The radio returns to the previous Marine channel.

Entering Channel Numbers into Memory Scan
You can enter channels into the radio’s memory so they can be rapidly scanned. This means that you can have the radio move from one memorized channel to the next, and have it stop to monitor the channel only if there is traffic or conversations on that channel.
To enter a channel into Memory Scan, select the channel you want to store by rotating the PUSH – SEL knob, then press and hold SCAN/MEM for 2 seconds. The channel is stored in Memory Scan and MEM appears on the LCD display.
To cancel the channel in memory, press and hold SCAN/MEM for 2 seconds. The MEM icon disappears.

*Note:* The Memory channel can be set independently in 3 regional modes (USA, INT, and CAN). You cannot use this feature in WX mode or for channel 70.

**Memory Channel Scan**

This feature will allow you to scan only the channels of your choice. Memory Channel Scan can only be activated if channels have previously been placed into memory.

To turn on Memory Channel Scan, press SCAN/MEM. The VHF600 scans the channels that were previously placed into memory, from the lowest channel number to the highest channel number.

**Triple Watch Alert Scan**

This feature will allow you to listen to the channel of your choice. scan channels 16 and 9 every 2 seconds, and scan for Emergency or Weather Alerts every 7 seconds to be sure that you will not miss any important broadcasts.

To turn Triple Watch Alert Scan on, press and hold WX/ALERT for 2 seconds while in Memory Channel Scan mode. While the Memory Channels are scanned, Channel 16 and Channel 9 are scanned every 2 seconds, and the Weather Channel is scanned every 7 seconds. "TRI" and "ALT" appear on the display.

**Alert Scan**

This feature will allow you to scan the channels of your choice and also scan the Weather channels for Emergency or Weather alerts.

To turn Alert Scan On, press and hold WX/ALERT for 2 seconds. While the memory channels are scanned, the Weather Channel is scanned every 7 seconds. The icon appears on the display.
Hail
To access the Hail mode, press HAIL on the base. HA appears on the display. Press and hold the PTT switch on the microphone, hold the microphone approximately two inches away from your mouth, and speak clearly in a normal voice. To cancel Hail mode, press HAIL on the base again.

Adjusting the Hail Volume
While you are in Hail mode, you can adjust the outgoing volume by pressing +/- on the microphone, or by rotating the PUSH – SEL knob on the VHF600. The incoming volume is adjusted by using the PWR/VOLUME knob.

Note: If you purchase an optional hailer horn for the radio, make sure it meets these specifications.
• 17 Watts (nominal)
• 10 Watts (minimum)
• 4 Ω load (impedance)
* RE-ENTRANT feature might not work on all models.
Weather Alert

Traditional weather radios receive weather broadcasts (usually within a 50-mile radius) then sound an alarm when any emergency code is transmitted along with the broadcast. This means that people who live outside an affected area are often alerted even when their area is not affected, causing many of them to ignore potentially real emergency/weather warnings that can save lives.

Your radio’s Weather Alert feature lets it monitor the local weather channel for NOAA weather alert broadcasts, while allowing you to listen to other channels.

About S.A.M.E. Weather Alert

In 1994, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began broadcasting coded signals called FIPS (Federal Information Processing System) codes along with their standard weather broadcasts from stations in your area. These codes identify an emergency and the specific geographic area (such as a county) affected by the emergency.

Your radio’s SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) technology lets it receive, interpret, and display information about the codes it receives so you can determine if an emergency might affect your area.

Each FIPS code identifies a specific geographic area (defined by the National Weather Service), so your radio sounds an alert only when an emergency/weather emergency is declared in those locations. This helps you more efficiently track the emergency/weather conditions in and around your area.

When the VHF600 receives a weather alert:
- It sounds an alert siren.
- A description of the alert appears.

The alert descriptions your radio can display are based on a list of specific weather alert types published by the NWS (National Weather Service). For a list of all the alert descriptions that your radio can display, see “NWR-SAME Event Codes” on page 70.

Caution: The NWS uses sophisticated weather models to determine an alert’s effective time. However, the end of an alert does not necessarily mean that the related weather emergency is over.
The radio’s Weather Alert mode can alert you when dangerous weather is in your area. When Weather Alert is turned on and a warning signal is received, an emergency siren sounds at full volume, regardless of the volume setting. When the signal stops, you hear the active weather channel broadcast at its normal volume.

