

Autopatch Use Card

The Manitoba Repeater Society maintains a repeater in central Winnipeg on 145.45 MHz - 600 Hz offset for use by all Hams. For the benefit of the Manitoba Repeater Society members, there is an autopatch function on it, that will allow a radio user to inter-connect to the public telephone system. The following instructions should aid you in using the Manitoba Repeater Society Autopatch system.

Making a phone call

1. Tune to 145.450 MHz - 600 Hz
2. Listen to make sure no one is using the repeater
3. Declare "This is VE4???" for the Autopatch"
4. Using your DTMF key pad enter * followed by the autopatch access code
5. Wait for the patch to give a dial tone.
6. Enter the phone number you wish to call
7. When done, Enter # and the Autopatch access code
8. Declare "This is VE4???" clear of the Autopatch"

Remember the patch is a semi duplex device, with a micro processor doing the task of deciding when to receive or transmit. It is hoped that this brief outline of operation will aid in it's use. The patch has been adjusted to accept DTMF tones of 2 to 5 KHz deviation. Rigs with excessively high or low deviation will have problems accessing & dialing through the patch.

Shared IRLP Use

Please note that the autopatch is on the same repeater as the IRLP system. The system has been set up so that autopatch use takes precedent over IRLP. Please be courteous to the users of the system. If you can wait for them to finish their QSO please allow them the time to do so. Your call may not be an emergency, but it may be urgent (at least to you). Ask the IRLP users to allow you to make your call. If they release the repeater to you, make your call, pass your information to the called party as quickly as possible and release the repeater back to the previous party. Remember this is a shared system. Common Courtesy should be extend to all users.

Emergencies

The Manitoba Repeater Society realises that emergencies come up and that the autopatch may be needed immediately.

1. Please use "break" to break into the QSO
2. State the reason for the emergency and that you require the use of the autopatch.
3. Let the current users shut down the IRLP link and release the repeater to you for your emergency.
4. If you are calling emergency services - please let them know that you are using a radio telephone inter-connect with a time out and that you may lose the connection at any time.

5. State your emergency as quickly and concise as possible, with all pertinent details (emergency service required, type of emergency, your name, your callsign, address of emergency, number of victims, etc...)

Note the Autopatch will time out after 4 minutes of use. So please make sure you pass all information as quickly as possible. But remain calm in the process.

Timers

The Autopatch has 2 timers. The first timer is set to 4 minutes and will automatically disable the autopatch when the timer runs out. Please make sure your telephone conversations are kept short so that you do not run into time out problems. The second timer is 5 minutes and will re-initiate the IRLP portion of the system when it expires (1 minute after the autopatch reset). At this time we are working on a procedure to have the IRLP re-initiate immediately after the autopatch is closed or has been reset. However, we are running into script loop problems. Once this has been solved, any closing of the autopatch will re-initiate the IRLP portion of the system.

The autopatch is a privilege of membership in the Manitoba Repeater Society. Please do not release any codes to anyone. All members will have these procedures. You may start an autopatch for a non-member if you like, but you are in control of the system and are responsible.

Remember that the Autopatch (like amateur radio) is not to be used for commercial purposes. The ordering of pizza (for example) may be considered by some to be of a commercial nature, and others may consider it to be a personal conversation between an amateur and another party. Your best judgement is requested.