#### 2019\_March\_Newsletter

#### Off-Road Safety Academy

Thu 3/28/2019 12:03 PM

Inbox

To:bob.wohlers discoveroffroading.com <bob.wohlers@discoveroffroading.com>;





#### Hello Newsletter Subscribers,

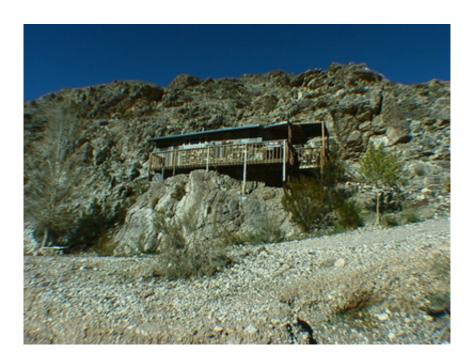
Thank you for signing up to receive my training-centric newsletters. I hope you've found the previous editions informative and helpful for your vehicle-supported adventures. I trust you will enjoy this months newsletter. If you have comments, please email me: Bob.Wohlers@discoveroffroading.com.

# Upcoming Death Valley Miner's Cabin Tour - April 12-14



There's still time to sign up. A few spots are available! This is a *not to be missed* backcountry tour. You will be shown the location of several miner and adopt-acabins in the Panamint and Death Valley areas. This tour is for short wheel base 4WD vehicles with 4-Low gearing capability, moderate

ground clearance, and front and rear frame-mounted recovery points. This tour will be based each night from Panamint Springs Resort. To go **DiscoverOffRoading.com** to sign up and pay (\$350 per vehicle).





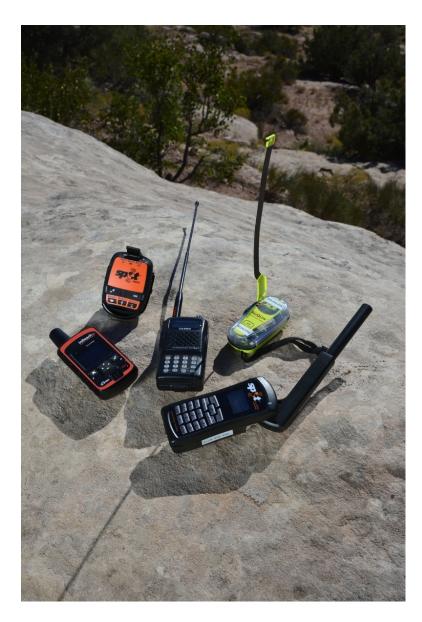
# **CB Radio for Car-to-Car Communications**



*CB* Radio is the preferred Car-To-Car communication during off-road adventures.

CB (Citizen Band) Radio is old technology - it's been around since the late 1940's. and took off as fad in the 1970's. That said, CB Radio is still the most common, inexpensive and unrestricted (think: no need for a license) carto-car communication equipment for offroaders. Practically all off-road clubs use CB, along with most organized tours into the backcountry -

including my remote adventure tours. I've thought about requiring other types of two-way radios, but then I'm not doing my clients a favor by preparing them for organized adventures beyond mine. Other radio types include Family Radio Service (FRS), General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), and Amateur Radio (HAM). Of these, GMRS and HAM require some sort of licensing procedure. Another nice aspect of CB Radio is that you can generally operate this type of car-to-car radio unrestricted in most countries.



A quick note of caution... CB Radio is, in my opinion, no replacement for longrange emergency communications. Could CB Radio help you in an emergency? Perhaps. But after a couple of miles at best, CB Radio signals fade horribly. CB Radio will probably not help bring the "Calvary" to your location in an emergency. For that you need either a cell phone with reception, HAM radio, or some sort of satellite communicator (Personal Locator Beacon, Satellite Emergency Notification Device, or SatPhone). If you want to know the full skinny on satellite communication, then buy my book: Live

Long to Wander – Basic Survival for Vehicle-Supported Adventures on Amazon. Click Here to Purchase

I get lots of questions about which CB Radio to purchase and how to mount radios in and antennas on your vehicle. When I get questions from now on, I'll simply direct folks to this newsletter.

