



RADIOS

By Monroe S. Miller

The flood of mail from numerous communication companies finally accomplished something — it got me to thinking about radios and their use on Wisconsin's golf courses.

We've got a couple of portable CBs that are rarely used, like once every couple of years. Then it's usually when we're working on an irrigation system problem. They are quite aggravating; we are in the middle of the city and there is chatter on every channel. Despite the fact that they are good radios built by a dependable company, the range of them is marginal. That may be because of the hills our golf course is built among.

At any rate, Rod Johnson and I came up with the following survey questions for this issue. The numbers may not add up like you'd expect because some golf courses have more than one kind. Rodney, Pat Zurawski and I asked these questions of 31 WGCSA members over the past couple of months.

1. Do you use radios on your golf course?

YES 18
NO 13

2. If yes, what kind?

CB 6
FM 11
Other 2

3. Number of radios:

Hand Held 65
Mounted 7
Others
 pagers 2
 cellular phones 2

Frankly, I was surprised by the numbers; I expected fewer would own them than do. However, quite a few of those who own radios confessed they used them less now than when they first bought them. Radios seemed used more in these situations, as determined during SURVEY questioning:

1. When the golf course superintendent has more than 18 holes to manage.
2. During tournament times.
3. In emergencies.
4. During irrigation system start up in the spring.
5. For security and patrol responsibilities.

The CBs in particular (as has been my own experience) were used less than anticipated. Most referred to the annoyance and irritation of their squawking, especially to people trying to enjoy a round of golf.

Some WGCSA members swear by their FM radios, however. One wondered aloud how he'd ever gotten along without them. Contrast that with the man who said, "I communicate face to face with my employees."

I thought possibly more people would have invested in pagers, at least until I heard a story about a WGCSA member and his pager. Seems as though he was talking to a member when the sweet, sexy voice of his wife came over the pager speaker, suggesting he come home. For the obvious reason.

I understand he doesn't use pagers anymore. I think most of us would have ditched the pager, too.

And then headed home! "Ten-four, good buddy."

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