



March - 2007

Officers

Operating the 146.91- repeater under the callsign W19MRC. For best access use 127.3 PL. Mailing address: PO Box 2123 Milwaukee, WI 53201	President Vice Pres Secretary Treasurer Activts Mgr	Dean Hoover Kurt Elfers Mike Jones John Laske Vince Morano	KB7QDI N9DWG K9MDJ KC9FJX KB9ZOT	kb7qdi@yahoo.com kelfers@wi.rr.com k9mdj@arrl.net johnny-05@peoplepc.com vincemorano@yahoo.com
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notice that we now have a link and button that will allow you to listen to the MRC 91 repeater over the internet. Huge thanks goes to Donovan KC9FGJ for setting up a laptop running Linux, and configuring it to stream live audio.

Next item I want to talk about is the next membership meeting. If you've been with us for a while, you'll know that this also includes our annual weather spotter training class and presentation. And, as in previous years, Skip WD9HAS will be available, and I've heard it on good authority that he is working on bringing someone from Sullivan to assist. I hope that you will be able to attend this outstanding presentation. In fact, I encourage you to bring family and friends as well.

Lastly, I want to talk about the newsletters. Previously, Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) has graciously taken our newsletters, put them in envelopes, paid for the postage and mailed them out to our club members. Unfortunately, with postage costs rising, and other factors, AES is no longer able to provide this service. We appreciate everything they've been able to do for us, but this also means the club has to incur these new expenses.

The board is working on ways to lessen the impact of these costs, but one big way is for members currently getting the newsletters by mail to consider having them sent via email. If you have an email address, an email will be sent to you prior to the next membership meeting, with the newsletter sent as a link to download from our web site. You can view the newsletter on your screen as a PDF file, and print it out as you see fit.

Finally, if you have anything you would like to discuss, as it relates to the club or the repeater, please let us know. The board email addresses are located at the top of this newsletter. All of us on the board are dedicated to making this the best repeater club as possible.

Until next time, 73 de
Dean KB7QDI

From the Treasurer:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was able to make it to this past election meeting and for participating. I would also like to thank those who voted for me. I welcome the chance to serve you and the club.

For those who do not know me, I would like to take this chance and tell you a little about myself. My dad was in the Air Force and I was born in Japan on a US Air Force base called Fucho Air Base in 1966. We moved to Madison, WI when I was two years old where I spent the rest of my childhood.

I had been interested in radio in general since I was very young. As a kid I found an old shortwave receiver in the attic, and I soon then had to string up a wire antenna in the backyard of the parents house to see if I could hear anything. After high school, I joined the U.S. Army Reserve. My job in the reserves was a Tactical Communications Operator/Mechanic. For those of you familiar with the Army, the MOS was a 31 Victor. I did my military training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The class was a self paced class where you could work at your own speed. I was the second person in my class finished, and I aced every test they had which I received a letter of commendation from the commander of the base. At the same time as being in the reserves, I went to a technical school in Madison where I got an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology.

After spending all my childhood growing up in Madison, I decided to get a job where I could travel and work in Electronics. I got a job for a company in the Milwaukee area in May of 1991 as a Field Service Technician. My job allowed me to travel and work with radio-operated microprocessor controllers. One of the other service technicians I worked with was a fellow ham named Jeff MacDonald. He tried to convince me of the fun and benefits of amateur radio, especially when traveling. It sounded very

Meeting Notice...

March 24 (Sat) 7:00pm Meeting and Weather Presentation.

Location is the same as last year:
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare
400 West River Woods Parkway,
Sr. Jeanne Gengler Meeting Rooms A & B
Glendale, WI (0.3 miles South of Hampton Ave. off Port Washington Road) (0.7 miles North of Capitol Dr. off Port Washington Road)

2007 Club Calendar...

- May 16 (Wed) Meeting**
- July 18 (Wed) Meeting**
- September 12 (Wed) Meeting**
- October 22 (Wed) Meeting**
- November 21 (Wed) Meeting**

Board Meetings: Call a board member for date, time and location of the meeting.