As you might imagine, there are lots of YouTube videos on radio and antenna installation, plus how-to-tune an antenna. In my opinion, here are some good ones:

CB Basics

Tuning a CB Antenna

# Here's My Recommendations for CB Beginners

 Avoid purchase of a handheld CB Radio. Rather, purchase an in-cab mounted radio. If you get a handheld radio, use an external antenna and purchase a way to power the radio in the cab (12 volt cigarette-lighter cord). To mount your in-cab radio, take your time to plan out how to mount and organize your 12-volt power and coax antenna wiring.



 Purchase a "simple" radio. Avoid CB Radios with tons of dials and switches unless you are really going to take the time to learn all the radio's features. I have owned and like these radios: Uniden CMX660 Bearcat, Uniden Pro505XL, and Uniden CMX560 Bearcat. (As you can see, "anything" Uniden. They make great radios.)



 Purchase a really good external antenna. Don't go cheap. Since all CB Radios transmit at the same power



(4 watts), it's generally your antenna and not that radio that determines your transmission range. So, get a LONG antenna and choose your mounting location carefully. In essence, your antenna is more important than your radio – especially for off-roading. I like permanently mounted fiberglass antennas on a spring base. If you have metal roof on your vehicle, then there's nothing wrong with a quality magnetmounted roof antenna. Fiberglass antennas are VERY hardy and will withstand scraping bushes and twigs, plus bad weather. I like the tune-able Firestick brand CB Radio antennas.

- Tune your antenna! Don't fail to do this or you may ruin your radio. To tune your radio you will need an inexpensive SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) meter.
- Purchase an external speaker. The built-in speakers in all CB Radios leave something to be desired. Mount the speaker so you can hear it easily.
- Find a way to "hang" your microphone on a coiled or retractable cord

while off-roading. Doing so will allow you to keep your eyes on the road while you reach for your radio's microphone to talk.

- Don't talk with the microphone close to your mouth. Turn it sideways to talk into the microphone and have it about 4-5 inches away.
- Please don't pick the "handle" (think: *call sign*) "Cotton Tail" or "Maverick." Thank you. (Kidding – we don't use "handles" any more.)



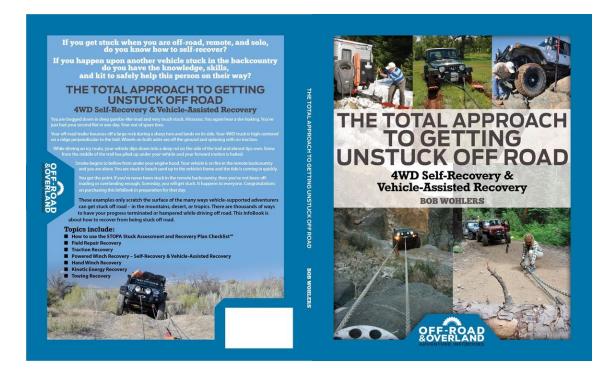
# Off-Road Safety Academy Has Partnered With Four Wheel Campers to Lead Backcountry Tours in 2019

Off-Road Safety Academy and Four Wheel Campers have teamed up together to produce backcountry tours specifically for Four Wheel Camper owners. The remaining 2019 tour destinations are Parashant National Monument (North Rim of the Grand Canyon), and Death Valley. These tours are for anyone with a Four Wheel Pop-Up Camper on their 4WD truck. All trucks must have 4-Lo gearing capability, reasonable ground clearance, plus front and rear frame-mounted recovery



points. For more information, dates, tour payment, details, and terms and conditions, go to discoveroffroading.com.

### **My Third Book Is In Layout!**



My third book in the series is coming! It will be available in late April and I'll have it for sale at Overland Expo in May. There is NO other book like this on the market, anywhere on the planet. *The Total Approach to Getting Unstuck Off Road* will be the MOST complete treatise on the subject ever.

Topics will include:

- \* How to use the STOPA Stuck Assessment and Recovery Plan Checklist
- \* Field Repair Recovery
- \* Traction Recovery
- \* Powered Winch Recovery Self-Recovery & Vehicle-Assisted Recovery
- \* Hand Winch Recovery
- \* Kinetic Energy Recovery
- \* Towing Recovery

#### You NEED this book!



Truck Camper Adventure Online Magazine recently interviewed me. This was an honor to be interviewed by this wonderful magazine! Read the interview by clicking HERE.



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