

VARC W5DSC Repeaters' Use Policy

(JAN 20th, 2022)

The Victoria Amateur Radio Club's (VARC) mission is to promote the Amateur Radio Service. As part of its mission, VARC sponsors amateur radio communications infrastructure via the W5DSC repeaters, operating under the rules and regulations of the national governing authority of the FCC.

VARC repeaters are in Victoria County and operate on 145.130, 145.190, 443.800, and 444.325 MHz, and all frequencies have been coordinated with the Texas VHF/UHF Society . They provide Victoria County wide coverage that overlaps in varying degrees into the surrounding counties and are open to all licensed hams for:

- General ham communications (QSO's) as defined by the FCC
- Individual priority or emergency communications, such health and welfare traffic
- Public service events, such as Bike races, Family Day Fun, and Water Safari
- VARC related nets, such as Monday Night Net and Sunday Musings Net
- Weather reporting events, such as activated SkyWarn nets
- Emergency/Disaster communications events, such as those handled by RACES and ARES

Courteous amateur radio operators know that no one owns a frequency and VARC encourages all area hams to program their radios to scan for all local frequencies, and to enjoy their ham privileges without conflict.

The following repeater use policy's provides guidance on repeater use assignments to eliminate rare occasions of conflict and confusion of different operating groups.

Individual General ham communications (QSO's) should use any ham frequency not in use.

Individual Priority Traffic should use any ham frequency not in use for Emergencies.

Individual Emergency Traffic should use any ham frequency not in use by an **Activated Emergency Net**.

Public service events will use the repeater selected by VARC that bests meet the event's needs.

VARC related nets should use:

- 145.190 as Primary with 443.800 as backup when 145.190 is not available or not operational.
- 145.130 or 444.325 will be used if CMC based repeaters (145.190 and 443.80) are not available.
- *It is recommended that Net Controls of these nets periodically simulate Primary repeater being unavailable and utilize one of the backup frequencies.*

SkyWarn Severe Weather Nets

- **Activated net due to severe weather** should use 145.190 as Primary with 444.325 as backup when 145.190 is already in an **activated emergency net**, or if 145.190 repeater is down.
- **Activated net due to drills or training** should use 145.190 as Primary with 444.325 as backup when 145.190 is already in an **activated general or emergency net**, or if 145.190 repeater is down.
- **NOTE: 145.190 and 444.325 are at separate locations.**

RACES and ARES Nets

- **Activated emergency nets by designated state or regional authorities** should use 145.190 as Primary with 443.800 as backup when 145.190 is already in an **activated emergency net**, or if 145.190 repeater is down. The 145.130 repeater will be used if CMC based repeaters (145.190 and 443.80) are down.
- **Activated nets due to drills or training** should use 145.190 as Primary with 443.800 as backup when 145.190 is already in an **activated general or emergency net**, or if 145.190 repeater is down.

The **Net Control Operators for NON-VARC nets** will give the following to VARC president or vice-president for:

- **Training/Drill Nets:** Advance notice of planned time and duration of training drill nets
- **Emergency Nets:** Notice of Net Activation time and best guess of the duration of the emergency net.