

CIRAS Repeater Operational Rules

CIRAS the Central Iowa Radio Amateur Society, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation, formed to encourage and foster mutual interest in amateur radio communications and provide public service. CIRAS provides such communication when required as a result of normal communication means being disrupted by natural or man made causes. CIRAS operates several radio repeater stations to enhance the quality of communication available.

The CIRAS repeaters are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and the users of said repeaters MUST comply with ALL FCC mandated rules and regulations.

IN ADDITION, beyond the minimum required by law, CIRAS Repeater Committee has established operating procedures to optimize the use of the repeaters and to define a level of quality representative of the club.

While not all-inclusive, the following procedures establish a baseline for all repeater users to follow.

- Station Identification- All stations should identify themselves using their FCC assigned call sign upon initially transmitting on the repeater and every ten minutes thereafter. In addition, when operating in a net or "roundtable" your call sign should be announced more frequently if needed to facilitate efficient communication.
 - When initially coming on the repeater, when not previously in use (verified by LISTENING for a few

minutes PRIOR to transmitting), it is only necessary to announce your call. If you are trying to contact a specific station, you should announce ... "N0XXX from W00XXX".

- If the repeater is already in use, please wait for a pause between transmissions to announce your call. ONLY USE THE TERM **"BREAK" OR "BREAK-BREAK"** in an emergency or life- threatening situation.
 - All stations using the repeater should pause after the previous station drops to minimize inadvertent "doubling" (simultaneous transmission) and to allow time for new stations to identify.
 - When a new station enters the roundtable, those stations using the repeater, and the next station in rotation should acknowledge the new station AND turn it over to them. Also indicate whom they should turn it over to in order to keep the rotation intact.
 - If a station announces a single or double **"break"** the repeater is to be given to them IMMEDIATELY for their traffic.
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- Communication should be in plain language. "Q" codes and "10" codes are not required and their use should be minimized. Similarly, phonetics should be reserved for those instances when they are required (minimal signal/emergency traffic for example).

- Extraneous Tones and Identifiers - Except when required for control or identification purposes, extraneous audible content should NOT be transmitted before, during or at the completion of a transmission.
- Roger Beeps, Echo Effects, reverb, and the like are strictly prohibited on the repeaters.
- Simplex vs. Repeater - If you are close enough to another station to hear them directly AND it is only the two of you communicating, move to a simplex frequency. It is not only courteous... IT IS REQUIRED BY THE FCC. Transmitting on the repeater OUTPUT frequency, while the repeater is operating is prohibited.
- Content - While certain topics and vocabulary are not "illegal" for commercial broadcasting, CIRAS Repeater Committee, as the operator of the club repeaters DOES prohibit those communications which are in poor taste or a waste of the repeater facility. While the following should not be considered all-inclusive, it will establish a baseline for behavior which is NOT PERMITTED by the club on CIRAS Repeaters:
 - "Off Color" comments, sexual innuendo and ANY double entendre. Remember, use of codes and ciphers is NOT permitted by FCC regulations. If it can't be said in plain English, it probably should not be broadcast on the repeater.
 - Commercial communication - you can, certainly, identify your occupation..however, if you are, for example, a car salesman, you CANNOT try to sell your wares on the repeater.

- Derogatory remarks directed at any group (ethnic, racial, religious, sexual etc).
- Any form of broadcasting or any transmission that that can be considered as broadcasting is a violation of FCC regulations and will not be permitted.
- "Bathroom Humor" - If you wouldn't tell the joke to your ten year old child, don't tell it on the repeater.
- Any activity in violation of FCC rules and/or any other Federal, state or local laws or ordinances (including, but not limited to: jamming, "stepping on", broadcasting of music, unidentified carrier etc). Note: intentionally transmitting simultaneously with another station ("stepping on") is prohibited by FCC regulation... even if the intent is good natured kidding among friends... it is still illegal.
- Malicious Interference - When subject to interference which is clearly intentional, DO NOT RESPOND TO THE INTERFERING STATION. It not only provides encouragement, if the individual is unlicensed YOU would then be operating illegally.

Make note of all pertinent information (date and time of occurrence, your location, fixed or mobile, if you can hear the interfering station on the input, was your signal heard above the interfering signal, type of equipment you are using) and contact the interference committee with the information.

Anyone who violates the above will be warned after the first offense. If the behavior recurs, steps will be

taken, up to and including revoking the person's repeater privileges, this will be at the discretions of the CIRAS Repeater Committee and / or the CIRAS Board of Directors.

Proper and legal operating etiquette is 95% common sense. While the above limits on content are not all inclusive, they should make clear the type of communication which is NOT appropriate.

In general, if what is being said could be construed as embarrassing or hurtful by a listener, it is probably NOT permitted. Always err on the side of caution. When in doubt... DON'T.

Please report any and all maintenance or equipment malfunctions promptly to a member of the repeater committee.