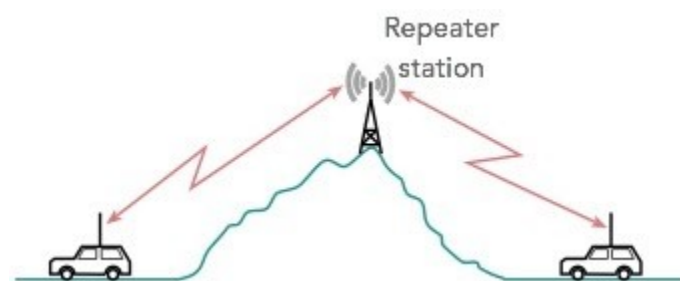


LOCAL REPEATERS



Frequency CC	Offset	PL	Call Sign	Type	
146.880	-	74.4	W4RAT	FM Fusion	
145.430	-	74.4	KG4MRA	FM Fusion	
146.940	-	74.4	KN4SKI (VDEM)	FM Fusion	
147.360	+	None	KA4CBB	FM	
147.270	+	203.5	WB4IKL	FM	
147.390	+	74.4	W4FJ	FM	
147.315	+	74.4	N4POW	FM Fusion	
147.25500			W4FJ	DSTAR	
442.55000	+	74.4	W4RAT	FM Fusion	
443.71250			W4FJ	DSTAR	
442.68750			WA4FC	DMR	1
443.35000			N4POW	DMR	1
443.58750			W4RAT	DMR	1
444.6500	+	203.5	WA4FEG	FM	

How do you make a call on an Amateur Repeater?

First, LISTEN AND LISTEN SOME MORE..... to make sure that the repeater is not already in use. When you are satisfied that the repeater is not in use, set your transmitter power to the minimum and increase only as needed to make contact with the repeater, begin with the callsign of the station you are trying to contact followed by your callsign. e.g. " N4??? this is N3???". (The N3??? is your callsign). If you don't establish contact with the station you are looking for, wait a minute or two and repeat your call.

If you are just announcing your presence on the repeater it is helpful to others that may be listening if you identify the repeater you are using AND your callsign. e.g. " This is N3??? listening on the 84 machine or you could also say This is N3??? listening on 146.84 Dallas or the location of the repeater if known. This allows people that are listening on radios that scan several repeaters to identify which repeater you are using.

If the repeater you are using is a busy repeater you may consider moving to a simplex frequency (transmit and receive on the same frequency..... see more below), once you have made contact with the station you were calling. Repeaters are designed to enhance communications between stations that normally wouldn't be able to communicate because of terrain or power limitations.

If you can maintain your conversation without using the repeater, going "simplex" (both stations on same frequency in a different part of the band) will leave the repeater free for other stations to use that can't establish simplex communications!

Repeater Etiquette and Reporting Emergencies

The first and most important rule before using a repeater is to LISTEN FIRST. Nothing is more annoying than someone that "keys up" or DOUBLES in the middle of another conversation without first checking to make sure the repeater is free. If the repeater is in use, wait for a pause in the conversation (watch your S meter and wait for it to drop indicating the repeater is listening) and simply say "Emergency, Emergency, Emergency", and wait for one of the other stations to acknowledge your call. If for some reason you are not heard, then repeat the 3 "Emergencies" again...then if you are still not heard, try another nearby repeater.

HOW DO YOU REPORT or ACT ON AN EMERGENCY ON A HAM BAND?

Many hams use the wording, "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK", (the word "break" repeated 3 times in a row). This is accepted practice on the hf bands where noise may be a problem but on repeaters, usually noise is not a problem, so using "plain" language such as "EMERGENCY", REPEATED 2 OR MORE TIMES can be used to announce that there is an emergency and the frequency is needed to relay vital information....if you hear an "Emergency" call during your conversation with another station....**stop transmitting**, listen....and then acknowledge the station calling the emergency and let them have the frequency immediately! **Don't delay them** by saying something on the order of "Stand by breaker" and then carry on your conversation with your contact. **Seconds wasted doing this may COST a life!** Listen to them carefully and write down the details of their emergency. They will give you the details of the emergency. Then pause for a moment and wait before you go back to him.....many other hams who heard the emergency call may be responding ALL at the same time.

If someone "beats" you to getting back to him, let him take over. Do not break into the conversations UNLESS there is a need for a relay. Under certain situations due to distances involved with mobiles and repeaters, you may be able to hear a mobile BETTER than the repeater on the input frequency of the repeater. It is a good idea to monitor the input if possible if the station reporting the emergency is having trouble getting into the repeater. You may be closer to him than the repeater and can hear him better! Whether or not the station reporting the emergency is a base station OR mobile, try to monitor the input of the repeater if there is difficulty in the emergency transmission.