Oak Creek Location
Wauwatosa Savings (Basement)
6560 S. 27th Street, Oak Creek, WI

From the President

First of all, I just want to tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the MRC President. I can guaranty you that this club, and its members, will get my best throughout 2007.

Having said that, let me tell you some of the great things we are doing this year.

First of all, if you haven't checked out our web site recently (<http://www.mrc91.org>), you'll

Committees

ARES Net Coord	Jeananne	N9VSV
Awards	Al	KC9IJJ
Computer Net	Dean	KB7QDI
Control Operators	Gary	N9UUR
Emer Operations & Training	Gary	N9MGJ
Fun Net	Warren	K9IZV
Historian	Warren	K9IZV
Librarian	Steve	KC9AYN
Membership Coord	Kate	KA9MWT
Net Announcements Coord	Maureen	KB9VLJ

Newsletter	Heidi N9TUY & Bob AA9JW	
Public Service	Kate	KA9MWT
Station Trustee	Warren Schall	K9IZV
Swapfest	Bob AB9FB & Matt	KC9COY
Swap Net	Leroy	WD9HOT
Technical	Mark	KB9VJQ
Weather	Skip	WD9HAS
Webmaster	Gary	N9UUR
Asst. Webmaster	Donovan	KC9FGJ

appealing and a lot of fun. I studied to take the test, but just never got around to it until recently many years later in 2004. Seven years later through hard work and dedication, I was promoted to the Service Manager of the same company where I continue to work. I still travel some, but not as much. My duties in my job vary and it keeps it exciting and different. Some of the duties I perform are, of course, manage the service department, but I also test and repair circuit boards, update schematic drawings, write and maintain technical procedures and manuals, and QA testing of new products.

I first got my Technician license in February of 2004 after many years of procrastination and the right timing. My first real QSO was on the MRC repeater where I put my call out and Kate, KA9MWT, answered me. We talked for a bit and she welcomed me and gave me some good advice and tips. Soon Warren, K9IZV, also jumped in there and thus my amateur radio life began. I started to study the Morse code and General class question pool. I then upgraded to General Class in August of 2004.

I have since enjoyed many aspects of the hobby. I especially enjoy making DX contacts, and working contests, especially on the HF bands. I also like to just rag chew and talk about anything. I mostly just work phone and voice contacts, but am starting to get my computer interfaced to my radio so I can try to experiment and get into some of the digital modes. I would like to try out some of them, especially some Slow Scan TV and possibly some PSK.

Since taking over as treasurer, I have had a chance to get situated and get my feet wet with the books of the MRC. It has been a little bumpy since there are no real documents that outline what the duties of the treasurer are. I plan on this year making a document for future people that clearly outline the duties of the treasurer. I think it would be helpful to outline these and put a time in for when these duties are to be done. From what I gather, everything is handed down from one person to the next by word of mouth and I believe that this makes it easy for some things to get overlooked. The database of the club members and their information seems to be in fairly good shape, but always be a continual battle in keeping everyone's information up to date, as these things are always changing when tracking a lot of members.

If any member knows that their information like email address, street address, phone number, class of amateur license has changed or anything else, please contact me and let me know the updated information. You can contact me via email at johnny-05@peoplepc.com or you can mail it to the club's post office box. I look forward to serving this year as your treasurer and working with the other elected board members. If I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You,
John Laske – KC9FJX

From the Activities Manager

Hi everyone,

It is an honor to be elected to the 2007 board of directors this year. I've been in ham radio and a member of this club since 2001. I was first interested in ham radio as a teenager but put off getting my license until 2001 because of other things in life. I was previously a responder on Friday mornings but a job change to first shift opened up the door to serving the club in this manner. I can't do this on my own. Why? This is also your club. What do you like best about the hobby? Would you like to do a presentation for a program or do you want to learn more about a particular area in this hobby? Let me know and maybe we can set up a program covering that. I am currently looking into some program ideas for later this year. We have the Weather Training meeting set up for March 24, 2007 at 7:00pm at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare in Glendale. I hope to see many of you there. Feel free to contact me using the email address in this newsletter, or on the air when you hear me.