**Note:** See “Selecting a FIPS Code” on page 44 for more information about working with FIPS codes.

The **ALT** icon indicates the Weather Alert mode is active. To activate the Weather Alert mode:

1. Press **WX/ALERT** for more than 2 seconds when WX/ALERT is off. The radio turns WX/ALERT on and the **ALT** icon appears.

2. If the radio receives a 1050Hz tone, the **ALT** icon blinks every other second.

3. When a WX/ALERT signal is received, all other functions are canceled and the radio remains on the selected weather channel.

**Important:** The radio does not decode a SAME signal when it is in Scan mode. To decode the SAME signal, set the radio to an active weather channel. To stop the alert, briefly press any key. If you press any key again, the alert icon disappears.

**Note:** The radio must be tuned to an active weather channel to decode the SAME signal. This is because the SAME signal is only broadcast at the beginning of the 10 second weather alert tone broadcast by the National Weather Service.
Setting Transmit (TX) Power

The **VHF600** transmits on 55 marine frequencies and receives on 80 marine frequencies. Channel 70 of the USA, International, and Canadian frequencies, and channel 15, of the USA frequencies, and WX CH – are for receiving only. The **VHF600** transmits on channel 70 when sending DSC information. Your radio will not transmit on these channels. For your reference, a listing of all the available marine channels is located on pages 67 - 69.

Setting TX Output

**Caution:** Be sure to set the TX output to LO while in port or for short range communications.

1. When you turn the **VHF600** on for the first time, it is automatically set to transmit at 25 watts (HI).

2. Press **H/L** briefly to change the transmitter output to 1 watt (LO).

3. Press **H/L** again to change back to 25 watts (HI).

**Note:** A short tone sounds every time you press **H/L**. CH13 is a 1 watt (LO) channel. When the channel is a LO power channel, you can transmit at 25 watts (HI) by pressing **H/L** during the call. LO power channels are USA Channels 13, 17, 67, 77; Canadian Channels 13,15,17,20,66,77, and INT Channels 15,17. Use low transmit power in harbors or when close to the receiving station. You cannot change the transmit power setting on channels which are receive-only channels, including all weather channels, USA Channels 15, 70, Canadian Channel 70, and International Channel 70.
Sending a Distress Call

Important: You must set a user MMSI before you can send a Distress call. Please see page 60 to set the MMSI.

This feature lets you transmit a Distress call.

1. To transmit a Distress call, flip up the button cover then press and hold DISTRESS for 5 seconds. The following screen appears.

2. Select SEND to confirm the Distress call or CANCEL to cancel it. If you select CANCEL, the display returns to the channel display screen.

3. Press the PUSH – SEL knob to send the Distress call. The radio transmits the Distress call then waits for an acknowledgement signal for about 210 - 270 seconds. After the Distress call has been sent, the Distress alert sounds every other second. The radio also "shadow-watches" for a transmission between CH16 and CH70 until an acknowledgement signal is received from the Coast Guard shore station.

4. To cancel the Distress call, press the PUSH – SEL knob.

5. When the VHF600 receives a Distress call, the following screen appears. The Distress call is repeated until an acknowledgement is received from the Coast Guard shore station.

Note: If the VHF600 receives a Distress call, it appears on the display and the radio sounds an emergency alert. The name of the vessel that sent the Distress call is displayed if it is a name registered in the directory. Otherwise, the vessel’s MMSI is displayed. Latitude, longitude, and time information also appear if a GPS receiver is installed in the vessel that sent the Distress call.
Using the Menu

Menu Flow Chart

Your radio’s menu functions are structured in the following order.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DSC CALL, SETUP, SYSTEM, or REV CH MEM.**
Using Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is a protocol that has been chosen by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as an international standard for establishing VHF, MF and HF radio calls. DSC has also been selected to be part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

DSC lets you instantly send a Distress call with GPS position (when you connect an optional GPS receiver to the VHF600) to the US Coast Guard and other vessels within range of the transmission. DSC also lets you initiate or receive distress, urgency, safety, position information and routine calls to or from another vessel outfitted with a DSC transceiver.

