

PROBLEMS WITH TRANSMITTING-TROUBLESHOOT, BY DAVE JONES

Postby DIRTYCJ7 » Sat Dec 19, 2015 10:39 am

As some of you know I was having problems with transmitting on our mobile HAM radio. Later I was unable to send or receive... A fellow Jeeper and HAM radio enthusiast, Steve Murphy suggested the symptoms sounded like the antenna connection was bad and check there...

I took our rig to HRO (HAM Radio Outlet) and Mike put an SWR meter on the coax to check the cable and the antenna and sure enough, the signal was bad. Mike then swapped (like for like) antennas to check if the antenna was the culprit and it wasn't. So he recommended I replace the old coax with new which I did. Mike at HRO mentioned that the Comet coax cable (which I bought) was a solid core cable and was good for stationary installs but no good for things that might cause the cable to repeatedly flex. As I was replacing the old cable, I noticed the cable was nearly broken completely through at the hinge point of the tail gate where I had zip tied to coax to the webbing stopper at the tail gate hinge... Apparently, what happens is constant opening and closing of the tail gate causes the nylon webbing to flex excessively and any cable (specially the Comet solid core cable) flexes and eventually breaks at this place...

So if you're encountering difficulties broadcasting or notice significant decreases in the range that you can broadcast or receive, check your coax cable. You may wish to check your cables at that hinge point and make sure you're not getting hyperflexion and don't encounter the same problem a had...

Re-post from an E-Mail I received from Dave Jones.
Thanks Dave for passing this info on.

MW