

# GMRS Repeater Use Guidelines

- **Must hold a GMRS license**
- **All users must identify with their GMRS call signs per FCC regulations.**
- Making your first transmission on a repeater is as simple as signing your call. If the repeater is quiet, just say "WRZG123" or "WRZG123 listening" -- to attract someone's attention. After you stop transmitting, you will usually hear the unmodulated repeater carrier for a second or two. This squelch tail lets you know that the repeater is working. Someone interested in talking to you will call you after your initial transmission. Some repeaters have specific rules for making yourself heard. In general, however, your call sign is all you need.
- You must transmit your call sign at the end of a contact and at least every 15 minutes during the course of any communication per FCC rule. You do not have to transmit the call sign of the station to whom you are transmitting.
- **No foul language/cussing allowed. Topics must be family/kid friendly.**
- **No business and commercial farm use.**
- **Never transmit without identifying.** This is known as "kerchunking". For example, keying your microphone to turn on the repeater without saying your station call sign is illegal. If you do not want to engage in conversation, but simply want to check if you are able to access a particular repeater, simply say "WRZG123 testing."

Here are some other useful tips when using a repeater.

- To join a conversation in progress, transmit your call sign during a break between transmissions. The station that transmits next will usually acknowledge you.
- Don't use the word "break" to join a conversation -- unless you want to use the repeater to help in an emergency. To make a distress call over a repeater, say "break break" and then your call sign to alert all stations to stand by while you deal with the emergency.
- A further word about emergencies: Regardless of the band, mode or your class of license, FCC Rules specify that, in case of emergency, the normal rules can be suspended.
- If you hear an emergency call for help, you should do whatever you can to establish contact with the station needing assistance, and immediately pass the information on to the proper authorities. If you are talking with another station and you hear an emergency call for help, stop your conversation immediately and take the emergency call.
- Use plain language on a repeater. If you want to know someone's location, say "Where are you?" If you want to know whether someone you're talking with is using a mobile rig or a hand-held radio, just ask: "What kind of radio are you using?" You get the idea.

## Courtesy Counts.

- If you are in the midst of a conversation and another station transmits his or her call sign between transmissions, the next station in line to transmit should acknowledge the new station and permit the new arrival to make a call or join the conversation. It is impolite not to acknowledge new stations, or to acknowledge them but not let them speak. The calling station may need to use the repeater immediately. He or she may have an emergency to handle, so let him or her make a transmission promptly.
- **A brief pause before you begin each transmission allows other stations to break in -- there could be an emergency. Don't key your microphone as soon as someone else releases theirs.**
- **If your exchanges are too quick, you can prevent other stations from getting in.**
- The courtesy tones found on some repeaters prompt users to leave a space between transmissions. The beeper sounds a second or two after each transmission to permit new stations
- to transmit their call signs in the intervening time. The conversation may continue only after the beeper sounds. If a station is too quick and begins transmitting before the beeper sounds, the repeater may indicate the violation, sometimes by shutting down!
- Keep transmissions as short as possible, so more people can use the repeater. Again, long transmissions could prevent someone with an emergency from getting the chance to call for help through the repeater.