

The EAARS Courtesy Beep

By popular demand.... by Chris N7JND

Since we've gained many more EAARS members since this was last posted, I felt it was worth printing again so we all understand the purpose of the EAARS Courtesy Beep on the repeater.

We've all heard the courtesy beep after every transmission on the EAARS system. But why is it there? What's its purpose? And most of all, why should we pay attention to it?

The courtesy beep serves TWO valuable functions on the EAARS system...



First of all, you will notice there's a short timed space between the time the person un-keys their microphone until the courtesy beep sounds. It's this timed space that provides a moment of silence to allow any emergency traffic to break in. If someone urgently needs the frequency, it's that space where they will most likely call. Although it's more commonly used for "COMMENT", "BREAK", ETC... We've all accepted that there are going to be those that must break in with constant COMMENTS. But, the space should ALWAYS be reserved for EMERGENCY break-in's. Our number one purpose for Ham Radio, is to handle emergency traffic. We should always be on the alert for such a call. Please reserve this space for such a call.

Secondly, there are so many times people key up immediately after someone un-keys their microphone. THIS IS BAD BAD BAD RADIO PRACTICE. First of all, you are not allowing time for Emergency Traffic to break in. You are also preventing the repeaters the chance to reset their TOT's (Time Out Timers). It's only after the courtesy beep sounds, that the time out timers are reset. If you and the party you are talking with continue to "Quick Key" and continue to ignore the courtesy beep, you WILL time the system out after approx. three minutes. And then someone will usually come on and have to educate you on the courtesy beep (And They Will). With this in mind, you are NOT required to wait for the repeater to drop out to take your turn. That in itself can become quite annoying. Just simply wait for the courtesy beep and continue and enjoy your conversation.

So, that's the TWO main reasons there's a courtesy beep on the EAARS system. It serves a great purpose for being there. Please respect it and ALWAYS listen for it before taking YOUR turn.