The VHF600 includes the following DSC features:

- **INDIVIDUAL CALL** - Quickly call other vessels from your calling directory.
- **GROUP CALL** - Easily call a group of vessels.
- **ALL SHIPS CALL** - Allows you to send Urgent, Safety-related, or Routine calls to all vessels in your area.
- **POSITION REQUEST** - Easily request the position of a vessel in your call directory.
- **POSITION SEND** - Send your position information to a vessel in your call directory.
- **STANDBY** - Lets you acknowledge calls with "Unavailable" while you are away from your vessel.
- **CALL WAITING** - Your VHF600 will automatically log incoming calls into a directory so you can receive them later if you are not available to take the call immediately.

See the directory section for instructions on how to set up the directory of names.

**Note:** You must connect an optional GPS receiver to the radio to use the position send, alarm clock, and adjusting the time features described in this section.
**Individual**

This feature lets you contact another vessel and automatically switch the receiving DSC radio to the desired channel.

1. Select an open channel.

2. Press **MENU** briefly.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **DSC CALL**. The DSC CALL menu appears.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The individual directory appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the individual you want to contact, then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to transmit the individual DSC signal.

7. When you receive an individual acknowledgement, the following screen appears, and both radios tune to the previously selected channel. You are now ready to transmit on that channel.

   or

   When the called radio has been set to standby mode, the following screen appears.
Notes:  

- If there is no data registered in the directory, you cannot do step 4 in this procedure. See “Setting Up the Directory” on page 38 for directory setup instructions.
- Select an open (unused) working channel first, then make the call. After the acknowledgement, both radios tune to the previously selected channel.

Group
This function lets you contact a group of specific vessels using DSC and automatically switch to a desired channel. This function also lets you transmit a DSC signal with a group MMSI.

1. Select an open channel.
2. Press MENU briefly.

3. Press the PUSH – SEL knob to select DSC CALL. The DSC CALL menu appears.

4. Rotate the PUSH – SEL knob to select GROUP.

5. Press the PUSH – SEL knob. The MMSI code appears and you can now call the group members. Press the PUSH – SEL knob at SEND and the VHF600 returns to the channel display screen.
All Ships Call
This function lets you send any of the following types of ALL SHIPS calls:

- **Urgency** - This call is for a vessel not yet in Distress, but may have a serious problem.
- **Safety** - This call is used for a reason like debris in the water.
- **Routine** - This call is used for normal calls.

1. Press *MENU* briefly.

2. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select *DSC CALL*. The DSC CALL menu appears.

3. Rotate the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select *ALL SHIPS*.

4. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob. The ALL SHIPS directory appears.

5. Rotate the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select the nature of your call (*URGENCY*, *SAFETY*, *ROUTINE*).

   **Note:** *ROUTINE* calls tune to the previously selected channel.

6. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob to transmit the ALL SHIPS DSC signal.
7. When sending either an **URGENCY** or **SAFETY** message, all radios automatically tune to channel 70 until all of the data is received.

8. The radio automatically tunes to Channel 16 after it transmits an **URGENCY** or **SAFETY** ALL SHIPS call. You should wait a few minutes before transmitting ALL SHIPS call information.

**Position Request**

This function lets you request the position of an individual vessel registered in the Directory.

**Note:** The radio for which you want to receive position data must transmit the data before you can receive it. **VHF600** radios can transmit and receive position data.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **DSC CALL**. The **DSC CALL** menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **POS. REQUEST**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The individual directory appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the vessel's name.
6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears. Confirm if the name and address are correct. Then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **SEND**.

7. If the VHF600 does not receive an acknowledgement, the following screen appears.

8. When the called vessel sends its position information, the following screen appears.

### Position Send
This function lets you send your vessel’s position to another vessel using a VHF marine radio equipped with DSC.

*Note:* You must connect an optional GPS receiver to your radio to use position send.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **DSC CALL**. The DSC CALL menu appears.
3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **POS. SEND**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The individual directory appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the name where you want to send your position information.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears. Confirm if the name and address are correct. Then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **SEND**.

7. When the calling radio receives an acknowledgement, the following screen appears.
Standby
The DSC STANDBY function lets the VHF600 answer DSC calls with the UNATTENDED message and record calls for response at another time. When you set the VHF600 to DSC STANDBY mode, voice traffic may still be active on any chosen channel.

1. Press MENU briefly.

2. Press the PUSH – SEL knob to select DSC CALL. The DSC CALL menu appears.

3. Rotate the PUSH – SEL knob at STANDBY.

4. Press the PUSH – SEL knob. The STANDBY directory appears.

5. When an individual DSC call is received, the radio responds with the UNATTENDED message when an operator cannot answer the call. Then the radio records the DSC call into its Call Waiting directory.