73, Vince KB9ZOT

MRC Meeting Minutes January 17, 2007

Location: Oak Creek

Attendees: Bob (AB9FB), Dean(KB7QDI), Mike (K9MDJ), Brian(K5GBW), Matt (KC9COY) Plus sign in list

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm by AB9FB

President Bob (AB9FB)

1.Motion to accept minutes of the 10-19-2007 membership meeting as published by Charles KC9IIV 2nd Al N9RXD – passed

2.Motion to accept new members by Tom WI9TOM 2nd by Mari WI9EZV – Passed. Welcome to Mike KB9IFD, Brian K9LCQ, Robert AA9JW, Heidi N9TUY, Colleen N9XNX, Ken WA9VIG, Todd N9DRY, Mike WS9I, Rich KB9SIG, Bob K9EAN, Bob KC9JWZ, John N9WBM, Robin KC9KHC, David KC9HJV, Cynthia KC9HJU, and Kayla KC9KPW.

Vice President Dean (KB7QDI)

Secretary Mike (K9MDJ)

1.Has made a quick reference for Robert's Rules to use at the meetings.

Treasurer Brian (K5GBW)

1.presented the 2007 budget. Motion to accept by Al N9RXD, 2nd by Matt KC9COY – Passed.

Activities Manager Matt (KC9COY)

Old Business

New Business

1.Gary N9UUR explained how the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) works. Their website, <http://www.wi-repeaters.org/> has more information and keeps an up to date list of Wisconsin repeaters available to the public.

2.Warren K9IZV put forward a motion "The MRC club shall endeavor to hold all the election and weather spotter training meetings on Saturdays." 2nd by Al KC9IJJ – Failed.

3.Motion to hold a Swapfest in 2008 by Mike K9MDJ, 2nd Dean KB7QDI – passed.

RECESS at 8:10pm for elections

RECONVENE at 9:30pm

4>Welcome to the new board

a.President – Dean KB7QDI

b.Vice President – Kurt N9DWG

c.Secretary – Mike K9MDJ

d.Treasurer – John KC9FJX

e.Activities Manager – Vince

KB9ZOT

5.Mari has a new call – WI9EZV (old call KC9JWN)

Adjourned 9:31pm By AB9FB

Respectfully submitted:
Michael D. JONES (K9MDJ)

Short Notes

Anyone wishing to purchase an MRC name badge should e-mail Tom WI9TOM at wi9tom@arrl.net. The price is \$7.75, and anything left after the badges are sent will be put in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Come visit SE Wisconsin's only Yahoo! group page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/amateurradiomilwaukee>

It is designed specifically to promote all the great people and clubs in SE Wisconsin. It contains links to all the different clubs in the area, times and locations of the different area nets, and also an opportunity to ask a question on a ham-radio topic, or share your unique knowledge.

The club library is still available for those wanting to know more about upgrading, antennas, and all the other aspects of this great hobby. Talk to Steve KC9AYN and ask what's available.

Who's Listening to Your Club's Amateur Radio Repeater & What Are You Paying Them to Listen?

A constructive approach, using, etiquette and efficiency to grow your club

Most of you are aware of our club's constitution and its purpose. Some new hams that haven't had a chance to read it yet may wish to visit the club's web site and view it there in detail. I wish to address a constitutional concern, which is to say I feel there is an issue regarding our club that should not go unmentioned. Within the preamble of our constitution there is a sentence that reads: ***"To serve General and Emergency communications needs for Southeastern Wisconsin, to encourage and enhance Individual Operating Efficiency"*** These words strike a chord with me, and they are one of my reasons for belonging to this club.

