

# The Many Faces of Baofeng

Value Radio or Toy?

# Some Baofeng Models



UV-5R BF-F8 / GT-3  
VHF/UHF



UV-82  
UV-82X  
VHF/UHF  
VHF/220



BF888S  
16CH UHF



UV-3R(+)  
VHF/UHF



UV-8  
UHF

# Things to Know About Baofeng Radios

## ◎ Pluses

- › Inexpensive
- › Widely available on Web
- › Lots of 3<sup>rd</sup> party support
- › Inexpensive accessories (batteries, headsets)
- › Generally light, compact
- › Free open source programming software (CHIRP) available

# Things to Know About Baofeng Radios

## ◉ Minuses

- › Somewhat cheaply made, not water- or dust-resistant
- › Not available in stores
- › No manufacturer support to speak of
- › Accessory quality highly variable
- › Not as sturdy as "Big 3" HT's
- › Baofeng programming software limited, not supported and PC-only

# Things to Know About Baofeng Radios

- ◉ Other factoids
  - > FCC certified under Part 90, not 95 or 97
  - > Very sensitive receiver, but poor image rejection, easily overloaded
  - > SMA female antenna coupler – non-standard for ham equip't and not sturdy

# Information About Baofeng Radios

- ◉ Miklor is the big kahuna for Baofeng information ([www.miklor.com](http://www.miklor.com))
- ◉ CHIRP is by far the most flexible and comprehensive software for programming Baofeng radios as well as many other brands (<http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home>)

# Baofeng: Value Radio or Toy?

Should you get a "starter" radio like the Baofeng in order to decide what you really want in a radio before getting a "real" radio

-OR-

Should you get a good radio now and spend your time learning how to properly use it?

# In Any Case

Whatever radio you decide to get:

Learn How to Use It!