

Repeater Use – Best Practices

There are no “Sad Hams” in our Club sitting around looking for an opportunity to point out minor mistakes related to repeater traffic, but we do agree that there are some **Best Practices** in ham radio repeater use that deserve consideration. Take a look and you may agree!

- **Emergency and public service communications will always have priority over all other communications.** This is a hard and fast rule. We know everyone will honor this important requirement.
- **Welcome and include newcomers and visitors.** Encourage newcomers to Amateur Radio and visiting ham operators to participate in your QSO. Many new hams make their first amateur radio contact on one of the repeaters in this area. Newcomers and visitors are invited to attend EAARC functions and meetings, to participate in our nets, and to utilize our repeaters.
- **Give priority to portable and mobile stations.** Often, low-power stations need to use a repeater to carry out their contact.
- **If your QSO becomes lengthy, stop to check if anyone else would like to join or needs to utilize the repeater.** Remember, we are lucky to have a list of fantastic repeaters we can use in this area, so consider if you and your contact might be able to QSY to one of those other less utilized machines (or even go simplex) to open the busy machines for traffic.
- **Practice good repeater manners.** Basic repeater manners includes:
 - Turning your volume up and listening for ongoing traffic on the repeater frequency prior to making any transmission to ensure you aren’t “stepping on” someone or unexpectedly intruding into an ongoing QSO.
 - Waiting until the repeater resets before each transmission and allowing a couple seconds so other incoming stations may be heard.
 - Not “quick keying” your microphone since this often clips off the beginning of your transmission.
 - Keeping transmissions brief when participating in a round table discussion and listening so you can learn and follow the established round table sequence and format.

- **FCC Rules.** Repeater users are expected to know and conduct themselves according to all applicable FCC rules and established principles of good Amateur Radio practice. Unlawful, discourteous, or other behavior that does not reflect well on the Club or Amateur Radio in general are not acceptable.
- **Use Plain English.** With some reasonable exceptions that relate to the technical side of the hobby, use plain conversational English; the kind of English that would be rated PG, not R or X.
- **Avoid starting or carrying on conflicts on the air.** And some topics are more likely than others to get this started. Avoid those topics.