

Joplin Amateur Radio Club

Repeater Guidelines and Rules of Conduct

Rev 1.1 - Date: 2015-03-10

1. Introduction

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club (JARC) maintains the following repeaters:

- An open two meter repeater on 147.210 MHz with positive offset and PL tone of 91.5 Hz, located in Joplin. The repeater IDs in CW as WØIN.
- An open two meter repeater on 145.190 MHz with negative offset and PL tone of 91.5 Hz, located at Mercy Hospital.

1.1 Purpose

The JARC repeaters are open to use by all licensed amateur radio operators and are available for use 24 hours a day for any legal purpose, such as general rag-chewing, nets, emergencies, training, testing, and drills. These guidelines and rules are established to optimize the use of the repeaters and define a level of quality representative of the club. Proper operating is mostly common sense, however making these rules clear, in writing, removes any doubt or ambiguity. Following these will make the use of the repeater a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

2. FCC Rules

Of course, the FCC Rules Part 97 apply in their entirety at all times while using the repeaters. Keep these in particular in mind:

- ID every 10 minutes and at the end of transmission.
- Do not transmit music or television audio, obscene or indecent language, or business-related communications; do not broadcast (one-way), and do not create intentional interference.

3. Usage

3.1 General

We encourage all amateurs to use the repeaters for general use, provided they follow these rules.

3.1.1 Language

When having a conversation, refrain from using jargon such as excessive Q-codes, CB lingo, 10-codes, or other unfamiliar language. Use plain language, courtesy, and etiquette to make everyone feel welcome. Language should be G-rated at all times, remember there are young hams who may be listening, or others using scanners, including the media, and every repeater user represents the entire ham community.

3.1.2 Content

Open conversation is encouraged on the JARC repeaters, but moderation of speech is appreciated. Topics of communication that are appreciated are things of general interest to all amateur radio operators. Other conversations not allowed are those that are by nature, prejudicial or defamatory toward others and those whom may be listening. Specifically, to berate, denounce with hateful intent, or use pejorative language, directed at any social group and or person, for their political, religious, or personal beliefs, is not permitted on JARC repeaters. This is not intended to restrict anyone's right to self-expression, however, there are many other opportunities apart from JARC repeaters to discuss views on controversial issues.

3.1.3 Time

While in conversation, please be sure to pause long enough between transmissions to allow stations to break in.

Non-emergency communication should follow these guidelines:

- **Brief communications** (*less than 15 minutes*) are encouraged between 2-3 users when no emergency communications are needed.
- **Extended communications** (*more than 15 minutes*) should move to a simplex frequency after initial contact, if practical. If simplex is not practical, communications should pause after 15 minutes and inquire if anyone else needs the repeater. After 30 minutes, please take a short break, which will encourage others to use the machine if they did not want to interrupt.

3.2 Emergencies

Emergency traffic takes priority at all times. If you hear a station with emergency traffic, acknowledge and yield use of the repeater to them immediately.

If you have emergency traffic, be clear in your language. Using the word "break" may be understood by some to mean "I want to join the conversation" instead of "I have an emergency," so simply say "emergency" or the internationally recognized distress signal "Mayday."

3.3 Nets

Several nets may be scheduled on the repeaters, including the JARC Weekly Monday Night Net, the Jasper ARES Net, and emergency nets may be started at other times. Please refer to www.joplin-arc.org for the current net schedule. If you are using the repeater and a net is about to begin, we ask that you yield to the net and move to another repeater or simplex, or resume after conclusion of the net. If the net is open, feel free to join in and participate, but listen first. If you have an emergency and need to use the repeater during a net, follow the emergency procedure outlined above.

If you would like to schedule a net on the repeaters, please contact JARC to coordinate a time.

3.4 Testing

Brief transmissions may be made for testing purposes or making adjustments to your station, however be sure to identify. "Ker-chunking" the repeater to see if you can reach it should be avoided. Instead, say "Testing" and ID, or ask for a signal report.

4. Enforcement

If the administrators of the repeaters have concerns that a user is failing to follow the guidelines in good faith, they reserve the right to advise the user of their concerns and take actions (including limiting user access to the repeaters) to protect the reputation and usability of JARC repeaters.

The first action will be an immediate verbal warning, off the air if possible.

If persistent violations are believed to be made by a user, an inquiry will be made by the executive committee where further actions will be decided as appropriate, up to, and including restricting the user from accessing the repeater.

In the presence of malicious interference or continued abuse of the club's repeaters/equipment, a letter to the FCC informing them of a Part 97 rules violation will be sent.

Following FCC intervention, should the user not comply with FCC ruling in the matter, steps towards removal of the operator's license shall be enacted.

Please report any interference or flagrant violations on the repeaters to the JARC executive committee. Contact information can be found on joplin-arc.org.

Thanks, and JARC hopes you enjoy using our repeaters and hopes to hear you on the air! 73!