WiRES-X ETIQUETTE

The WiRES-X Networks are a collection of local nodes and repeaters connected to the internet. This means that being on the internet all nodes and repeaters connected go through routers and switches, being subject to all the latency that is created as a result. At any time, communications with other nodes may be delayed due to network conditions. This is especially true if multiple nodes are in communication with each other. Latency could vary from a few milliseconds to up to a few minutes. Loss of transmissions or even doubling of transmissions between nodes and repeaters may result.

Good Operating Practices for Fusion Repeaters and Nodes

Leave pauses between transmissions:

WiRES-X Nodes and System Fusion Repeater linking is different than the normal analog repeaters and radios. It is not good practice to be quick on the key.

Good practice is to leave a pause between transmissions. This gives others a chance to join in or announce their presence and let the linking between nodes to drop before keying up again.

When in a roundtable QSO, leave a longer pause to give others a chance to join in, and announce the break so that others in the roundtable know this is the time to let a breaking (by giving their Callsign) station to join in.

Listen Before You Talk:

Check your radio's volume setting to insure you can hear any activity on system.

Listen on a repeater, or node, before keying your microphone.
Key your microphone and pause a second or two to ensure that your entire callsign is heard on the system. Also, continue to hold your PTT down for 2 to 3 seconds after you finish talking so all your transmission is sent.

Station Identification:

ALL Stations are required to identify using their FCC assigned Callsign upon initially transmitting on the repeater, or node. Please do so.

ID with your Callsign every 10 minutes thereafter, keeping in mind the repeaters and nodes on a WiRES-X Network may be a mix of Digital and Analog stations.

At the end of QSO, you must use your Callsign to sign off.

Testing Repeater Access:

DO NOT just key-up (kerchunk) the repeater without identifying. Use the term "Testing",

"This is [callsign] testing". Need a signal report, state "This is [callsign], can someone give me a signal report?"

DO NOT check SWR, or equipment while on system, move to a simplex frequency or use a dummy load instead.

Demonstrations:
When demonstrating the capabilities of Amateur Radio, or WiRES-X to a non-amateur; The common method to do so is to ask for a "demo". For example: "This is [callsign] for a demonstration." Anyone on the system can answer such a call should give the calling party your Name, Callsign, and location. It is not recommended to give a lengthy conversation.

Making a Call:
Just give your Callsign to try initiating a call. Be clear and concise, use good operating practices.

DO NOT use the word **"break"** to join a conversation. **Break** is used for announcing emergencies.

When attempting to contact a specific station you should announce … [their callsign] – this is – [your callsign]. Always announce your Callsign AFTER the station being called. If no answer is received after a couple calls, announce   "[your Callsign] – clear". This lets others know that you released the system for others to use.

If the system is already in use, wait for a pause between transmissions and then announce [your Callsign]. If you want to contact a station not in the conversation, ask if you can make a call. Simply announce "Call Please", or state, "[your Callsign] for a call".

Make your call when the parties using the system turn it over to you. If you contact the party you are seeking, turn the repeater back to the person who turned it over to you, thank them for letting you in, and move to another frequency to hold your conversation no matter how short you might think it will be.

If you do not get a response from the party you are seeking, turn the system back to the person who turned it over to you, and thank them for allowing you in.

When you hear someone making a call to a specific station it is not polite to jump in and put your Callsign out. Be courteous and let the calling station attempt to make contact to their specific station before putting your call out on the air.

Round tables:

When a new station enters a roundtable, those stations at the next station in rotation should acknowledge the new station and turn it over to them or let them know what their place is in the rotation. Also, you should indicate who they should turn it over to in order to keep the rotation intact. Remember to give your name as a matter of introduction.

When in a roundtable discussion make it a practice to turn the repeater over to the next party.
Don't assume everyone will remember when it is their turn.
Not turning it over can cause confusion and instigates double keying, which does not play well in the digital world, or system linking world.

Nets and Emergency Net situations:

When the system is running as an Emergency Net, or any type of net, all traffic will go through the Net Controller. All normal amateur uses will be suspended   until the end of the net. Ask permission of the system trustee before running a net.

When running a net make sure to leave longer pauses to allow every repeater/node that may be connected to the system time to catch up, 5-10 seconds, every 3 or 4 rounds seem to work well.

Remember, the word **"break"** is reserved for announcing emergencies.

DO NOT monopolize a system/repeater/node/room:

During drive times keep transmissions as short as possible. The repeater/room/node is a shared resource.

Switching from one node/room to another:

If you are not the repeater/room/node owner, call on the radio asking permission before changing the node or room linking. It is the courteous thing to do.

ALWAYS RETURN THE REPEATER/ROOM/NODE TO THE ORIGINAL LOCATION WHEN YOU FINISH.