Association of American Railroads Radio Frequencies and Channel Numbers

by Kenneth Huffines

RADIO EQUIPPED

Many folks have discovered the benefits of having a radio in their motorcar capable of receiving NARCOA's frequency of 151.625 megahertz. Even a simple scanner (which only receives) lets you hear news affecting the excursion. Typical are reports of trouble, breakdowns, and conditions demanding extra vigilance. With a two-way radio (which transmits and receives), you can report these yourself.

On some excursions, the host railroad wants us to use their frequency. A lot of radios that work for NARCOA also work for railroad frequencies. It's just a matter of tuning in. A railroad radio uses 96 channels and (like a TV) it displays the channel number and not the frequency. Most motorcar radios display the frequency and not the channel. Or worse, our channel numbers do not correspond to the railroad. So when the railroad host says to use channel 20, we have no clue what frequency to dial in.

Luckily the Association of American Railroads has standardized radio frequencies and channel numbers. Keep this list handy in your motorcar and some day you'll be glad you did.

A word of caution: Any transmission on a railroad channel can be heard on all railroad radios in the area. Be on your best radio behavior and keep transmissions strictly business. This is not the place for chatter.

Channel	Freq (Megahertz)	Channel	Freq (Megahertz)	Channel	Freq (Megahertz)
2	159.810	36	160.650	70	161.160
3	159.930	37	160.665	71	161.175
4	160.050	38	160.680	72	161.190
5	160.185	39	160.695	73	161.205
6	160.200	40	160.710	74	161.220
7	160.215	41	160.725	75	161.235
8	160.230	42	160.740	76	161.250
9	160.245	43	160.755	77	161.265
10	160.260	44	160.770	78	161.280
11	160.275	45	160.785	79	161.295
12	160.290	46	160.800	80	161.310
13	160.305	47	160.815	81	161.325
14	160.320	48	160.830	82	161.340
15	160.335	49	160.845	83	161.355
16	160.350	50	160.860	84	161.370
17	160.365	51	160.875	85	161.385
18	160.380	52	160.890	86	161.400
19	160.395	53	160.905	87	161.415
20	160.410	54	160.920	88	161.430
21	160.425	55	160.935	89	161.445
22	160.440	56	160.950	90	161.460
23	160.455	57	160.965	91	161.475
24	160.470	58	160.980	92	161.490
25	160.485	59	160.995	93	161.505
26	160.500	60	161.010	94	161.520
27	160.515	61	161.025	95	161.535
28	160.530	62	161.040	96	161.550
29	160.545	63	161.055	97	161.565
30	160.560	64	161.070		
31	160.575	65	161.085		
32	160.590	66	161.100		
33	160.605	67	161.115		
34	160.620	68	161.130		
35	160.635	69	161.145		