

CVARC Repeater Use Policy

The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club owns and maintains two repeaters in the Cedar Rapids area: 146.745 (-0.6 MHz) and 443.600 (+5 MHz, T192.8). Both repeaters are open to all properly licensed amateur radio operators unless otherwise specifically prohibited. While membership in CVARC is not required to use the repeaters, membership dues provide the funds to maintain and enhance this community resource.

Definitions:

- *License trustee.* The person who holds a primary station license grant, designated by the CVARC board to oversee the club station license call signs of W0GQ and W0WSV.
- *Repeater trustee.* The person charged with operating and maintaining the repeater system, chosen by the license trustee with approval from the CVARC board.
- *Control operator.* An amateur operator designated by the licensee of a station to be responsible for the transmissions from that station to assure compliance with FCC rules.
- *Repeater.* An amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels

Purpose of our repeaters:

- To provide emergency communications to radio amateurs
- Provide means of emergency communications for the Linn County ARES® and their served agencies
- Providing communications for public service activities over a wide area
- Normal communications between radio amateurs who would otherwise be unable to communicate
- Provide a forum for recognized nets

Usage priorities:

1. Emergency traffic
2. Recognized activities
3. Established nets
4. Normal operations

*Recognized activities/nets are those activities sponsored or approved by CVARC for use of the repeater. This includes but is not limited to severe weather nets, public service events, ARES® training exercises, etc.

Repeater Operating Rules:

- All users of the repeater shall be in compliance of FCC Part 97 rules at all times.
- Users shall yield immediately to stations declaring they have emergency or priority traffic and render assistance, if requested.
- All users shall comply with the instructions of any control operator, repeater trustee or the CVARC station trustee.
- Users shall exercise common sense and courtesy to others while using the repeaters.

This usage policy was adopted by the CVARC board of directors on March 13, 2014

Repeater Operating Rules (cont'd):

- Emission type:
Only 5 kHz deviation analog FM voice (20K0F3E) may be used on the repeaters. No digital voice modes, AFSK data or other modes may be transmitted through the repeaters except in the case of an emergency or with prior approval.
- Portable remote base:
Portable remote base (more commonly referred to as cross-band repeating) is not allowed on the repeaters without prior permission.
- VoIP: (Echolink®, IRLP, AllStar Link, etc.)
Due to the system architecture and its primary mission as a full-time emergency resource, it is policy to keep the 146.745 repeater system free of any VoIP linking networks unless explicitly approved by the CVARC board and repeater trustee.

Users may be asked to leave for abuse of this policy or violation of any FCC Rule and may ultimately result in the loss of operating privileges on our repeaters.

CVARC reserves the right to place additional restrictions at any time. Any permanent updates to these rules will be circulated to the club members via the Bandsread newsletter, email reflector and posted on the club website.

FAQs

PL Tones:

The 146.745 machine does not normally require a PL tone to access. However, a 192.8Hz PL tone access can be enabled by the repeater trustee on the 146.745 repeater, if needed, to control short-term interference issues. If this happens, there will be a periodic voice announcement to alert users to turn on their PL tones to access the repeater.

It is standard operating practice for the Linn County ARES® to use a 250.3 Hz PL tone to alert users of an emergency situation. **THIS ALERT TONE IS TO BE USED ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY OR TRAINING EXERCISE.**

Reporting Method:

Reports of interference, rule violations or repeater concerns should be sent to the repeater trustee, CVARC station trustee or any board member for forwarding to the appropriate person. See the CVARC website or latest Bandsread for current contact methods. Please include the time and date when reporting any observation.

Control Operators:

Control operators are members of CVARC in good standing, chosen by the repeater trustee and approved by the station trustee to assist monitoring the repeater for proper operation of the repeater. Control operators have the authority to enforce any usage policy set forth by the CVARC board. They also assist the repeater trustee in investigating interference sources, system testing and alerting the repeater trustee and license trustee of issues.