

West Hennepin Radio Repeater/Club Rules

You must be a member of West Hennepin Radio Club before you can use the repeater.

Membership requires an annual donation to help cover the costs of providing and maintaining the repeater.

W.H.R. South Tower Repeater located near Independence, MN is a member's only system. The repeater is open to all members provided you follow the rules in using it.

W.H.R. Member Rates:

Individual Membership \$ 35.00 Per Year

Family Membership: \$ 100.00 Per Year

Please read and be familiar with the following guidelines for repeater use.

- All users must have a current valid FCC GMRS call sign.
- We will give you the proper PL tone that you will need to access the repeater with you radio.
- During all QSOs, leave a 2-second space between keying so that others may break in for emergency use or to make a contact.
- During extended QSOs, you are encouraged to yield to others needing the frequency. Periodically pause and inquire if any others need to use the repeater.
- There is currently no maximum time limit if this rule is followed.
- Avoid a stuck microphone. Place your mic where it is secure from accidental transmission.
- No unidentified keying is allowed. Always announce yourself as testing, with your call sign. Otherwise, we might think there is something wrong with the repeater. You can test your radio regularly to make sure it is operating properly.
- There is a 3 minute time-out limit built into the repeater. Keep individual transmissions under 3 minutes.
- When sharing a GMRS call sign with relatives or family members, it is ok to use a designator at the end of the call sign such as "Unit 2" or a name to differentiate the users of a shared call sign.
- Although we try to have the repeater is operation at all times, there will typically be some down time for required maintenance etc.
- There may be times that we will need to vacate the repeater frequency for local emergency use.
- West Hennepin Radio assumes no liability for any actions by members during use of the repeater.

All FCC regulations will be followed, including:

- Operators will yield to emergency communications.
- ID with your complete call sign every 15 minutes and on your final transmission.
- Avoid discussions that may offend others.
- No profanity of any type.
- No music during transmissions. Please turn your home / car radio down.

General Repeater Etiquette

The following information is a simple guide to courteous operation on repeaters. If you operate using these simple guidelines, you will make it more enjoyable for everyone operating on our repeater and you will also set a good example for others. It never hurts to review the guidelines (and new GMRS users may not be familiar with these guidelines) to make sure you are being a responsible radio operator.

- Take the time to listen to a repeater before you talk. There may be active conversations taking place. You are welcome to join in on a conversation.
- **Do not monopolize the repeater.** Simplex may be more appropriate for short range lengthy conversations that don't require the long range of the repeater. Transmit your call sign when you first come on the air. Make sure you ID with your call sign once every 15 minutes, but there is no need to identify more often than that unless you are testing your radio or making a general call out to any radio users listening.
- Our repeaters normally have a 3 minute "timeout" setting. The 3-minute length is meant as a maximum length, not a suggested length. It is considered good etiquette to keep your single transmission length shorter than this.
- **Do not belittle, berate, defame or speak ill of others....period.** This includes individuals, groups, nations, general and aspects of the hobby,
- Give a pause before keying the mic and speaking. Don't start speaking as you key the mic. Repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished speaking before you un-key the mic.
- Pause periodically to see if anyone else would either like to join the conversation or use the repeater for a quick call that is not part of the ongoing conversation.
- When identifying, please say your call sign clearly. Don't forget that the FCC prohibits the transmission or retransmission of music.

Repeaters are expensive to purchase and operate. Please be aware that member donations are non-refundable. A repeater is not a public utility and is privately owned. When you are using a repeater, you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, the owner has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!

Enjoy your Repeater membership and feel free to talk to any other stations on frequency. We advise that if you intend to use your radios for emergency use only, you should do periodic testing to be familiar with your equipment and make sure it is operating reliably. Although we cannot provide any radio programming or set-up, there are links on the W.H.R. website that may help and there are lots of GMRS related websites with excellent information covering all aspects of GMRS Use.