

The following are guidelines for the proper and enjoyable use of the MRAC repeater.

While the allocated frequency spectrum is open to all hams to use as they see fit within FCC rules, a repeater is not a public entity, it is private property. It is free for all licensed amateurs to use, but there are guidelines which must be followed. While it is perfectly legal and an American right to stand in front of city hall with a bullhorn and say anything you want, it is not legal to stand on someone's front porch and do the same without the property owners permission. Ever see a sign that reads, "We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone." A repeater follows the same principles. The equipment belongs to the club and the license is in the name of the Trustee. The Trustee is responsible for ALL transmissions through the repeater as if the Trustee were making the transmission themselves.

Some general rules:

1. Control Operators represent the Trustee, and therefore the Board and the Club. Their directives on and off the air are to be followed. If you have a problem with something a control operator asks of you, do it anyhow, and contact him/her or a board member later, OFF the air.
2. Emergency communications have top priority at all times. Say the pro-word "Break" if you have an emergency. If you hear "Break", yield the frequency immediately. It is our policy to use this pro-word only for emergencies, although you may hear it used on other repeaters for normal QSO's.

Remember, while you may be in a conversation with 1 or more other hams, there could be dozens or hundreds of ears out there listening. Take their feelings and concerns into consideration as well as the image of the repeater and MRAC. A repeater is no place for some discussions, such as

1. Religion
2. Politics
3. Business (you can talk about your profession but not advertise your business)
4. Derogatory remarks directed at any group or individual (ethnic, religious, racial, sexual, insulting).
5. Personal attacks, insults, and similar behavior are inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Such conduct on the repeater demeans the club and the hobby. This includes any name calling either directly or indirectly (i.e.: "so and so is an idiot").
6. Off color language. While various 4 letter (and more) words may be heard in movies and TV, they do not belong on the repeater, PERIOD.
7. Bathroom humor: If you wouldn't tell a joke to a 10 year old child, don't tell it on the radio
8. Never try to talk to a "jammer" or disruptive person. Do not even refer to them on the air, since it lets them know that they have accomplished their purpose, disrupting the repeater. If you can't maintain a QSO through the interference, end it without mentioning the interference. Certainly do not mention or discuss any past disruptions.

The above has nothing to do with censorship. They include subjects which can easily stir up controversy in a public setting. They are items to discuss in a PRIVATE conversation, in person, on the telephone, but not on the repeater.

Also be aware the repeater is not anyone's private resource. During times of the day that a number of people may be at their radio such as morning and afternoon drive times and the noon hour, no one should monopolize the repeater. Be sure to allow for other people to jump in and make use of the repeater. That means pauses between transmissions. Be aware that people may not have anything to contribute to your conversation, but they may need to make a call for someone else to make some arrangements.

And finally, besides anything else, there is the Amateur's Code (as originally written by Paul M. Segal W9EEA in 1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE - never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL - offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE - with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY - with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED - Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC - with station and skill always ready for service to country and community

If we all follow ALL the above guidelines, repeater use will be a pleasurable experience for those operating as well as those listening.