

# 2009 WWRA Repeater Operation Guidelines & Policy

## A. Membership:

The WWRA operates open repeaters. Open for occasional users checking out the system and visitors. Current Members have all the privileges of the two repeaters. Users who decide to stay and use our equipment are requested to support the WWRA. Annual dues of \$20 are payable on January 1 of each year. Your membership status in the association includes voting, holding offices, receiving access codes and other correspondence. To keep the dues as low as possible it is required that we maintain a paid-up membership roster of users who avail themselves of this important resource. All Members are requested to be aware of continuous users who do not support the WWRA and asked to encourage these users off the air to support the system. We do not solicit on the air. Over time without financial support the WWRA would simply just go out of business. Membership is mandatory to use code features, telephone auto-patch, etc. With Family Membership there is only one voting Member and entitled to meeting door prize however codes can be shared within the same household address with other immediate family members.

## B. Priorities:

Emergency communications **ALWAYS** has priority.

## C. Special Events:

Use of the repeater system for special events is permitted and encouraged and used in accordance with Part 97 of the FCC Regulations. Advance permission must be requested and obtained from the Association via the Chief Op, or in his absence, a Board officer prior the start of the event. A simple phone call will do. Visit our website <http://www.wv7ra.org> for officers and telephone numbers or talk to any board member. Public events, unless of an emergency nature, shall not interfere with access to and use of repeater by supporting WWRA Members.

## D. Emergency Situations:

An emergency is defined as a situation where the safety of life is at stake. In the event of a declared emergency by the State of Washington Department of Emergency Services routine use of the system by the membership will be suspended for this temporary period. These emergencies may include search and rescue operations, fires, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, etc.

## E. Third Party Traffic:

Use of the system for third party traffic is permitted provided it meets the standards specified in FCC Rules 97.115 (Third Party Communications).

## F. Prohibited Communications:

Harassment of repeater users is rude and not tolerated. New and old hams have certain styles in operation and as long as they comply with FCC Rules the managers of the WWRA repeaters will never comment over the air. If users make mistakes **Control Operators** are there to assist and will attempt to make minor corrections such as proper ID call sign use or major items contact them via landline to assist them in correcting their procedures. It is not the job of other users to be abusive to fellow hams by chastising them about how they operate. Additionally, profanity, sexually explicit or suggestive subject matter, such as drug use or similar activities, racial slurs, comments with violent content, i.e. blowing something up, hitting knees with baseball bats, use of a gun, etc. are not appropriate subject matter for our repeaters.

## G. Business use of Repeater and Auto-patch:

Use of the system to transact your commercially operated business is prohibited. Personal business such as ordering a tow truck is okay.

## H. Use of Repeater and Patch by Non-Licensed Persons:

FCC regulations Part 97.115 (Third Party Communications) specify that the licensed ham must be at the **CONTROL POINT**. This means that if a non-licensed third party is transmitting on your radio, you must be in **IMMEDIATE** control of the transmitter.

## I. Procedures for Use of the auto-patch:

Please follow the following procedure: "This is <your call sign> accessing the WW7RA auto-patch"; then punch in the codes to bring up the dial tone or punch in your assigned speed dial directly. Make your call and when finished and your party has hung up make the following announcement. "This is <your call sign> securing the WW7RA auto-patch." NOTE: See auto-patch user procedures located on the website and mailed to you with your speed dial for more specific instructions.

## J. Signal Quality Technical Requirements:

It is the responsibility of the users to ensure their equipment is operating efficiently. Check your SWR. Do not assume that your brand new radio is operating properly. Geography plays an important role in your ability to use the repeaters. The repeaters respond well to 25-50W mobile transmitters and optimum performance will be obtained with this configuration. Repeater DTMF decoders may not pick up a quality signal from your handheld based on your location and antenna height. You should keep this in mind when trying to make auto patch calls. You can use the 73D check described on your code card to listen to the sound of your voice being repeated back from the repeater. Please make sure you are using a quality signal device when operating the auto patch by using the touchtone test procedure.

## K. Abuse:

Please do not key up the repeater [kerchunk] to see if it is working. You may lock yourself out or worse, shut down the repeater. Just ID with your call sign as required when checking if the repeater is operational. When accessing the phone patch or special user functions please identify your station with your call sign.

## L. Promulgation of Auto patch and Other Codes:

Your personal speed dial code issued to you in confidentiality. Never provide your speed dial information over the air. All other access codes are for WWRA membership only. Helping others make an auto patch is permissible.

## M. Public Service:

Many facets of our system are designed to enhance the amateur radio hobby and provide community public service. Weather, APRS and the use of our VHF repeater to pass public message traffic to name a few.



The Association will not discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, etc. Use of the repeaters will not be denied to those in a position of financial hardship. The Association reserves the right to deny use of the system to anyone who violates WWRA policies, FCC regulations and the standards of conduct for good amateur practice.