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Code of Conduct

Southeastern Wisconsin FM Amateur Repeater Society, Inc.

v.1 - 27 March 2008

NOTICE

Lack of notification, or lack of knowledge of, the existence of the SEWFARS Code of Conduct does not excuse any user from not using common sense when using SEWFARS resources at all times.

Method of Transmittal – Code of Conduct

Members

Distribution of the Code of Conduct to members will occur at membership acceptance and at renewal.

Guests

Distribution of the Code of Conduct to guests will occur after prior knowledge of first use of SEWFARS resources. This will occur via postal mail to the address listed in the user's operator license records.

General Guidelines

Regardless of user type and resources employed, the following guidelines must be followed by all users of SEWFARS resources. The following guidelines are in addition to any regulations specified in 47 CFR Part 97 (herein referred to as "Part 97".)

1. Repeaters were originally intended to enhance mobile communications. Users are highly encouraged to use operating practices that maximize availability of resources during the following times:
 - ✓ Daily Drive-to-work times.
 - ✓ Inclement Weather
2. Keep all transmissions as short as possible. This allows someone who really needs the resource to use it if necessary.
3. Acknowledge new/breaking stations and allow them to speak. The calling station may need to use the resource immediately. He or she may have an emergency to handle, so let him or her make a transmission promptly.
4. Amateur repeaters are not the place to discuss certain subject matter. Make sure that the subject matter and the language being used projects only the best possible image for you, the people you are conversing with, SEWFARS and the Amateur Radio Service.
5. Do not break into a conversation and not contribute to the subject matter being discussed.
6. If you hear or are involved an emergency call for help, do whatever you can to establish contact with the station needing assistance and immediately pass the information on to the proper authorities. Please note the date and time of the call and notify SEWFARS at the contact information given at the beginning of this document that you were involved with the incident.

7. Repeaters are not a soapbox. You may like to listen to yourself, but others who may need to use the repeater will not appreciate your tying up the repeater unnecessarily.
8. Keep all conversations as short as possible. This allows others to use the resources if needed.
9. After you have made a contact on a repeater, move the conversation to a simplex frequency if possible.
10. Transmit your call sign at the end of a contact and at least every 10 minutes during the course of any communication.
NOTE: You do not have to transmit the call sign of the station to whom you are transmitting.
11. Resetting of the repeater time-out timer during a transmission is prohibited.
12. Allow a one or two second pause between transmissions. If the repeater transmitter's carrier drops, the pause was too long. The repeaters do not use a courtesy tone, but the time-out timer resets once receive audio is no longer present.
13. Usage conflicts will try to be resolved in the most sensible manner and off-air.
14. Use plain, English language at all times.
NOTE: Though use of words of profanity is considered plain language by some people, use of profanity is illegal under Part 97 and will not be tolerated on the SEWFARS resources.
15. Do not use Q-signals.
16. Part 97 allows certain personal transactions to be conducted in the Amateur Radio Service. Use of the SEWFARS resources to conduct those transactions is not allowed.

Usage Times

Members

Members are limited to 90 minutes of system usage in a 24-hour period.

Guests

Guests are limited to 30 minutes of system usage in a 24-hour period.

System Usage is defined as participation in any conversational activity in any capacity using any SEWFARS resource.

Exceptions

Usage limits do not apply to:

1. users participating in a bona fide activity that has received prior authorization from the SEWFARS Board of Directors, or SEWFARS ARES Coordinator through prior agreement with a partner service organization, or through authorization prior to the start of an organized event.
2. APRS resources
3. itinerant users, defined as users whose permanent/home address lies outside the coverage area of the SEWFARS resources.

Prohibited Communications and Operating Practices

Prohibited Communications

The following communications are prohibited on any SEWFARS resource:

- ✓ derogatory comments towards any person or group of people
- ✓ discussion of sensitive or questionable topics
- ✓ disciplinary action measures taken towards users
- ✓ communications using cutsey-type words, lingo, jargon, and other non-common language
- ✓ discussion of topics considered to be in poor taste for a public forum or resource
- ✓ discussion involving activities deemed illegal under Federal, State or Local Statutes
- ✓ discussion of activities meant to avert Federal, State or Local law enforcement efforts
- ✓ other communications that the control operator staff deems as inappropriate and/or inconsistent with SEWFARS goals.

Prohibited Operating Practices

The following operating practices are prohibited on any SEWFARS resource:

- ✓ resetting of the controller timer to extend length of a transmission
- ✓ “coffee-klatching”, “soapboxing”, or any other activity that unnecessarily limits resource availability to other users
- ✓ excessive pauses between transmissions, creating long periods of dead-air time within a conversation. HINT: if the repeater transmitter drops, the pause was too long.

NOTE: a short pause is recommended to allow users to break in for an emergency.

- ✓ any other operating practices that the control operator staff deems as inappropriate and/or inconsistent with SEWFARS goals.

Disciplinary Action

NOTE: The frequencies used by repeaters belong to the public, but the actual repeater is private property. Regulation 97.205 (e) states that limiting use of repeaters to only certain users is permissible.

Disciplinary action documentation will be identified as:

1. Initial Notice
2. Final Notice
3. Notice to Permanently Cease Operation on SEWFARS Resources

The maximum number of the above documents sent to any user will be one (1.)

All disciplinary action is permanent, final and non negotiable.

All “Initial Notice” and “Final Notice” documentation will be sent via First Class mail.

All "Notice to Permanently Cease Operation on SEWFARS Resources" documentation will be sent via registered mail

Members

Members not adhering to the Code of Conduct will be subject to dismissal from membership of SEWFARS as outlined in the SEWFARS by-laws, and will be served Notice to Permanently Cease Operation on SEWFARS Resources if any operating practices not adhering to the Code of Conduct continue after Initial Notice and Final Notice documentation has previously been served.

Guests

Guests not adhering to the Code of Conduct will immediately be served Notice to Permanently Cease Operation on SEWFARS Resources. Guests receiving disciplinary action will not be eligible for membership.

Dispute of Infractions and/or Disciplinary Action

Members

Members have fourteen (14) days from the date of notice to dispute disciplinary action brought before them.

Lack of response to cited infractions and subsequent disciplinary action will be deemed as acknowledgement and admission of any and all infractions.

All correspondence must be done in writing.

Disciplinary action remains in force through the dispute period.

Guests

Guests have no right to dispute disciplinary action brought before them.

Referral to Authorities

Copies of all documents pertaining to any Notice to Permanently Cease Operation on SEWFARS Resources and any background correspondence leading to this disciplinary action will be forwarded to the ARRL Official Observer Coordinator and to the appropriate recipients at the Federal Communications Commission.

This document is subject to revision without notice.

SEWFARS, Incorporated

Revision History

<u>Rev.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	March 27 2008	Clarified the Definition of System Usage