

DARN SYSTEM USE GUIDELINES

REV 3-6-14

- ARES, SBECS and other emergency communications only members are not DARN dues paying members. They may ONLY use DARN during weekly nets, approved drills and/or emergencies.
 - If you're not a DARN dues paying member, you're not allowed to use DARN at any other time. No exceptions.
 - If you'd like to join DARN at the dues paying Silver, Gold or Diamond level, you're welcome to! Click on the large yellow "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION" banner at DARN.org to see the privileges and contribution for each level of membership.
- Listen to the radio for a while before you key up There may be someone else using the system ... if so, wait for them to finish or wait to join in at an appropriate time.
- When you key your PTT on DARN, you're enabling the transmitters on a LOT of repeaters and link radios dozens of them ... covering all of Southern California.
 - It can take up to 1/2 second for them all to come online when the system is quiet. Key up and wait before talking.
- All of the DARN repeaters are linked together, full time. You come out on all of them, 15+, anytime you use DARN. Those with Gold and Diamond memberships have the control codes to disconnect individual repeaters for local conversations when needed.
- Use the repeater closest to you, and know where they are. Have a look at the light blue "LINK TO SITE AND COVERAGE MAP" below the monthly brunch photo on DARN.org. (i.e. if you're in the San Fernando Valley, don't try to use PV!)
- If you know where the repeaters are, you will know which to use for the best signal. Sometimes you'll have to switch around.
- Have a decent signal into the repeater you wish to use. Others DO NOT want to listen to your noisy signal.
 - DARN strives for amazing sounding audio. Do your part and sound good too!
 - If you're going to be "net control," make sure your radio sounds good!
- Don't ask for a "radio check" EVERY TIME you dust off your radio.
 - Instead, use a second receiver on a different band if you want to know how you sound. For instance, if you are transmitting on 440, set a 2M HT on your desk and listen to 147.36 at a low audio level. It truly solves a LOT of problems... you can hear someone talking over you, a poor signal, intermod, radar, low or distorted audio or any other problem. It allows you to change what you are doing for better communications. We designed DARN to be a full duplex system use it that way ... it is extremely helpful.
- Testing is okay, but it gets annoying fast. Try to test your radio on a simplex frequency.
- Do NOT kerchunk the repeaters. If you think there's an issue with your radio, don't sit there keying up over and over. Instead, move to a simplex frequency and figure it out.
- Don't blow into the microphone. No one wants to hear that. No one!
- Know what the unkey telemetry means ... some may call it a courtesy tone ... IT'S NOT, it means something every time)
 - Beep-boop = link to the rest of the system on, 5 second link carrier delay.
 - Beep-boop-boop = link to the rest of the system on, 45 second link carrier delay.
 - Beep = link to the rest of the system on, no link carrier delay.
 - Boop = link monitor (you hear traffic from the other repeaters, however no traffic from the repeater you are on goes out the links to other repeaters. Local traffic also mutes link traffic).
 - No beep/boop/etc = link off, The repeater you are on is in stand alone mode.
- If you hear unkey telemetry coming from the repeater you're listening to, it means the station that just unkeyed is talking there.
- DO NOT give DARN frequencies and PLs out over the air.
- If someone is jamming or causing problems. IGNORE THEM. They will go away all on their own when they get bored ... and they WILL get bored.
- If some is not a member and wants to use DARN, remind them that the system is "CLOSED and MEMBER SUPPORTED." They can visit DARN.org to find out how to become a member.
- Use common sense. A lot of people listen to DARN at any given time. Remember that.