   Note: Standby is canceled when you press a key on the radio or the mic.
Call Wait

The DSC Call Waiting function records up to 10 received distress calls, and records up to 20 individual calls that are received and not answered within 5 minutes or while the radio is set to DSC Standby. The radio records these calls while you are busy with other communications as long as the transmitter is not keyed at the time of the call. If the call is answered within 5 minutes, the call is not recorded. When a call is recorded, a message appears.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **DSC CALL**. The DSC CALL menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **CALL WAIT**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The CALL WAIT directory appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the options you want to view.

**Note:** At least one call must be logged before you can proceed to the next step. If a call has not been logged, the VHF600 beeps and you cannot proceed.
6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

7. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the information.

8. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to get further information about the call received.
   
   If a DISTRESS call is received in Call Wait, the following display appears.

   ![DISTRESS LOG]
   
   **KENT NEWMAN**
   **PAUL HUBER**
   **JUNE BRAWLEY**
   **68**

   If an INDIVIDUAL call is received in Call Wait, the following display appears. At this point, you can call back any of the radios in the log.

   ![INDIVIDUAL LOG]
   
   **KENT NEWMAN**
   **SEND**
   **CANCEL**
   **68**
Using Setup
1. Press **MENU** briefly.
2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**.

SETUP has 12 options as follows. To exit, select **EXIT**.

Alarm Clock
The alarm clock function works only if a GPS receiver is connected to the radio. The GPS receiver provides the time data for the alarm clock. You must set the time before you set the alarm clock. See “Adjusting the Time” on page 36 for more information.

Setting the Alarm
This feature allows you to set the alarm.
1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **ALARM CLOCK**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **ALARM SET**.
Turning the Alarm On
This feature allows you to turn on the alarm.

1. Press *MENU* briefly.

2. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob at SETUP. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select **ALARM CLOCK**.

4. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob.

5. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select **ON**. The VHF600 returns to the channel display screen and **ALARM SET** appears.

6. You can set the hour, the minute, and AM or PM by rotating the **PUSH – SEL** knob. It will be entered when the **PUSH – SEL** knob is pressed, and the blinking digit moves to the right.

7. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob after you select AM or PM. A confirmation screen appears. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob and the VHF600 returns to the ALARM CLOCK menu.
6. When the VHF600 reaches the set time the alarm sounds and ALARM ACTIVE and time display blinks.

**Note:** The alarm sounds when the set time is reached. You can turn off the alarm by pressing any key. Alarm mode turns off automatically when the alarm sounds.

**Turning the Alarm Off**
This feature allows you to turn off the alarm.
1. Press *MENU* briefly.

2. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob at SETUP. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the *PUSH – SEL* knob to select ALARM CLOCK.

4. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob.

5. Press the *PUSH – SEL* knob at OFF. The VHF600 returns to the channel display screen and ALARM SET disappears.
Adjusting the Time
This feature allows you to set the time difference between local time and the time that GPS receiver provided. This feature is available only when a GPS receiver is connected to the radio.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **TIME ADJUST**.

4. Rotate the **PUSH - SEL** knob to select the appropriate time (auto adjusted time).

5. Press the **PUSH - SEL** knob.

6. A confirmation screen appears. To confirm the time you entered, select **SET**. Otherwise, select **CANCEL**. Then press the **PUSH - SEL** knob.
Setting Daylight Saving Time
This feature allows you to set up the time difference automatically by using an optional GPS receiver.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH - SEL** knob at **DAYLITE SAV**.

4. Press the **PUSH - SEL** knob to select **ON**. The SETUP menu appears.
Setting Up the Directory
This function lets you send an individual call, etc. The Directory function lets you store the name and number of up to 20 other vessels. You can set up your vessel’s alphanumeric identity and MMSI number in the directory.

Follow these steps to use the Directory menu.
1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DIRECTORY**. The DIRECTORY menu appears.
Entering New Information

1. Press MENU briefly.

2. Press the PUSH – SEL knob at SETUP. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the PUSH – SEL knob at DIRECTORY. The DIRECTORY menu appears.

4. Press the PUSH – SEL to select NEW.

5. You can now enter the person’s name. Rotate and press the PUSH – SEL knob to select a letter. The character will be entered when you press the PUSH – SEL knob. Press PUSH – SEL knob for more than two seconds when you enter the last character.
6. After you enter the person’s name, you can enter their MMSI number. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The blinking digit moves to the right.

