

VOICE REPEATER USE POLICY

BACKGROUND:

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) owns and runs 4 voice repeaters one mobile voice repeater and several UHF links. We run an IRLP node at the end of one of the UHF links and the other links can tie our four voice repeaters together and to the Nova Scotia system and tie the Eastern Shore system into the Nova Scotia system. Currently the repeaters and links are as follows:

- VE1NSG - IRLP node at Dalhousie University hard linked by UHF to VE1HNS 2M voice repeater.
IRLP Discovery Reflector also at Dalhousie University.
- VE1HNS - **146.940 - with a PL tone of 82.5 Hz on the transmit only for tone squelch:**
2M voice repeater at the CBC site on Geisers Hill with an additional switched UHF link to Cowie Hill site.
- VE1PSR/VHF - **147.270 +**, 2M voice repeater at Cowie Hill site.
- VE1PSR/6M - **53.550 - with a PL tone of 151.4 Hz on receive only for access:** 6M voice repeater at Cowie Hill site.
- VE1PSR/UHF - **444.350 +**, 70cm voice repeater at Cowie Hill site.
 - 3 UHF links at the Cowie Hill site usually connected together:
 - one UHF link to VE1HNS
 - one UHF link to VE1MHR (Eastern Shore system)
 - one UHF link to East Gore HUB repeater VE1NSC (Nova Scotia system)
- VE1ECT/VHF - 2M voice repeater on the HARC Emergency Response Trailer

The 3 voice repeaters at Cowie Hill site are switchable to each other and the various UHF links. This system is a very powerful one that can be valuable in an emergency using stand alone repeaters or by having various combinations linked to each other and other repeaters in Nova Scotia. Both Cowie Hill and Geisers Hill sites have generator backed power.

The VE1HNS 2M voice repeater has its antenna on the CBC tower and the contract with CBC states we can have the tower space free if we meet certain criteria such as a formal liaison with Emergency Measures, hold and report to them emergency exercises of a certain duration held on the repeater.

The VE1ECT/VHF repeater is on the HARC Emergency Response Trailer currently being built. It will be deployed for HARC events, ARRL Field Day, community and public service events as well as emergencies and emergency exercises. Future upgrades may include a UHF repeater and a frequency agile system link.

We have a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) part of which states the use of our repeaters in an emergency and during training exercises. Our repeaters are written into the Emergency Communications Plan for HRM EMO.

PREAMBLE:

- VE1HNS/VHF:** - This repeater is routinely used at most times during the day and sporadically carries some HARC sponsored activities. Historically the frequency of VE1HNS is the first frequency people will try in a strange area looking for a repeater. Currently the HARC sponsors ARISS activities on the IRLP Discovery Reflector as well as other activities and will sometime feed ARISS audio from a telephone patch onto VE1HNS while connected to the IRLP Discovery Reflector.
- VE1PSR/VHF:** - This repeater is a different scenario, it is currently mostly used sporadically during the day and generally carries most of its Amateur traffic in the evening. The EMO net and Take-15 net are held on this repeater on Sunday evenings at 7:30 and 8:30 PM respectively. A few HARC sponsored events such as the MS Walk use this repeater.
- VE1PSR/6M:** - This repeater was installed to promote 6M FM activity in the Halifax area and provide a repeater on a different band for EMO use. Currently most of the use is for emergency exercises a couple of times a year.
- VE1PSR/UHF:** - This repeater was installed to promote 70cm FM activity since a lot of Amateurs have dual band radios but it also provides a repeater on a different band for EMO use.
- VE1ECT/VHF:** - This repeater can be deployed for HARC sponsored events as required. It will be available for emergencies and emergency exercises. Coverage of this repeater will depend on the deployment site.

IRLP: - This linking system is world wide using the Internet as the intermediate link between repeaters. The IRLP Discovery Reflector has up to 10 channels and several are reserved for certain usage, mostly for educational purposes.

MAVCOM: - This is the Provincial terrestrial linking system that covers many areas of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. It is a work in progress in all three provinces, expanding into areas not currently covered. Several IRLP nodes and a few Echolink gateways are available on the system.

VOICE REPEATER USE POLICY

POLICY: - SEE GENERAL GUIDELINES

The policy of the HARC is that the repeaters are open to all Amateurs but precedence will be given to HARC sponsored events and activities such as but not limited to ARRL Field Day, event talk in, etc. as well as emergency exercises and emergencies. HARC approved events by other clubs or groups may also be held on the club repeaters subject to conforming to our guidelines. We have tried to keep this policy simple and it will not cover all possible scenarios. The following is the current usage policy for each repeater.

VE1HNS: - Stand alone (fairly wide coverage area) - IRLP link - Linkable to Provincial system

General use is expected when used as a stand alone repeater but interruptions from both the Mavcom linking system and IRLP should be accommodated during casual use. When casually using the Mavcom or IRLP link systems conversations should be limited to relatively short durations of 10 to 15 minutes. With the primary emergency response in mind, ARISS activities, IRLP use, general Amateur use, VE1HNS should not be used for extended transmissions such as long nets and similar distributions not directly connected with the club.

VE1PSR/VHF: - Stand alone (local area) - Linkable to Provincial system

General use is expected when used as a stand alone repeater but interruptions from Mavcom linking system should be accommodated during casual use. The Sunday evening nets are currently the only regularly scheduled events. This repeater could host approved events conforming to our guidelines most mornings without problem.

VE1PSR/6M: - Stand alone (local area) - Linkable to Provincial system

This repeater is to be used to foster more 6M activity in the local area. An activity net could be encouraged on this repeater. If it becomes more used then scheduling of activities may be required.

VE1PSR/UHF: - Stand alone (local area) - Linkable to Provincial system

This repeater is to be used to foster more 70cm activity in the local area. If it becomes more used then scheduling of activities may be required.

VE1ECT/VHF - Stand alone - Mobile repeater

This repeater will be deployed as required and we will need to determine a policy if we have requests from other clubs for the use of this equipment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

HRM EMO activations for exercises and emergencies will have the highest priority.

Club events and club sponsored events will have priority except in the case of guideline #1.

Event committee chairmen should make every effort to try to avoid scheduling conflicts and conform to the guidelines.

Repetitive events and nets should avoid prime operating times such as the early morning and evening commute to and from work.

Non club sponsored event and activity scheduling will generally be done by having the technical committee make a recommendation to the executive. A one time event may be directly referred to the executive for approval.

Scheduling of events on VE1HNS, IRLP, or the Discovery Reflector should be done with consultation of Rob Ewert, VE1KS.

Echolink if approved on a club repeater will not normally be cross connected with IRLP.

The duration of approved non club nets should be no longer than 30 to 45 minutes.

Special events of long duration may be considered on an individual basis.

Without approval the repeaters must not be routinely linked for scheduled events or formal activities such as nets run by other clubs.