

## Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Assoc.

PO Box 145 \* Auburn, Indiana

[www.w9ou.org](http://www.w9ou.org)

### ***Operating Etiquette and Courtesy on the W9OU Repeater:***

1. Always identify your station when first accessing the repeater. This practice lets anyone listening know that a *licensed amateur* is transmitting.
2. Don't forget—FCC rules require that you identify your station every ten minutes and at the close of your conversation. The repeater identifies only for itself! You must identify your own station. *Some operators use the repeater ID signal as a reminder.*
3. When transmitting a “test,” always identify your station. Simply “ker-chunking” the repeater sends an unidentified signal on two frequencies. Not only is this practice rude and inconsiderate, it's illegal! Giving your call sign makes testing your signal okay... and legal.
4. Avoid using phonetics in your ID unless specifically requested to do so. FM on Radio is the equivalent of High Definition on TV and phonetics on FM needlessly slows down communications and causes confusion.
5. Listen before placing a call. Make sure that you are not interrupting another's call.
6. Do not immediately *make* a call to someone that just made a call to someone else. Give the caller time to make contact with his originally called party.
7. Before transmitting during a QSO, listen for the “courtesy beep.” Then wait for the squelch tail, signaling the repeater timer is reset.
8. If you wish to join a QSO, avoid using the term “break,” but simply announce your call sign between transmissions. (Another reason for users to wait for the squelch tail before transmitting.)
9. If you need the frequency due to an emergency, simply announce “Emergency” between transmissions and identify your station immediately upon being given access to the repeater.
10. Don't call CQ to initiate a conversation on a repeater. 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 wants to talk to you, they will respond.
11. S-Meter signal reports are meaningless in repeater use. Your S-Meter is only reporting the signal strength of the repeater, not the transmitting station. The better report for FM signal strength is “Full Quieting” for *excellent*; “Some Background Hiss” for *readable* or “Broken-Up” (or “Picket-Fencing”) for *poor*.
12. Remember, Ham Radio is the “original social network.” More people than you can imagine are likely to be listening to the repeater at any time. Keep your transmissions clean and polite. Avoid, at all times, discussions of a controversial nature, especially religion and politics.
13. Local 2-Meter Nets: Please check in to the Tri-State 2-Meter Amateur Net, held nightly at 7:00 p.m. on 147.015. The repeater for this net is located in Auburn and covers a wide area of 35 miles or more. This net routinely receives check-ins from stations south of Fort Wayne, Ohio and Michigan. Any stations within hearing distance are invited to check in. This repeater is owned and maintained by the Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Assoc. Located in Auburn, Indiana. Visit [www.w9ou.org](http://www.w9ou.org) for more information.