

# Simple Repeater Etiquette

- Transmit your call sign when you first come on the air (not legally required, just courteous operation). Make sure you ID once every 10 minutes, but there is no need to identify too often or use the phrase "For ID"  
When signing off/changing frequency, you are required by the FCC to give your call sign.
- A good reminder of when to ID is **when you hear the repeater ID**.
- Even 'mild' obscenities are not good operating practice. This includes suggestive phrases or suggestive phonetics. Remember that anyone can listen in on your transmissions and there might be children present.
- **Avoid the use of phrases learned on 11 meters** 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. Speak plain English and remember that there may be many people monitoring. If your radio has a "ROGER BEEP", **DO NOT TURN IT ON**.
- Don't start speaking as you key the mic. Repeaters have a short delay before they start transmitting and remote receivers or digital connections add to the delay. If you start speaking too soon your first few words will be lost. Also make sure you have finished talking before you un-key and **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR CALL SIGN CLEARLY, AND SLOWLY**.
- When you are using the repeater **leave a couple of seconds between exchanges** to allow other stations to join in or make a quick call. Most repeaters have a "Courtesy Tone" (a short...beep or series of beeps) that will help in determining how long to pause. The courtesy tone serves two purposes. Repeaters have a time out function that will shut down the transmitter if the repeater is held on for a preset length of time (normally three or four minutes). If you key up too quickly the timeout timer will not reset and your transmission may be cut off.
- **Don't call CQ** to initiate a conversation on a repeater. While not illegal it is just not considered proper procedure for FM communications. Just simply listen to make certain the repeater is not in use and then key your mic and say your **call sign** and "**listening**". If someone happens to be listening and they want to talk to you they will respond.
- Don't break into a contact unless you have something significant to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.