There have been some time-honored traditions on the MRC repeater that enable the repeater to serve as both an emergency communications tool and a general communications tool. General communications and emergency communications are more closely related than one would first suspect. It is first necessary that individuals monitor a frequency in order to provide a means of responding to an emergency, should the need arise. By providing general communications to licensed amateurs, we ensure that at most given times a base membership is monitoring the frequency and therefore we are able to acknowledge emergency communication as well. The word *efficiency* is where my greatest and gravest concern lies. I feel if we don't address the need for etiquette and efficiency, the cost will be enormous. Each mistake will tax us twice, as the initial failed communication may cost a life someday, and the lack of efficiency and etiquette will cause frustration to the club's members whom we can't afford to lose.

Talking on a repeater is a skill that must be taught even to the most experienced operator with the highest class of license. Fortunately, there are just a few simple steps to learning this efficiency of communication and keeping our repeater friendly and prepared for an emergency.

The Courtesy Tone

Using the courtesy tone is very important. The tone is transmitted right after an amateur releases his or her PTT. He or she will likely pass it to you by name or your call sign. Keying up immediately after having heard the courtesy tone is what all listeners expect. It's a courtesy tone that allows this repeater to serve the dual purposes of being conversation and emergency communications at the same time. Emergency calls should come before the courtesy tone. Those using the frequency in a standard communications mode need to start transmitting only after the courtesy tone and only when it's passed to them. Following this practice will enable the emergency communication to be heard as well as provide an efficient way to allow many to participate on a frequency, which provides for only one voice to be delivered to its destination at a time.

It is during roundtables that people most often disregard courtesy-tone etiquette. A roundtable is a circular discussion in which many amateur operators communicate in a large group by always passing it to the next person in the rotation so as to allow everyone a chance to speak once before anyone has spoken twice. When participating in a roundtable conversation, you should avoid (at almost any cost) keying up before the courtesy tone, since doing so is reserved for emergencies and those not in the roundtable. The only time anyone who is in a roundtable should key up before the courtesy tone is if they need the repeater to conduct emergency traffic. Unfortunately, some operators key up before the courtesy tone just to acknowledge a station, and this is an inappropriate, unacceptable compromise to this repeater's ability to perform as a tool for emergency communications.

Asking to Join the Group

Asking to join the group is a formality; it's like knocking on your boss's door before you enter the room and begin talking.

Whenever there is a person talking on the repeater, it is helpful to know whom they are talking to before you attempt to join the QSO. It is always your responsibility to know who to pass it to once you are in the group. If you have listened a bit and are unsure, it's perfectly ok to ask to be included in the conversation and request that you be informed as to whom you should pass it to. Example: "KB9VJQ to join in and please tell me who gets it next." ***The person whose turn it is*** will likely acknowledge you and state that you can pick it up and he or she will also add "You'll be passing it to _____" ... (filling in the name or call of the individual who, until now, always came after them in the roundtable). This is essentially like you having just knocked on the door or rung the doorbell and then been invited in and introduced. Similarly, when you visit someone's home you ring the bell and wait for the door to open before you begin speaking. The most efficient way to do this is to give your call sign followed by a couple of words to indicate your intentions. You should make

your transmission as short as possible because that is what's polite, efficient and safe. Here's an example: "KB9VJQ to join the group" or "*KB9VJQ* to make a call please" or "KB9VJQ with a QST" or "KB9VJQ question for Howard."

This lets all in the group know that you wish to be inserted into the roundtable discussion next. This is a courtesy to others who may be listening and also wishing to join the group. Many listening are figuring out the rotation and if one was to enter a roundtable with more than call sign and a few words, it will cause confusion for listeners regarding whose turn it is next. It's this kind of confusion that may cause a double. A double is the simultaneous transmissions of two signals, which is often unreadable and exacerbates an already confusing situation.

