

Ham 59 - Protocol

Dr. Marc & Rosemary © 220813

1. So now you are a Ham. You finally have a radio and power supply. You built an antenna. What do you do now?
2. How to talk.
 - a. Select appropriate frequency.
 - b. Press PTT. Speak in normal voice. Microphone is small 1/16" hole on front. Space 1" or closer to side of mouth.
3. What to say.
 - a. *I am available to talk to anyone:* Your call-sign (KI5UNO) monitoring.
 - b. *Calling specific person:* K5CAY this is (de) KI5UNO.
 - c. *Answering:* Your call-sign, their call-sign (K5CAY), go ahead Fred.
 - d. *Discussion:* Genteel. Whatever you want, like a good neighbor. No music.
 - e. *Ending call:* 73 (goodbye, best wishes, etc) KI5UNO
 - f. *If no answer to your call.* Just say KI5UNO.
 - g. *Relax:* Just be yourself. If you miss something, so what? Go with the flow.
 - h. *AVOID:* Anything that sounds like CB, the hangout of unqualified & unskilled.
- 4.
5. Since VHF/UHF communications are more local, the protocol is simpler. Get on the frequency, key mic, and state your call sign, followed by listening, monitoring or similar. CQ, used as a general call on HF, is unnecessary here.
6. Identify yourself according to the regulations, at least every ten (10) minutes and at the end of your communication. Use your station's call sign more than less. It helps other users know you are there if they are listening. When checking into a net or making an initial call, it is helpful to use phonetics.
7. During lengthy conversations pause occasionally between transmissions, so others can get in if they have something to say.
8. The repeater is set up for public use, It is not designated as private, limited access. We are very happy when it is busy. The more people are on the air, the more others are likely to get aboard.
9. Ham radio tradition is about emergency communication. Yield the frequency to a breaking station (any station with emergency traffic). The pro sign "break" has a very specific meaning on ham radio. If you hear it, then give them the frequency. If you use it, remember the importance of its use.
10. Many channels and repeaters have regularly scheduled events, as well as routine use. Yield existing conversations to recognized activities: Weekly Nets, ARES, public service events, etc.
11. Some avoids are prudent.
 - a. Do not engage in political soap boxing. These subjects are very personal to others listening and are better avoided. Do not engage in any personal antagonisms. Keep in mind that some conversations are better held in private. Hate speech or derogatory remarks directed at any person or group (political, ethnic, racial, sexual orientation, etc.) are never allowed on the repeater. Please keep that stuff to yourself, nobody wants to hear your personal rants over the airwaves.
 - b. Selling items OTHER than ham related equipment is not allowed, nor is conducting any business. For allowing Ham use of the spectrum, international agreements and the FCC prohibits it. As Amateur Radio operators, we are prohibited from gaining any pecuniary benefit from our operation of our amateur radio stations. When in doubt take it off the air.
 - c. If you hear stations jamming or interfering do not make any comments, ignore them! Do not antagonize those interfering! This is not going to make them stop. Contact the trustee/owner via email or telephone to inform them of what is happening with dates, time, and nature of interference.
12. The Repeater is "G-Rated" 24 hours a day. Watch your language. Sometimes slips happen. There is a complete difference between an inadvertent slip and an intentional act. Avoid adult subjects. Many hams have children in the home and amateur radio is open to all ages.
13. Relax. Use genteel decorum. You are talking to your friends, some new, some old.
14. *Be prepared:* Get your license, get a real-radio, get radio-active.

That is how you know to whom to talk, where to talk, how to talk.
15. Life is good. Enjoy!

