

**The Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group**  
**147.150 & 441.900 Dennis Barrow Memorial Repeater**

Application for Full Membership or Renewal

**Please print clearly.**

Name	Call	License Class
1. Licensed family member living at same address	Call	License Class
2. Licensed family member living at same address	Call	License Class
3. Licensed family member living at same address	Call	License Class

Home Street Address

City

State

ZIP

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? (Y/N) \_\_ Previous call: \_\_\_\_\_ Internet E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**There are no additional dues required for licensed family members living at your address.**

**Please remit 2011 Membership dues according to the following schedule:**

Dues submitted before August 27, 2011:	\$ 25.00
Dues for new Hams licensed 1 year or less:	\$ 12.50
Dues submitted on or after August 27, 2011:	\$ 12.50

Please make your check payable to the **Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group**, and send it to:

***The Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group, 2626 Buford Highway, Cumming, GA 30041***

Please read the following and sign below:

I hereby apply for Full Membership, or renewed Full Membership, as applicable, in the Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group. I understand that I am submitting dues for the Membership year terminating **on February 27, 2012**. **In addition, I (and any family members) agree to operate in accordance with requested operating practices as stated in the SMAG repeater usage agreement (on rear of this application) , and to follow all regulations set forth by the Federal Communications Commission.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group

## ~ Repeater Usage Agreement ~

The original Sawnee Mountain Amateur Group repeater was founded by a veteran group of ham radio operators with solid experience in HF, VHF, & UHF communications techniques that promote traditional acceptable operating practices. The primary intent of this system is to provide state-of-the-art, dependable communications for the sponsoring hams, their families, and VHF-FM enthusiasts in the North Metro Atlanta area. The SMAG repeater systems are maintained and open to properly licensed operators that are willing to subscribe to a general set of operating guidelines. These guidelines have been established by the SMAG in harmony with repeater use guidelines set forth by the South Eastern Repeater Association, the ARRL, and the FCC. Amateur radio repeaters require a different operator discipline than that of other radio services. Guidelines and established expectations are important due to the influx of newly licensed and non-experienced operators from the new amateur radio license restructuring.

Your ability to use any amateur repeater system is a privilege, and not a right granted to you by the FCC. When you use a repeater you are using someone else's radio station to make contact with another station so courtesy toward the owner's station should be foremost in your mind. SMAG designated Control Operators (as required by the FCC) monitor the repeater to ensure that its usage is compliant with the Part 97 rules of the FCC. Control operators are responsible the legal usage and security of the repeater systems.

- 1) To enable control operators to understand the content of conversations taking place on the SMAG repeaters we request that only the English language be used by stations using our systems. This includes third party autopatch conversations. In addition, there shall be no digital data transmissions through any of the SMAG repeaters. Control operators have the right to deny repeater access to any station not following these requests and may shut off the repeater without warning.
- 2) To initiate a contact on a repeater simply announce "This is (callsign) monitoring" or call other station directly by using their callsign. The practice of calling "CQ" on repeaters is discouraged. Calling someone simply by their name is not acceptable by SMAG guidelines nor the rules of the FCC. Please do not "key-up" or "kerchunck" the repeater simply to see if it is working.
- 3) Be aware of identifying your station properly. At a minimum, acceptable practice is to identify at the beginning of a QSO and every 10 minutes during an extended QSO. You **must** identify your station right before you attempt to access any of the touch-tone functions of the SMAG systems. Not doing so probably will lead to a control station shutting off the repeater due to not knowing who is attempting to access a secured mode of repeater control.
- 4) Always use simplex frequencies, when possible, for extended QSO's after initial contact is made with another station(s). Repeaters are primarily intended to be used as "calling" frequencies for initial contact with another station. The exception to this is when mobile to mobile communications are not reliable via simplex frequencies. Certainly, base station to base station QSO's should be taken to a simplex frequency if the QSO lasts for more than a couple minutes. Repeated use of repeaters for lengthy base station "roundtable" QSO's is discouraged, with the exception of scheduled emergency or weekly net operations which some repeater groups do sponsor. Here's something else to consider: When you and another station are using a repeater for communications, you and the other station are giving your respective transmitters a rest while the other station is transmitting, but the repeater transmitter and amplifier is on the air continuously. Ask yourself if your equipment could tolerate such long transmit periods and simply try to give the repeater equipment the same consideration when a repeater has been in extended use for awhile.
- 5) Be a courteous, professional operator when using any repeater system. Allow time between QSO exchanges for other operators that may have emergency traffic or need to make an urgent autopatch. Try not to hold lengthy QSO's during times of the day when the repeater is expected to be busy with traffic, such as between the hours of 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Be careful what you discuss during QSO's on repeaters. Certain topics, jokes, autopatch conversations, and discussions may be distasteful to other operators or their families monitoring the repeater. Remember that hundreds of other hams and citizens are monitoring your communications with radios in their homes, mobiles, handie-talkies, police scanners, and demonstration radios located in retail ham radio stores. How professionally you conduct yourself while using a repeater tends to set the reputation of that repeater and is a direct reflection on the owners and sponsors of the repeater systems. Remember that you are "borrowing" someone else's radio system when you use repeater system services. To not operate as a professional may mean you could be asked not to borrow the equipment.
- 6) Always use the minimum power necessary to maintain repeater communication. Repeater channels are coordinated through SERA to provide certain distances between repeaters assigned to the same frequency channels. This spacing is usually calculated based on a particular repeater's primary service area. This area is calculated with a 45 watt mobile with 3db gain antenna at a range of 25-30 miles away from the repeater. The use of higher power levels in mobiles or higher power base stations is discouraged due to the possibility of your station causing interference to another repeater located on the same frequency, especially if your station is in the fringe coverage area. The practice of contacting repeaters located a long distance from your base station by using higher power amplifiers is certainly discouraged for the same interference reasons. Using higher power on simplex frequencies is sometimes required.
- 7) If you are a newly licensed amateur operator and you have only operated on the VHF or repeater frequencies, you are advised to again review the rules and regulations of the FCC and to review the ARRL publication ***Operating An Amateur Radio Station***. Because VHF and UHF repeaters offer a more convenient form of communication than that of different amateur radio frequency bands it is sometimes quite easy to fall into modes of "too casual" or "less than professional" operating protocol. Please don't be afraid to call upon veteran amateur radio operators with your questions about proper operating techniques. They will be glad to coach you. You will also find that the "radio language" in the amateur radio service is quite different than that of other radio services you may have had prior experience with.