Initial Transmissions

Initial transmissions on a quiet repeater and also on a repeater with a conversation in progress should always be very short since they are the only transmissions that sometimes result in unavoidable doubling. All other doubling is avoidable. When you choose to join a group and wait for the squelch noise burst, you press the PTT, and you have no way of knowing who else might press their PTT at the same time. If you keep it short, then others may likely be heard too. This is critical for emergency transmissions and to facilitate a robust frequency with lots of people joining groups. Someone dealing with an emergency is going to key up and say "this is KB9VJQ, and I have an emergency" or something similar. Your transmission should be short enough that an individual who is transmitting emergency traffic can be heard after you un-key your Mic.

Doubling

Doubling happens. The important thing is the one person whose turn it is sorts out the double and passes it appropriately to the joining station control operator. The person whose turn it is may have heard a partial call from one or both parties in the double. The partial call can be used as a tool to quickly resolve the double. Keep in mind that it's the stronger station, which you heard more easily, that should be told to stand by. For example: "There was a double, would the station who said JQ please stand by. Other station please proceed with your traffic." The station that was most difficult to hear or understand always has the right of way, but only after the intersection is clear. It's the job of the person whose turn it is to clear the intersection. Check out this good example by the person who was passed to by name and then waited for the courtesy tone then keyed up and said "All stations stand by. Station with emergency, go now."

Always try to give it to the person you didn't hear stating that you heard two stations that you recognized, one being KB9VJQ and that he should stand by while we give it to the second station. We're not contesting on a repeater; we're communicating efficiently. Check this example out "KB9VJQ and KB9ZEX, acknowledge both of your transmissions. Stand by as I acknowledge the breaking station, breaking station go ahead. You'll be passing it to KB9VJQ." In the previous example there was a triple; the triple was resolved. The intersection was quickly cleared for traffic to proceed. If possible, avoid saying "breaking station" unless you are unable to capture any identifying information about the third station in the triple (or about the first two stations in the triple). "Breaking station" is good only as a last resort because it could cause another double. If you heard so much as a syllable from the third station you could use that syllable to identify them. I'll give an example: "KB9VJQ and KB9ZEX, acknowledge both of your transmissions. Stand by Station who said 'Rob,' go ahead then pass it to KB9VJQ." Now you've gained an additional piece of information; you heard one word from the third station, the word "Rob" and you used it to clear the intersection and either someone with the name Rob keys up and says he'd like to join the group, or someone reporting an armed robbery in progress starts talking. Either way the intersection is cleared and the emergency (or non-emergency) traffic already has a destination, so it can now proceed.

Announcing That You Doubled

Sometimes when you un-key you may hear one word, the last word of the person you doubled with. Do not key up again and say, "I may have doubled." You are not expected to know what's going on if your mic was just keyed. People who were just listening to your transmission on the repeater are best qualified at this moment to handle the double. You're likely to double again if you don't heed this warning. Some might choose to monitor their own signal on the repeater output and immediately announce their double. It's beyond the scope of this article to go in depth on monitoring one's self on the output frequency as one talks on the input frequency, because there is so much to cover. I'm willing to discuss this at any time, however. This is the short answer: Set the best example for all listening and realize not everyone knows whether or not you are monitoring yourself. Someone who's "all listening" and not talking is better equipped to hear others than someone who is talking and listening at the same time. It is perfectly ok to monitor yourself. It's just not a good idea to use monitoring yourself as an excuse for avoiding politeness and etiquette.

