

## **LMARC/W4EDP Owned Equipment Rules of Conduct**

### **\* Repeaters, Rooms, Reflectors and Talk Groups ownership statement \***

The Lookout Mountain Amateur Radio Club, referred to as LMARC, has been assigned the FCC callsign(s) N4LMC and KO4GVX. The clubs repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups can be found on many frequencies coordinated by SERA and are solely owned by LMARC/W4EDP who is/are considered the “owner”.

None of the users by virtue of status, has any ownership rights to or in the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups. The repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups owners or trustees can alter or make exceptions to these Rules of Conduct at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice. When this happens, we will make every attempt to post the revised Rules of Conduct in a timely manner online at the LMARC website, <https://lmarc.net>.

### **\* Why do we need rules at all for conduct and/or etiquette? \***

No one likes a bunch of arbitrary rules, but when you have a shared resource, like a wide coverage area repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups they become necessary. We tend to assume that everyone knows the generally accepted rules. But, that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater, room, reflector and talk group users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule.

Activities that may be an irritation or even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. It's probably best for us to be clear about the rules we really think are important. It is not our intent to define every action allowed or disallowed but to provide the guidelines for proper etiquette and give some “breathing room” to previously established as well as new and exciting uses of the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups.

We understand that everyone slips once in awhile, no matter how hard they try. But, we expect all users of the LMARC repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups to do their very best to follow these few simple and obvious rules of repeater conduct. Conduct on the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups should be governed by common sense and courtesy.

## LMARC/W4EDP Owned Equipment Rules of Conduct

The LMARC repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups are open for all to use, however **ALL repeater, room, reflector and talk group users must follow the rules of the LMARC, and by use of the repeater, room, reflector and talk group, you are agreeing to this. This applies to ALL LMARC repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups current and future.**

Nothing could be fairer. The ARRL says it clearest of all: "A repeater, room, reflector and talk group is not a public utility - you do not have a "right" to use it. When you are using someone else's repeater, rooms, reflectors and talk groups you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!" (Source: The ARRL's and FCC Rule Book)

- Watch your language; **our repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups are "G-Rated" 24 hours a day, every day of the year. If you can't say it in your elementary school child's class room, do NOT say it in/on the repeater, room, reflector and talk group... period!**
- Always identify yourself according with regulations, Digital, Analog or other modes.
- Avoid lengthy conversations, pause several seconds between transmissions.
- Do not interrupt existing conversations unless you have something meaningful to add.
- Yield existing conversations to recognized activities such as ARES, and LMARC Sponsored Nets, Skywarn or other net and/or emergency activities, etc. Always yield the frequency to any station with emergency traffic.
- Do not engage in political soap boxing. Do not engage in any personal antagonisms.
- Do not use CB lingo / language.
- If you hear stations jamming or interfering **do not make any comment, ignore them.** Do **not** antagonize those interfering!
- Non LMARC members will yield to LMARC sponsors/owners wanting repeater use.

## LMARC/W4EDP Owned Equipment Rules of Conduct

Part 97, officially called Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97 (47 CFR Part 97), is the body of rules which governs the Amateur Radio Service.

What gives the owners and trustees the right to tell someone how to operate? All repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups have rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. Users who refuse to comply with the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups rules can be told to stop using the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater, room, reflector and talk group owners and / or trustees. FCC Rule 97.205(e) says, "...Limiting the use of a repeater, rooms, reflectors and talk groups to only certain user stations is permissible." There are no qualifications – ifs, ands, or buts – to this rule. This isn't just the right to close a repeater, room, reflector and talk group. In fact, the ARRL says, "...a repeater, room, reflector and talk group does not have to be listed as being "closed" in The ARRL Repeater Directory in order to have a limited access." (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book) The terms "open" and "closed" don't appear in the regulations at all!

Each station owner is responsible for the operation of their equipment. They must always meet the FCC defined rules, and may also implement a more stringent set of rules for the operation of their equipment. To use our repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups you must follow our rules. There are few repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups with more lenient rules than ours, and some which are much more restrictive. Beyond the FCC minimum requirements, it's up to each repeater, room, reflector and talk group owner to set their own operating rules. A repeater, room, reflector and talk group user needs to try to fit in. If the rules for the LMARC repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups are uncomfortable for you and do not suit your personal needs or style we encourage you to try other repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups or even try talking on simplex. We wish for everyone using our repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups to abide by these simple rules and enjoy freely using our repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups.

Please report interference and flagrant violations on the repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups to [abuse@lmarc.net](mailto:abuse@lmarc.net).

We welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the LMARC repeaters, rooms, reflectors and talk groups. 73!

*Portions of this document were extracted from other repeater owners versions, copyrights apply where applicable. Thanks to those folks!*

# **LMARC/W4EDP Owned Equipment Rules of Conduct**