After the directory data is entered, a confirmation screen appears.

To confirm the name you entered, select **YES**. Otherwise, select **NO**. Then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Editing Existing Information

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The **SETUP** menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DIRECTORY**. The **DIRECTORY** menu appears.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the name you want to edit.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **EDIT**.
6. You can now edit the person’s name. Rotate then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select a character. The character will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. Press **PUSH – SEL** knob for more than two seconds when you enter the last character.

7. After you edit the person’s name, you can edit the MMSI. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The blinking digit moves to the right.

After the directory data is edited, a confirmation screen appears.

Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Deleting Information

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The **SETUP** menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DIRECTORY**. The **DIRECTORY** menu appears.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the name you want to delete.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DELETE**.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Selecting a FIPS Code

The 6-digit Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) code established by the National Weather Service (NWS) identifies geographic areas in the United States. Programming FIPS codes are necessary to receive SAME alerts about weather occurring in a particular area. To obtain the FIPS code for a particular area contact the NWS toll free at 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263). Or visit their website: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm

A list of event codes is located on page 70.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **FIPS**.
Registering a New FIPS Code

1. Press \textit{MENU} briefly.

2. Press the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob at \textit{SETUP}. The \textit{SETUP} menu appears.

3. Press the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob at \textit{FIPS}.

4. Press the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob to select \textit{NEW}.

5. You can now enter the new FIPS code. Rotate the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob is pressed, and the blinking digit moves to the right. When you finished entering the last digit, the following confirmation screen appears.

6. Press the \textit{PUSH – SEL} knob. The VHF600 returns to the following screen.
Editing a FIPS Code

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **FIPS**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the FIPS code you want to edit.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **EDIT**.

6. You can now edit the FIPS code. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The blinking digit moves to the right.
7. When you finished editing the last digit, the following confirmation screen appears.

8. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The VHF600 returns to the following screen.

---

**Deleting a FIPS Code**

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **FIPS**.
4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the code you want to delete.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DELETE**.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Auto Channel Switch
This feature lets you disable the automatic channel change that occurs when you receive a DSC call. This feature is useful when you are making a bridge–to–bridge or other safety related call. When you complete a call, all incoming DSC calls are available in the call log.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **AUTO CH SW**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. To change this mode to **OFF**, rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob. (Default is set to **ON**.)

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Position Reply
This feature lets you transmit an acknowledgement automatically or on a call–by–call basis when another vessel requests your position information.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **POS REPLY**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **AUTO** or **MANUAL**.
AUTO
When the VHF600 receives a position request, the following screen appears.

MANUAL
When the VHF600 receives a position request, the following screen appears. Rotate the PUSH – SEL knob to select REPLY or CANCEL.

6. Press the PUSH – SEL knob. The VHF600 returns to the following screen.
Channel Name (CH Tag)
This feature lets you name each Marine channel.

**Note:** The VHF600 radio comes pre-programmed with default channel names. But you can change them.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **CH TAG**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the channel that you would like to edit or default.

Editing a Channel Name
This feature lets you edit a channel name.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.
3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **CH TAG**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the name you want to edit.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** to select **EDIT**.

7. You can edit a displayed name. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise or counterclockwise to select a character (letter, number, or symbol). The character will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob, and the blinking digit moves to the right. Press **PUSH – SEL** knob for more than two seconds when you enter the last character.

8. To save your changes, press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **YES**.

The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Defaulting a Channel Name

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **CH TAG**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at the channel you want to default.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **DEFAULT**.

7. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The channel name is set as default.
The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.

---

### Setting Up a U.I.C.

The **VHF600** can transmit and receive, **USA**, **International**, or **Canadian** frequencies. When you turn on the **VHF600**, **USA** channel mode is set as the default.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The **SETUP** menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **U.I.C.**

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to make your selection.
Setting Up a WHAM (Wireless Handheld Access Microphone)

You can use this feature to set up an optional wireless handheld access microphone for use with the radio.

**Note:** When you use the WHAM in addition to the VHF600 wired mic, be sure to set the BASE ID for the WHAM to the same BASE ID as the VHF600. (Please refer to the Owners Manual for the WHAM).

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **WHAM**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

6. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The VHF600 changes to the selected U.I.C. display screen.

