

Black River Amateur Radio Club Repeater

Rules of Conduct

Revision Date: October 15, 2025

Repeater ownership statement

The Black River Amateur Radio Club (BRARC, or “the Club”) of Van Buren County, Michigan has been assigned the FCC call sign K8BRC. The Club has appointed a Trustee of the K8BRC call sign, and through its membership, has allowed the K8BRC call sign to be used on the amateur radio repeaters located in the City of Bangor, Michigan. The BRARC repeaters (including all hardware and associated components), on the coordinated (by MARC, the Michigan Area Repeater Council) frequencies of 147.360 MHz and 444.300 MHz, are owned solely by the Black River Amateur Radio Club. Any other amateur radio repeaters operating under the K8BRC call sign, whether coordinated or uncoordinated shall also be considered as owned by the Club, unless explicitly noted.

Purpose of this document

With a shared resource such as a wide coverage range repeater rules become necessary. It is typical to assume that all users know the generally accepted rules and are interested in helping our resource provide fun and fellowship not only to our club members, but others who may use the repeaters. This assumption is potentially careless of and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements.

This can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule, or by making inflammatory statements on the air. Activities or statements that may be taken offensively or as an FCC violation to one person might not be an issue to another operator.

For these reasons, it is best for BRARC to be clear about the rules the Club thinks are important. The intent is not to define every action allowed or disallowed but rather to define expectations for proper etiquette and provide a reminder of some of the relevant FCC rules.

The Club understands that anyone can slip occasionally, no matter how hard they try. That being said, the Club expects all users of the K8BRC repeaters to do their best to follow these rules of conduct. Repeater conduct should be governed by common sense and courtesy, as well as respect for fellow radio operators and the general public who may be listening to repeater traffic.

Policy Statement:

The K8BRC repeaters are open for all to use, provided you follow the rules in using them.

Rules Statement

The BRARC repeaters shall be governed by FCC rules Part 97, officially called Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97 (47 CFR Part 97) in addition to our club rules as outlined below.

Club rules:

- Identify yourself according to the regulations.
- Please be patient and understanding with operators who may be new to the hobby, or operators who may be unfamiliar with the Club repeaters.
- Avoid lengthy conversations. Pause between transmissions to allow others to break in, or to join the conversation.
- Yield existing conversations to recognized activities such as: RACES, SKYWARN, and the Sunday Night BRARC net.
- If you establish a link to a system such as Allstar or WIRES-X remember to unlink when finished.
- Do not interrupt existing conversations unless you have something meaningful to add.
- Do not engage in political soap boxing. Do not engage in any personal antagonisms. Threats of violence or inciting others to engage in violent acts will not be tolerated.
- Do not make any disparaging comments to or about other operators or members or the general public.

- Avoid use of CB slang and excessive use of Q codes.
- Yield the frequency to breaking stations or any station with emergency traffic.
- Selling items other than ham related equipment is not allowed. An asking price for ham-related equipment may be stated on the air at the discretion of the seller, but further discussions or negotiations should be taken off air.
- Do not use foul language or curse words.
- Do not interact with stations causing intentional or malicious interference.
- Do not intentionally and knowingly interact with unlicensed operators.
- Do not transmit unauthorized DTMF tones to gain control of repeater functions.
- Transmissions of digital modes such as APRS, RTTY, and SSTV on our repeaters is prohibited for any reason except in the case of an emergency, disaster recovery, or training exercises.
- Personal contact information (such as email addresses or phone numbers) other than your own should not be transmitted under any circumstances except in the case of an imminent emergency.
- Information of a personal nature, relating to Club business, or internal affairs of any other organization should not be mentioned on the air unless given explicit permission ahead of time by the originating source. Asking permission on the air to share such information is not acceptable.
- A control operator may shut off the repeater due to a violation of BRARC policies, violation of FCC regulations or flagrant disregard for good amateur practice.

In the event of rule violations

BRARC will follow a three strikes rule related to improper usage of the Club repeaters as determined by the Club License Trustee and/or the rest of the current board members:

Strike 1: Confirmed violators are given a verbal warning

Strike 2: If behavior continues, violators are given a written warning

Strike 3: If behavior still continues, violators are removed from repeater use

The Club License Trustee or club board members can authorize the Club Secretary to send a certified return receipt letter to an operator or operators that are removed from repeater use. This letter shall serve as an official record for BRARC.

If the problem is not solved, the operator may be reported to the FCC at the discretion of the BRARC board. FCC Rule 97.205(e) says, "...Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible." Additionally, the ARRL notes in the, "...a repeater does not have to be listed as being 'closed' in The ARRL Repeater Directory in order to have a limited access." (Source: "The ARRL FCC Rule Book: Complete Guide to the FCC Regulations" ISBN 978-0872599000)

Contact information for reporting violations

Contact a current board member or send an email to blackriverarc@gmail.com

Conclusion

The ARRL states that, "A repeater is not a public utility – you don't have a "right" to use it." When using the BRARC repeaters an operator should consider themselves, in effect, a visitor in the Club's station and conduct themselves accordingly, as their conduct is representative of BRARC as a whole. If using that station in a manner that the Club finds objectionable, the Club has every right to revoke the privilege of using it. (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book)

If an operator finds that the rules for the K8BRC repeaters are uncomfortable and does not suit their personal needs or style BRARC encourages that individual to try other repeaters or even try talking on simplex. The Club wishes for everyone willing to abide by these simple rules to freely use our repeaters.

We welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the K8BRC repeaters. 73!

The Black River Amateur Radio Club reserves the right to alter or make exceptions to these Rules of Conduct at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice. We will make every attempt to post the Rules of Conduct and any revisions in a timely manner online at the BRARC website, <https://www.blackriverarc.org/>