Keeping Transmission Lengths Reasonable

After you are engaged in a conversation, your transmission length is expected to be somewhat like that of a normal conversation, much as if no radios were involved, a significant difference being only one person may talk at a time. It's

understood that to make all feel welcome that the conversation progress in a circle always passing it to the next person whose turn it is and always allowing the person who has asked to join the group to be given a turn and then passing it to that person at the end of your turn makes the rotation most efficient. What's likely to happen is a couple of individuals will join a group and a couple will leave every so often at a busy time of day. Transmissions in large groups should be shorter than usual so more people enjoy putting their two cents in. An excessively long transmission, should be avoided as it becomes hard to follow a conversation that has people talking in it for close to three minutes each. If six people are talking for two minutes each, you aren't likely to be able to listen long enough to figure out the rotation before the subject of conversation changes to something you just didn't want to comment about. Much more important than this is the ability for emergency traffic, as well as background traffic, to access the repeater quickly and become foreground traffic. In a 35-minute drive to work, you can talk to one other person or many others in a roundtable discussion; there will be 11 opportunities for someone to "ring the doorbell" and ask to join in the conversation, make an emergency transmission, or make a quick call home and report you're running late. If your club can support itself with 11 members, that's great, but the point I'm trying to make is that by choosing to be just slightly more conservative with the transmission time, say 2 minutes instead of 3, you're creating 17 opportunities in the same 35-minute time span. I don't think it's unreasonable to suggest that this is 6 more members that you just created a niche for. Remember that a group talking on the repeater is in the foreground and that those in the background, not currently talking but perhaps listening, do deserve prompt access to the repeater. No two people talk the same and someone may take a little longer than someone else may, and this isn't hurting anything, as long as it is reasonable. The most joinable groups have a rotation that is easy to pick up on and are smooth flowing. Announcing that anyone can join in is not as good of an invitation as creating an environment that is joinable.

CW Identification

FCC rules require that all automatically controlled repeaters identify every ten minutes. To comply with this most repeaters identify between eight minutes and nine minutes and thirty seconds, at which point there is usually a courtesy tone. This is to keep the ID from interrupting a conversation. After nine minutes and some seconds of continuous conversation, then CW ID will mix with repeated audio. We do not talk over the CW Identifier. This is mainly because, when the repeater identifies, the identification will come in place of a courtesy tone, so we treat the ID just like it is a courtesy tone, keying up after we've heard it.

CW Conversations on a Repeater

CW is considered the most legal way to identify a station. It is easier to receive CW in a high noise environment than any other mode of RF transmission. CW is often used for moon bounce, meteor scatter and distant HF work. It is truly a remarkable tool for radio communications. I feel that all amateur radio operators (provided they have the time, patience and will), should attempt to learn to communicate with CW, because one day it may help you make an emergency communication when it would otherwise be impossible. Like conversing on a repeater, CW is a skill, and both should be studied by new hams. While CW requires more formal, intensive training, repeater etiquette can for the most part be easily picked up on if taught by example and demonstrated on a repeater without compromising efficient communications.

Swearing

Swearing is to be avoided at all costs. When you speak on the repeater, you are not able to see your audience, but you should assume that it's composed of families with children and grandparents. Opinions on this issue may vary because some may see this as a freedom of speech issue. But when you transmit your speech over the airwaves you have the added responsibility to keep your speech from offending others. Most often the same point can be made with different words. This results in no compromise to freedom of speech. This club's members own its repeater. They must maintain it, its equipment and its tower spaces. This is a large expense. The cost or burden is not yours alone. The expenses are shared by the large number of members. Diction should be chosen so that the largest possible group feels comfortable. The largest group would likely span many different ages, generations, races and ethnic backgrounds. The words you chose should be found palatable to all. It is good logic. Your repeater needs financial support from all.

Time Outs

A timeout timer (TOT) on a repeater is an FCC requirement. Its purpose is to ensure that a stuck transmitter somewhere isn't holding the repeater in transmit mode for an indefinite period of time.

It's most appropriate that people set their TOT for two minutes so as to prevent the repeater from ever timing out even when someone chooses to say their call and intentions after you un-key and before the courtesy tone. If you transmit for more than two minutes, then you're taking a risk that a timeout will occur. When you un-key, someone still needs to be able to say "KB9VJQ to join the group." Also when you un-key, someone needs to be able to ask to make a call or ask for emergency

assistance. These short transmissions need to be done before the courtesy tone; in essence they are being made on time borrowed from your transmission time. Please loan what you can. Emergency communication is a priority.

