Patoka Valley Amateur Radio Club
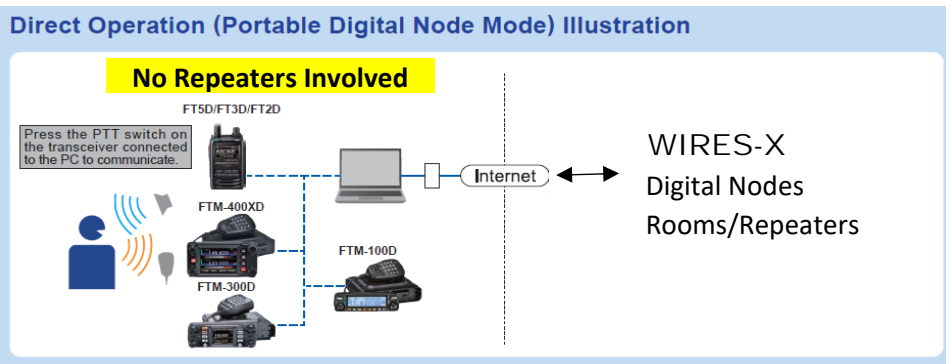# WIRES-X Etiquette & Guidelines

WIRES (Wide-coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System) is an Internet based system that expands the range of amateur radio communication. With WIRES-X, an amateur station can connect to the Internet and communicate with other amateur radio stations around the world. As many of us are new to WIRES-X technology, *this paper addresses some of the considerations to take into account when using the various WIRES-X access methods, along with the recommended best practices and etiquette that should be followed while using the system.*
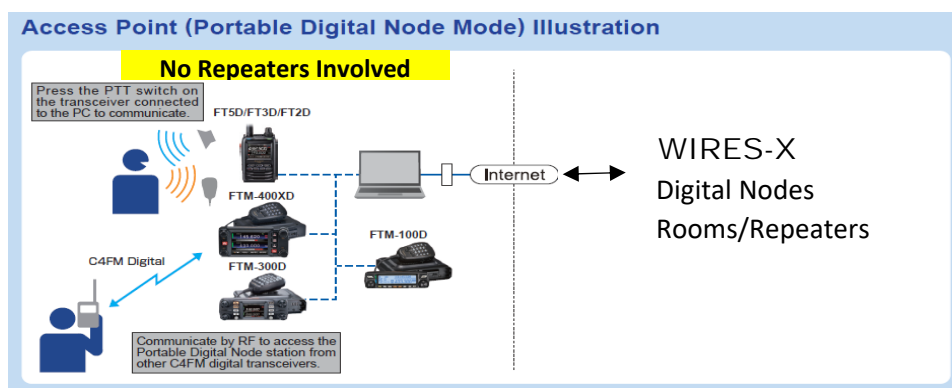
There are three basic methods of accessing WIRES-X:

1. **Many Yaesu System Fusion radios** can directly connect to WIRES-X via an internet connected laptop (with interface cable) running WIRES-X software. *This includes the FT-2D, FT-3D, FT-5D, FTM-100, FTM-300, and FTM-400.* Here are the modes of operation available:

    *   **The DIRECT OPERATION mode** allows the user to communicate with the radio directly over the internet via the laptop and no local RF transmissions are involved.

    *   **The ACCESS POINT mode** allows the user's radio to also be used as an over-the-air access point on a designated frequency by other, within-range, System Fusion radios.

2. **Amateur Radio Hot-Spots** allow WIRES-X access by your home station or HT through your Wi-Fi on a designated amateur radio frequency. *Again, no local repeaters are involved*.

3. **WIRES-X Repeaters** allow direct over-the-air access to WIRES-X. When using this method consider the following:

- **Many repeater trustees encourage** amateur radio operators to use their WIRES-X system. Before doing so, *it is best to check for and follow any posted guidelines* regarding the use of the repeater including connecting to other rooms and nodes.

- **Always ask whether a repeater is in use** prior to connecting to other rooms or nodes. And, always disconnect from other rooms or nodes when you are finished.

- **When you connect to another room or node via a nearby repeater** you are tying up that repeater (and all others linked to it) with the traffic on that room or node. So exercise good judgement *…… if the repeater is frequently used for local traffic you may want to keep your connections short.*

- **Many WIRES-X repeaters automatically reconnect to their home room** when a remote room or node is disconnected, or, if something goes wrong.

- **Don't' keep a repeater continuously connected to another room** for monitoring purposes only. Making contacts and listening a while to see who is on is great. But, using a repeater's WIRES-X strictly for personal monitoring is not a good practice.

- **Give your station ID every 10 minutes** same as you normally do. Also ID when you are testing your connection to the repeater (*avoid unidentified kerchunking*).

The general rules of etiquette while using WIRES-X include:

- **Pausing between transmissions** (perhaps 2 to 3 seconds) to accommodate system latency and to also allow others to join in.

- **Listen before you talk** and allow 2 to 3 seconds after PTT before you speak to allow all the links to come up. Also wait 2 to 3 seconds after you stop before you release PTT. This will avoid the beginning and end of your speaking from getting chopped off.

- **When in a roundtable discussion** turn the repeater over to the next party in the conversation. Don't assume everyone will remember when it is their turn.

IN CONCLUSION

If you intend to frequently utilize WIRES-X for extended communications or monitoring, it is preferable to either utilize a Yaesu System Fusion radio directly connected to WIRES-X via an internet connected computer, or, via an Amateur Radio Hotspot. *With this approach you are not tying up any nearby repeater resources.* Should either of these two methods not be available, then utilizing a local WIRES-X repeater to connect to rooms and nodes around the world is appropriate as long as the above listed considerations are taken into account.