IF YOU ARE REPORTING AN EMERGENCY:

*When using VOICE, use the international standard "MAYDAY" or universally understood "EMERGENCY" to announce traffic of **life-or-death** importance.*

The procedure should be:

- 1. Select the repeater frequency.*
- 2. Wait for a space between transmissions if the repeater is busy.*
- 3. Key your mic and state... "Emergency, Emergency, Emergency" unkey.*
- 4. Wait for a response from the repeater users. If you get no response, try another repeater.*

*When you do make contact, state your call sign and give as many details as to the emergency as possible. **Don't panic, speak slowly and clearly** so the details will be understood the first time! Always give details as exact and specific. Give the details of the exact LOCATION of the emergency using enough description of the location so it can be found easily by first responders. Don't say....on highway 60 and leave it at that. The emergency vehicles need exact locations if at all possible. Remember, seconds or minutes saved equal lives in many cases!*

Give number of "victims" if possible. Is there is fire involved, downed power lines, immediate road blockage due to wreckage creating further dangers? DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS.

The person on the other end of your transmission is most likely copying the info to paper so he can relay it to the appropriate authorities. Help him help.

HOW TO CALL CQ

1. Pick what you think is a clear frequency, within your licensed band limits. (Always stay about 4 kHz clear of any band edge (or license subband edge), as using standard bandwidth SSB, it's easy to have sideband energy at least 3 kHz from your "carrier" (center) frequency of operation - there may be no carrier with SSB, but your dial usually reads the frequency where the carrier would be, if there were one.)
2. Transmit, and ask, "Is this frequency in use?" Stop transmitting, and listen for an answer. If you hear no reply, after about five seconds ask one more time, "Is this frequency in use?" If you still hear no reply, consider the frequency fair game for a CQ. If you hear a reply like, "Yes it is!" or more politely, "Yes, thanks for asking," tune to another seemingly clear frequency and start again.
3. Call CQ. *Always* include your callsign and your location in the CQ. And always make a CQ last at least 20 or 30 seconds. Enunciate clearly, and use phonetics at least once or twice. Although it seems silly, it's common to also announce the band you're on when calling CQ. This really isn't so silly when you think about it: You're actually calling "the band," since you're not calling any station in particular. So, don't laugh when, on 20 meters, you hear someone calling, "CQ 20 meters." It makes sense. Here's a good CQ format, for general purpose work. (Note: None of this pertains to contesting.)

EXAMPLE:

"CQ, CQ, CQ calling CQ 20 meters. This is WB4VWR calling. Whiskey Bravo Four Victor Whiskey Romeo, WB4VWR in Richmond, VA calling CQ 20 meters. Hello CQ, CQ, CQ 20 meters. This is WB4VWR calling. Whiskey Bravo Four Victor Whiskey Romeo, WB4VWR in Richmond, VA calling CQ 20 meters and standing by for a call."

How to answer a CQ

First, use the callsign of the station you're calling. Follow that by your own callsign, and your approximate whereabouts. If the station you're calling is very strong, just once will do. If he's very weak, you might double up the call. If you're calling in a pileup, timing, frequency and articulation are more important than signal strength. I'll explain.

Typical call:

"WB4VWR this is K2OWR, Kilo Two Oscar Whiskey Romeo in New Jersey calling."

Perfect. He told me his call, twice, once phonetically, and also where he is. Can't ask for more than that. His call took six seconds, and gave me all the data I need.

If I didn't hear him well, I might say, "QRZ? Is someone calling me? Try again please; this is WB4VWR." And he could try again, maybe twice this time, that is, doubling up on the call, like this:

"WB4VWR, this is K2OWR, Kilo Two Oscar Whiskey Romeo, K2OWR in New Jersey calling. Copy now?"

Skywarn Amateur Radio Network and How to Get Involved

Keeping the public aware of severe weather hazards isn't just for meteorologists anymore. Amateur Radio operators, known as storm spotters, partner with the **National Weather Service** (NWS) to recognize and notify the NWS of critical weather situations through a volunteer program called **SKYWARN®**.

The organization is comprised of between 350,000-400,000 severe weather spotters trained to stay abreast of severe weather situations and communicate potential threats to the NWS using Amateur Radio. With over 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, and over 1,000 tornados reported annually, SKYWARN is more than just a hobby—it saves lives.

The critically important organization got its start in the 1970s. Today, it's combined with **Doppler radar technology and satellite data** to create a strong first line of defense against the dangers of inclement weather. Seemingly harmless to some, thunderstorms, lightning, and problematic weather situations are responsible for **hundreds of injuries, deaths, and billions of dollars spent** on property and crop damage each year.

The NWS encourages those with an interest in public service to volunteer their time and Amateur Radio abilities with the SKYWARN program. Volunteers regularly include police, fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers, and of course, private citizens interested in keeping their communities safe and informed.

Training for SKYWARN is generally free of charge and is condensed into a two-hour module. During the course, participants learn the fundamentals of thunderstorm development, basic storm structures, how to identify potential severe weather features, how and what to report, and basic severe weather safety.

Want to learn more? Head to the NWS website to find **training programs in your state** or check out **SKYWARN spotter training** to begin the training process online. Most states require in-person class participation in addition to the online course load. Or pick up **ARRL's Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio 2nd Edition** from DX Engineering for additional reading material.

You can contact your local **Warning Coordination Meteorologist** for information on how to find or replace your spotter number and ways to participate in upcoming training seminars—or head to the NWS website to learn how to participate in annual **SKYWARN Recognition Day** activities.