**Note:** The VHF600 remembers the last channel selected in each mode. The first time you enter each mode, channel 16 is the default selected channel.
Setting a Base ID
A base ID lets your radio and a WHAM work together. You must set the same base ID for both the radio and the WHAM.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **WHAM**. The WHAM menu appears.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **BASE ID**. The following screen appears.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob, and the blinking digit moves to the right. (You can select a base ID from 0000 to 9999.)

6. After you enter a base ID, a confirmation screen appears. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob and then press **PUSH – SEL**.

**Note:** In order to confirm Base ID, it is necessary to shut off at once.
Changing the Link Channel
This feature lets you change the channel between the VHF600 and the WHAM if you encounter interference.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at SETUP. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at WHAM. The WHAM menu appears.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at Link CH.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number is entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. You can select a channel from 1 to 20.

6. After you enter the link channel, a confirmation screen appears. Rotate then press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.
Setting Up a Group MMSI (Marine Mobile Service Identity)

This feature lets you specify a group MMSI. A group MMSI is a code that represents a group of specific vessels using DSC. When you specify a group MMSI, you can contact the vessels as a group and automatically switch to a desired channel.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **GROUP MMSI**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Enter the GROUP MMSI code by rotating the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob, and the blinking digit moves to the right.

6. When you enter the final digit, a confirmation screen appears. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The VHF600 returns to the following screen.
Setting Up a User MMSI

**Important:** Federal MMSI's are issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Non-Federal MMSI's are issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). You will need to obtain a nine digit MMSI number and program it into the VHF600. The information obtained from the application is useful to the U.S. Coast Guard to help in search and rescue operations. To obtain an MMSI number, contact your authorized West Marine dealer or visit one of the following websites: http://wireless.fcc.gov/marine/fctsh14.html or www.boatus.com/mmsi/.

**Important:** You can only program your VHF600 with a User MMSI number twice. After that, you must send your VHF600 to West Marine for factory service.

This feature lets you program an MMSI for sending and receiving DSC calls.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SETUP**. The SETUP menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **USER MMSI**.
4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The following screen appears.

5. Enter the USER MMSI code by rotating the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the number, or counterclockwise to decrease it. The number will be entered when you press the **PUSH – SEL** knob, and the blinking digit moves to the right.

6. When you enter the final digit, the confirmation screen appears. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.
Setting Up The System

1. Press **MENU** briefly.
2. Press the **PUSH–SEL** knob at **SYSTEM**.

You can select any of the following system options. To exit, select **EXIT**.

Setting the Contrast

You can select any of 10 contrast levels.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH–SEL** knob at **SYSTEM**. The **SYSTEM** menu appears.

3. Press the **PUSH–SEL** knob to select **CONTRAST**.

4. Rotate the **PUSH–SEL** knob counterclockwise to increase the background brightness level.

5. When you find the most favorable brightness, press the **PUSH–SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Setting the Backlight

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SYSTEM**. The **SYSTEM** menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **LAMP ADJUST**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

5. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the backlight brightness level. (Default is set to medium).

6. When you find the most favorable brightness, press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Setting the Key Beep
There are 10 volume levels.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **SYSTEM**. The **SYSTEM** menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select **KEY BEEP**.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob.

5. To adjust the key beep, rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob clockwise to increase the volume or counterclockwise to decrease it.

6. When you find the most favorable volume, press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The **VHF600** returns to the following screen.
Reviewing Channel Memory

This feature lets you review all of the channels that have been programmed into the memory.

1. Press **MENU** briefly.

2. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob at **REV CH MEM**. The **MEMORY** menu appears.

3. Rotate the **PUSH – SEL** knob to select the registered channel.

4. Press the **PUSH – SEL** knob. The selected channel appears.

**Note:** When there are no channels registered in memory, an error tone sounds.
NMEA Technical Setup

Connecting a GPS Receiver to the Radio

This information will help you connect an external GPS receiver to the radio. Many GPS units have a setup menu to be able to configure the NMEA0183 serial data output. This output can be used to supply information to other devices on the vessel such as your radio, auto pilots, chart plotters, etc.

Set up a GPS receiver you want to use with your radio to these settings.

1. Baud Rate – Set the baud rate to 4800.
2. Data Bits – Set the data bits to 8.
3. Parity – Set the parity to None.
4. Stop Bits – Set the stop bits to 1.
5. GPRMC Command – This command is used by the radio and includes the UTC Time, Latitude, Longitude, Speed, Direction, and Date information.

