

PARC Repeater Guide

The Peterborough Amateur Radio Club owns and operates several repeaters in the area. These repeaters are open for all licensed hams to enjoy, provided that common sense and courtesy are used when operating.

The following information has been compiled from various other sources, and forms a simple guide to courteous operation on our repeaters. It is not intended to be an exhaustive "rule book".

As long as you operate by these simple guidelines, you will surely always be welcomed on any of our repeaters.

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- 1) The club is required to ensure that our repeaters are used in compliance with ISED (Innovation, Science and Economic Development, formerly Industry Canada) regulations at all times. If an individual persists in behaviour that may jeopardize our operating license, that behaviour will be reported to the appropriate authority.
 - 2) Bullying, abusive language, profanity, sexually explicit language, or any speech which denigrates an identifiable group, will not be tolerated. Even 'mild' obscenities are not good operating practice. This includes using suggestive phrases or suggestive phonetics.
 - 3) When transmitting, always pause a half second between keying up and speaking. This gives the repeater time to start transmitting, and avoids you having the first bit of your transmission cut off.
 - 4) Transmit your call sign when you first come on the air. Make sure you ID once every 30 minutes during a QSO, and at the end of one, but there is no need to identify too often or while simply monitoring.
 - 5) Be upbeat and courteous. Don't spend time complaining about other hams, the repeater, or some aspect of the hobby. Try to avoid making running commentary on other traffic while driving – not only is it distracting, but you never know if that person you just called an idiot is monitoring your transmission.
 - 6) Do not use phrases learned on 11 meters (CB) such as "handle", "making the trip", "got a good copy on me?", "the personal here is...", "what's your 20?", "you're giving me 20-pounds", and other strange phrases which should stay on CB. Speak plain English; this is not a cult. The less said about 11 meters on the air the better.
 - 7) Do not monopolize the repeater. If 90% of the conversations on the repeater include only you and one or two others for long periods of time, then something is wrong. It's not enough to simply respond to stations who break in – there may be others waiting their turn who are not willing to interrupt for whatever reason. At the very least, periodically call for any stations that wish to use the repeater and share that resource fairly.

- 8) If you want to join an existing conversation, wait for a gap then say your call sign. Just remember that the same rules of etiquette apply on the air as in person. You wouldn't barge into a roomful of people engaged in a discussion without saying anything of interest, or even worse, saying something completely unrelated to the topic of conversation, would you?
- 9) Promptly acknowledge any break-in stations and permit them to join the conversation or make a quick call. Ignore stations who transmit without identifying (as required by the regulations).
- 10) It can be difficult to do so, but simply ignore jammers and others who try to disrupt the repeater's normal operation with kerchunking, touchtones, or rude comments. Continue your QSO in a normal fashion. If the interference gets to the level where it is impossible to carry on the QSO, simply end the QSO as you normally would.

If you find yourself to be the subject of frequent interference, it may be something personal, but it could also be a sign that your own operating habits need improving. Perhaps you could ask another club member for some candid feedback?

- 11) The repeater is necessary to help extend the range of mobiles and portables, so during commuting hours (drive times), give priority to mobile stations who have limited time to converse. Base stations should refrain from frequent or prolonged use of the repeater during these hours.
- 12) Directed Nets: A directed net has a single net control station (NCS) that manages its operation for a given session. The NCS operator calls the net to order at its designated start time, periodically calls for participants to join, listens for them to answer (or check in), keeps track of the roster of stations for that particular net session, and generally orchestrates the operation of the net.
- 13) Roundtable: When more than two amateurs are in a QSO, it is often referred to as a "roundtable" discussion. Such a QSO usually goes in order from amateur A to amateur B to amateur C and eventually back to amateur A again to complete the roundtable. To keep everyone on the same page, when any one amateur is done making a transmission, they "turn it over" to the next station in sequence (or out of sequence, if so desired). Without turning it over to a particular station when there are multiple stations in the QSO, nobody knows who is supposed to go next, and there ends up either being dead silence or several stations talking at once. At the end of a transmission, turn it over to the next station by naming them or giving their callsign, such as "...and that's that. Go ahead Joe." If it's been close to 30 minutes, it's a good time to identify at the same time as well, such as "...and that's that. VA3XYZ, go ahead Joe."