A final word on timeout timers. Set them once. Please don't use your PTT to reset them when they're about to expire. Doing so is talking longer than two minutes (sometimes longer than three) on a very busy frequency. The transmitters in our link sites will often run a lower duty cycle if you pass it to the next person at the end of two minutes. Very few have a problem with this, especially after hearing the cost of a link site transmitter and its specified duty cycle. If we don't learn by a proper example, we will learn by the example we hear most often.

How to Handle a Jammer

In Amateur Radio and in life in general, it's easy to become frustrated with the issues you become engulfed in, especially when these forces have so much more control over you, than you have over them. I think jammers jam because they feel they aren't being allowed to control something, which they feel they ought to be able to control. It's not a fruitful pastime to speculate about what aspect of a jammer's life is lacking in control that must be compensated for by controlling a courtesy tone, nor is it wise to handle every jamming situation exactly the same way. It is likely that a jammer will feel they have succeeded in controlling something if they have managed to cause a response. If your response is the same every time they jam you, haven't they?

Off the air is the best way to handle a jammer. Jammers usually get caught when a large group of people are able to give not the signal strength of the offending signal but the direction. The direction is used to triangulate the location of the signal. If you discover a jammer, please discreetly report him or her to an Official Observer. It's your responsibility to do this as a licensed operator. Jammers are usually aware of the consequences of their actions and are most likely thinking they can't get caught, but they can, and to waste quality conversation time on a busy repeater talking about what will happen when they do is usually only entertaining to one person—you guessed right again, the jammer. When this is taken into consideration, it becomes obvious that information pertaining to the jammer's location can't be collected while he or she is listening to entertaining remarks. So please don't entertain the jammer. It's like feeding the animals at the zoo. Furthermore, the jammer is more likely to make a mistake facilitating his own capture if he thinks the right people aren't out there trying to fox hunt him.

Some jammers attempt to timeout the repeater. Every second that the repeater is timed out is repeater down time. You can't use a down repeater for emergency communications. It is often a legitimate user of the repeater that makes the initial transmission causing the time out, and then the jammer finds the door has been open for malicious extensions of the down time. To avoid this think conservatively when it comes your turn to transmit. Listen carefully when you un-key, for your own squelch sound and the courtesy tone. Wait patiently and silently for however long it takes. Emergency communications are being compromised but not as much so as if many people try to talk over the maliciousness. If you are adhering to two-minute transmissions, you will find that malicious timeouts quickly become a game of chance that the jammer can't win, since he or she will need to transmit for a full minute to time out the repeater thus giving foxhunters a longer opportunity to collect data. Furthermore, there is no shame in a QSY (change of frequency) to avoid a jammer. If you are followed there by the jammer, you may have successfully helped others collect information about him or her. If nothing else, at the very last but not least, you freed a very busy frequency from a temporary plague. Don't feel that the jammer just "won" because he or she chased you off the frequency. If you think jammers assume this, then let them live their lie. You know that you were just making a contribution to the efficiency of the repeater, a far greater win for public service and emergency communication. I sometimes feel we have an unsubstantiated need for our justice to be poetic and this causes us to ignore the reason for the justice.

What Are We Getting Paid For This?

Admittedly, following all the above guidelines can be a fair amount of work. This forces the question: If we are working, what are we getting paid? What great truth lies in the expenditure of our most precious resource – time, and what gain is there in limiting our transmissions so we can extend our receiving? The answer that works best for me is a sense of duty, a reminder of friendship, a continuing education, and the knowledge that some day, if everything is a disaster and hanging in the balance, our ability to communicate won't also be a disaster. Learning this efficiency of communication is the first step to effective communication. The second step is making it a part of every communication so it becomes a second natured reaction regardless of the stressfulness of the emergency.

Mark Zentner KB9VJQ,
Technical Director and Control Op