Data Amplitude: Over 3.0V
Drive Capability: Over 10mA

Optional Accessories

- Flush mounting bracket for “in dash” installation.

Contact your West Marine store or dealer from whom you purchased the radio for information.
## VHF FM Marine Radio Telephone
### Channel and Functions
#### (USA Channels)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANNEL DESIGN</th>
<th>FREQUENCY (MHz)</th>
<th>TYPE OF TRAFFIC</th>
<th>SHIP TO SHIP</th>
<th>SHIP TO SHORE</th>
<th>CH NAME</th>
<th>FULL NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WX0</td>
<td>163.275</td>
<td>NOAA Weather</td>
<td>RX Only</td>
<td>RX Only</td>
<td>WEATHER10</td>
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### VHF FM Marine Radio Telephone

#### Channel and Functions

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### VHF FM Marine Radio Telephone

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<td>Required Weekly Test RWT</td>
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<td>System Demonstration/Practice DMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATIONAL HAZARD WARNING NW</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNKNOWN EMERGENCY TUNE TV **E</td>
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<td>UNKNOWN TV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Specifications

#### General

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Channels                     | Transmit 55  
Receive 80 Marine/10 Weather |
| Controls                     | On-Off/Volume, Squelch |
| Status Indicators            | TX (Transmit), TRI (Triple Watch), HI (High), LO (Low), USA, CAN, INT, ALT, MEM, WX and Channel Display |
| Channel Display              | LCD (Full Dot Matrix) |
| Selector Switch              | Channel Selector switch |
| Buttons                      | WX, 16/9, SCAN, H/L, HAIL, MENU, +, -, and DISTRESS |
| Connectors                   | Antenna, Remote, ACC, and DC power |
| Size                         | H76.8 mm x W182 mm x L171.5 mm (without Heat Sink) H3.02 inches x W7.17 inches x L6.75 inches |
| Weight                       | 1.15kg / 2.54 lbs / 37.1 oz |
| Supply Voltage               | 13.8V DC negative ground |
| Standard Accessories         | Mounting bracket and hardware, DC power cord, microphone hanger, spare fuse, ACC Cable |
| Antenna Impedance            | 50 Ω nominal |
| Microphone                   | Rugged 2 kΩ condenser mic element with coiled cord |
| Speaker                      | 1.82 inch, 8 Ω |
| Operating Temperature Range  | –20 °C to + 50 °C (–4 °F to +122 °F) |
| Shock and Vibration          | Meets or exceeds EIA standards, RS152B and RS204C |
| FCC Approvals                | Type accepted under part 80 of the Rules; meets Great Lakes Agreement and party boat requirements |

#### Transmitter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power Output</td>
<td>1 watt or 25 watt (switch selectable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Requirement</td>
<td>Not rated on LO, 25 watts output: <a href="mailto:4.5A@13.8V">4.5A@13.8V</a> DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modulation</td>
<td>FM ±5 kHz deviation (FCC designator F3E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hum and Noise Signal-to-Noise</td>
<td>45 dB@1 kHz with 3 kHz deviation with 1000 Hz modulating frequency (nominal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Distortion</td>
<td>Less than 8% with 3 kHz deviation with 1000 Hz modulating frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spurious Suppression</td>
<td>–25 dBm @ Hi, –25 dBm @ Lo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Power Stabilization</td>
<td>Built-in automatic level control (ALC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>156 to 158 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Stability</td>
<td>±10 ppm @ –20°C to + 50°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Receiver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>156 to 163 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>0.25 µV for 12 dB SINAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Dual Conversion Super Heterodyne PLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squelch Sensitivity</td>
<td>0.6 µV Threshold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spurious Response</td>
<td>90 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Channel Selectivity</td>
<td>72 dB @ ±25 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Output Power</td>
<td>3.0 watts (10% Distortion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Requirement</td>
<td>400 mA @ 13.8V DC squelched, 0.7A @ 13.8V DC at maximum audio output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF Frequencies</td>
<td>1st 21.4 MHz, 2nd –455 kHz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Troubleshooting

In the event that the radio fails to perform, or needs servicing, please send the radio directly to our Electronics Repair Center in Hollister, CA. Be sure to include your return mailing information and detailed accounting of the problems experienced and/or the service requested.

