

# REPEATER TIPS FROM THE ARRL

## DOs



- Do keep all transmissions short. Emergencies don't wait for monologues to be finished. If you want to hear your own voice, what you want is a tape recorder, not an FM rig.
- Do think before you transmit. If you can't think of anything worth saying, don't say anything.
- Do be courteous. A repeater is like a telephone party line, and requires the same kind of cooperation in its use.
- Do pause a couple of seconds between exchanges. Someone with a high priority need for the repeater may want to break in.
- Do use simplex whenever possible. Leave the repeaters available for those who need them.
- Do support your local repeater club. Maintaining a good machine is an expensive and time-consuming undertaking, and you should do your share.

## DON'Ts



- Don't monopolize a repeater. The best repeater users are the ones who do a lot of listening, and little transmitting.
- Don't forget that what you say over a repeater can be heard over thousands of square miles — by anyone with an inexpensive scanner or public service band monitor. These people are potential hams; if they like what they hear on the air, they will want to get licenses and join us. Don't leave them with a bad impression of our hobby by making thoughtless or off-color remarks.
- Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add and you're sure you'll be welcomed. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.
- Don't try to prove what a great operator you are by criticizing the operating techniques of others on the air. Instead, set an example that others will be proud to follow.
- Don't forget that amateur radio is allocated frequencies because it is a service, not just a hobby. Don't neglect the public service aspects of VHF/UHF FM communication, such as accident reporting, emergency preparedness, etc.
- Don't abuse autopatch privileges. Business messages are not permitted in the Amateur Service. Don't force a control operator to terminate your call in order to avoid a rules violation.