

Santa Rosa County FL ARES Repeater Policy

1. Overview

Several repeaters in Santa Rosa County are sponsored by the Santa Rosa County Florida Department of Emergency Management. This policy applies to the following repeaters:

- K4SRC 146.700 (-) 100Hz tone
 - Mode – Analog/Digital
 - Fusion AMS (Automatic Mode Selection)
 - Allstar (515591) & EchoLink (K4SRC-R)
- KI4WZA 147.330 (+) and 444.9250 (+)
 - Mode – Digital
 - DSTAR only

2. Policy

2.1. **Repeater Primary Purpose**

The primary purpose of these repeaters is to support emergency communications for our served agencies.

- 2.1.1. **During any emergency or SKYWARN activation**, priority use of the repeater is given to the ARES and SKYWARN organizations that are primarily served by these repeaters.

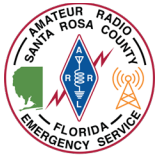
2.2. **Repeater General Usage**

To utilize the repeater, an individual must hold a technician class or higher license with the FCC. During times when the repeater is not in use for an emergency or SKYWARN activation, the repeater is open for use by any licensed amateur radio operator. Santa Rosa County FL ARES reserves the right to make the repeater system “closed use” if necessary.

Remember that anyone with a scanner can listen to your conversation on the repeater. There is no expectation of privacy, and your conversation may be recorded at any time by any individual.

2.2.1. All **FCC part 97 guidelines** shall be followed especially:

- 2.2.1.1. **CFR 97.101(c)** General amateur use of the repeater must yield to emergency communications
- 2.2.1.2. **CFR 97.119(a)** Identifying at the end of each communication and at least every 10 minutes
 - 2.2.1.2.1. “Kerchunking” of the repeater is not necessary as all our repeaters have significant coverage in our and surrounding counties.
 - 2.2.1.2.2. If you wish to obtain a signal check, please wait for a break in repeater usage and transmit your call sign.
- 2.2.1.3. **CFR 97.113(a)(4)** No transmission of music or obscene language



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2.2.2. Repeater Etiquette and Guidelines

The following information is a guide to courteous operation on our repeaters.

- 2.2.2.1. During all conversations and nets, allow a minimum 3 second space after the repeaters squelch tail so that others may break in for an emergency or join the conversation in progress.
 - 2.2.2.1.1. If you wish to join a conversation in progress, wait for a pause between transmissions and transmit your call sign.
 - 2.2.2.1.1.1. Stations involved in the existing conversation on the repeater should acknowledge the breaking station
- 2.2.2.2. The repeaters have a 3 minute "timeout" setting. The 3-minute length is meant as a maximum length, not a suggested length. It is considered good etiquette to keep your transmission length shorter than this.
 - 2.2.2.2.1. Keep conversations to a length that will allow others to utilize the repeater.
 - 2.2.2.2.1.1. If you've been in an extended conversation, try to take time when you ID to ask if anyone else needs to utilize the repeater.
 - 2.2.2.2.1.2. If an extended conversation is needed and you are within simplex range, consider moving to a simplex frequency.
- 2.2.2.3. Do not belittle, berate, defame, or speak ill of others. This includes individuals, groups, nations, aspect of the hobby, etc.
- 2.2.2.4. When using a repeater, the use of "CQ CQ CQ" is not necessary to look for a station to contact. Instead, listen for a moment to ensure a conversation is not in progress then identify yourself such as "Callsign monitoring the 700." This helps those that are scanning know what repeater you may be on.
- 2.2.2.5. Remember that digital conversations will not be heard if not using a compatible radio for that mode. Before transmitting verify, using the s-meter of your radio, that a conversation is not in progress using a digital mode. Utilize tone squelch on your radio to ensure you do not receive digital noise.

2.2.3. Nets

Our repeater systems may be used for formal or informal nets by any individual or group. We do ask that you please [contact us](#) before having a regularly scheduled net on our repeaters to allow us to track the scheduling of repeater use.

- 2.2.3.1. Any non-ARES or SKYWARN nets scheduled on these repeaters will be suspended until the emergency or SKYWARN activation has ended.

2.2.4. Repeater Digital Linking

- 2.2.4.1. The K4SRC 146.700 repeater is currently connected to Allstar & EchoLink. No additional digital relay systems may be connected to the repeater without authorization by Santa Rosa County ARES.
 - 2.2.4.1.1. The KI4WZA DSTAR system is internet connected and has established automatic linking. You may unlink and relink to another reflector if the repeater link is not currently in use.