

# Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association Repeater Etiquette

## Why do we need rules at all for repeater conduct or etiquette?

We tend to assume that everyone knows the generally-accepted rules. But that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule. Activities that may be an irritation or even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. Therefore, it's best for us to be clear about the rules we think are important.

We understand that everyone slips once in a very great while, no matter how hard they try. Nevertheless, we expect all users of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) repeaters to do their very best to follow these few simple and obvious rules of repeater conduct. This is not an all-inclusive list.

- ❖ Operate in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice. Be a good ambassador and representative of the hobby.
- ❖ Be mindful of operating procedures-Newer users of the repeater will copy poor practices; purely out of ignorance of proper procedures, and likely will add their own errant ways into the mix. Let's avoid this downward spiral!
- ❖ Listen before you talk-there may be an ongoing conversation.
- ❖ Conversations are not private; keep them clean, courteous, respectful, and friendly. Do not make negative commentaries on institutions, groups, or people. Speak normally, as if you were talking face to face. Avoid discussions on divisive topics such as politics, religion or sex.
- ❖ Never, ever, use any obscene, indecent, or profane language; sexual innuendo; or bathroom humor. Our repeaters are G-rated twenty- four hours a day. You never know who may be listening, so be a good example for others.
- ❖ Do not interfere with other's transmissions. Willful or malicious interference is prohibited by the FCC.
- ❖ The FCC requires you to identify, using your call sign, every ten minutes during a conversation, and at the end of the transmission. It is good practice to identify at the beginning as well.
- ❖ Key the mike, pause, and then start to talk. Repeaters have a short delay, so pausing allows all of your transmission to be heard. Our repeater has a three minute time-out timer, so don't talk too long.
- ❖ If you want to join a conversation, identify with your call sign when there is a pause in the conversation. If you want to solicit a conversation, identify with your call sign and state, listening (or monitoring).
- ❖ If you want to talk to a certain person, call using their call sign once or twice, then your call sign. If you do not get an answer after a couple calls, announce your call sign and clear. This lets others know the repeater is free to use.
- ❖ Do not "ker-chunk" the repeater- identify every transmission. If you are testing your radio, identify and then say "testing". Follow the same procedure for a radio check.
- ❖ Emergency traffic takes priority over general communication. Do not transmit during an emergency unless you can be of direct assistance. If you have emergency traffic, call "Emergency" or "Break, Break" with your call sign.
- ❖ Please do not advertise vehicles, toys, and other non-ham related equipment for sale or discuss prices. Selling any ham equipment is allowed as long as it's not done on a regular basis as a business.

## **What gives the VVARA the right to tell someone how to operate?**

All repeaters have rules. Beyond the FCC minimum requirements, it's up to each repeater owner to set their own operating rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. Rule 97.205(e) says, "...Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible." Users who refuse to comply with the repeater's rules can be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater trustees. The trustee is responsible to the FCC for conduct on the repeater and the FCC supports a trustee's right to control the use of their repeaters.

### **Here is our policy:**

The Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association repeaters are open for all to use, provided you follow the club's rules in this document. No one has any right to use the club's repeaters in ways that the club feels are objectionable.

### **The ARRL says it clearest of all:**

"A repeater is not a "public utility". No licensee has the automatic right to use a specific repeater. Repeater owners may always make rules for use of their equipment that are more stringent than those imposed by Part 97. Failure to abide by those additional rules can lead to revocation of your privilege to use that specific repeater." (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book, pg. 18)

Welcome!! We hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the repeaters of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association.

73!