

## ICOM M802

Owner reports of the Icom M802's audio "clipping" during transmission have resulted in a now-available improvement to the M802s.

On affected M802s, on certain voice patterns, the receiving party may hear only part of a word, and then the transmission quickly comes back. The operator may hear a few more words and then the voice would cut-out again.

According to Icom, this occurs when the radio's antenna is generating a standing wave ratio (SWR)—the ratio of maximum power in a wave to minimum power in the wave—of 1.6 or more. While proper installation and maintenance of an antenna system may help reduce SWR, there are antenna situations where the ratio may be higher than 1.6.

Icom's "improvement" to the M802 ensures that the radio will



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not "clip," no matter the SWR.

To upgrade your M802, contact Icom's service department at service@

icomamerica.com or 425/454-7619. This improvement will be in all future M802s.

## COLEMAN POWERCHILL 40

Following our review of thermoelectric coolers (April 2007), where we tapped the Coleman Powerchill 40 as our Best Choice, two readers reported that they had problems with the Powerchill's lighter plug melting. According to Coleman, a "small number" of the 40-quart Powerchills had "a quality issue affecting the fuse assembly." They told us that the issue was corrected, beginning with the February 2007 production. If you happen to own a Powerchill with a faulty fuse, or need to contact Coleman for any other reason, you can call their Customer Service Department at 800/835-3278.

## GARMIN RECALL

Garmin recently issued a recall of most of its 500 series fixed chartplotters. The units being recalled are the GPSMap 520, GPSMap 520s, GPSMap 530, GPSMap 530s, GPSMap 540, GPSMap 540s, GPSMap 550, and the GPSMap 550s. For a complete list of the serial numbers of the units affected, visit [www.westmarine.com](http://www.westmarine.com) and select "Product Recalls."

According to Garmin, the units may provide incorrect position information. Should a user be interfacing the unit with another device, then that device could be receiving incorrect data from the plotter. This is especially a concern where an autopilot may be using the GPS outputs: With bad information, the autopilot could navigate to an unintended location.

Owners of the recalled units should return them to Garmin for repair. Garmin will cover the cost of the repair as well as any shipping costs to and from the factory.

For more information, call Garmin at 800/800-1020.