West Marine
Electronics Repair Center
2395 Bert Court
Hollister, CA 95023
Please call us at 831-761-4205

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYMPTOM</th>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>REMEDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The radio does not turn on.</td>
<td>No or low voltage.</td>
<td>Make sure the radio is receiving power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When PTT is pressed, ( \text{Tx} ) appears and other radios hear a “click” but cannot hear you transmit.</td>
<td>Bad mic element.</td>
<td>Call West Marine for repair information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While scanning, the radio stops on a particular channel all of the time.</td>
<td>A source of noise is nearby.</td>
<td>Eliminate the source of the noise or delete the channel from the radio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You hear noise that the squelch will not eliminate.</td>
<td>An external noise is being generated by another device.</td>
<td>Either turn off the offending device or contact the device’s manufacturer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SYMPTOM
You want to talk to another radio user, but you cannot hear them.

### CAUSE
You and the other user might be using different country codes.

### REMEDY
Make sure that you are both using the same Country mode (USA, International, or Canadian). Several channels have the same numeric designation, but are either on different frequencies or the channels are used for different purposes. Channel 16 (the Distress, Safety, and Calling channel) is the same on all three bands.

### CAUSE
You cannot change the transmit power setting.

### REMEDY
Change to an unrestricted TX/RX channel.

### CAUSE
You are on a channel which is limited to 1 watt transmit power (e.g. Ch. 13) or you are on a "receive only" channel such as a weather channel.

### CAUSE 1: No channels are in the scan memory.
### CAUSE 2: The squelch is not adjusted correctly.

### REMEDY 1: Enter channels into the scan memory (See “Entering Channel Numbers into Memory Scan” on page 15).
### REMEDY 2: Adjust the squelch to the point that background noise just disappears.

### SYMPTOM
You can hear transmissions, but the other radio cannot hear you.

### CAUSE
The transmit power is set to low.

### REMEDY
Press H/L to select a higher transmit power setting.
Care and Maintenance

Your VHF600 is a precision electronic instrument and you should treat it accordingly. Due to its rugged design, very little maintenance is required. However, a few precautions should be observed:

- If the antenna has been damaged, you should not transmit except in the case of an emergency. A defective antenna may cause damage to your radio.
- You are responsible for continued FCC technical compliance of your radio.

West Marine
Electronics Repair Center
2395 Bert Court
Hollister, CA 95023
Please call us at 831-761-4205
Three Year Limited Warranty

WARRANTOR: WEST MARINE AMERICA CORPORATION ("West Marine")

ELEMENTS OF WARRANTY: West Marine warrants, for three years, to the original retail owner, this West Marine Product to be free from defects in materials and craftsmanship with only the limitations or exclusions set out below.

WARRANTY DURATION: This warranty to the original user shall terminate and be of no further effect 36 months after the date of original retail sale. The warranty is invalid if the Product is (A) damaged or not maintained as reasonable or necessary, (B) modified, altered, or used as part of any conversion kits, subassemblies, or any configurations not sold by West Marine, (C) improperly installed, (D) serviced or repaired by someone other than an authorized West Marine service center for a defect or malfunction covered by this warranty, (E) used in any conjunction with equipment or parts or as part of any system not manufactured by West Marine, or (F) installed or programmed by anyone other than as detailed by the Operating Guide for this product.

STATEMENT OF REMEDY: In the event that the product does not conform to this warranty at any time while this warranty is in effect, warrantor will repair the defect and return it to you without charge for parts, service, or any other cost (except shipping and handling) incurred by warrantor or its representatives in connection with the performance of this warranty. THE LIMITED WARRANTY SET FORTH ABOVE IS THE SOLE AND ENTIRE WARRANTY PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCT AND IS IN LIEU OF AND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER WARRANTIES OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER, WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR ARISING BY OPERATION OF LAW, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER OR PROVIDE FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OR PAYMENT OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. Some states do not allow this exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

LEGAL REMEDIES: This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. This warranty is void outside the United States of America.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING PERFORMANCE OF WARRANTY: If, after following the instructions in this Operating Guide you are certain that the Product is defective, pack the Product carefully (preferably in its original packaging). Include evidence of original purchase and a note describing the defect that has caused you to return it. The Product should be shipped freight prepaid, by traceable means, or delivered, to warrantor at:

West Marine
P.O. Box 50070
Watsonville, CA 95077-0070
QUESTIONS?

Contact your local
West Marine store

Call 1-800-BOATING

Contact us at
www.westmarine.com