

An Open Letter, from John, KA4WJA...to all my fellow amateur radio operators in the North Central Florida area. This will **not** cost anyone any money, nor take any of their time (other than the time to read this letter), so please read this and please help your fellow hams!

Some local history: In the 1980's, the original founders of the Sun Country Amateur Radio Society (SCARS), including myself, desired an "open" and friendly ham radio club, without "politics", and specifically centered on the more technical aspects of the 5 basic purposes of the Amateur radio Service. And, for the most part, I believe we succeeded?

In addition to the 1000's and 1000's of \$\$\$\$, and the many hours spent over the years by myself and a few others here in Ocala, to provide BOTH welcoming resources for local hams, AND an excellent 2m (and 222mhz) repeater! In addition, there is a great deal of effort made by us to lead by example, all-the-while welcoming newcomers. Those of you who assume: a) that quality repeaters are cheap (they are not!), or b) that they are owned/run by wealthy folks (we are NOT!), or c) believe that having an amateur radio license grants you access to repeaters (it does NOT!) In addition to the privilege of attaining an amateur radio license, the privilege of access to repeaters is granted by your personal integrity and your on-air presence in the amateur radio service.

To better understand the above, please read this brief preface: I have always stated (and still do believe) that there is a place for every style / taste / desire in amateur radio, whether you have a penchant for radiosport contesting, net operations, rag chewing, RF design, antenna system design, radiowave propagation, LF, HF, VHF, UHF, etc. moonbounce, mobile ops, etc....whether voice, cw, data, whatever your particular niche....there is room for everyone. This is because we all share a common goal / interest --- our "love" of radio! 😊

Please remember, the "amateur radio service" is so named, because this describes those who pursue any of these interests in communications for the "love" of radio! (Latin root word "*amator*" meaning lover....from the Latin "*am*" / "*ama*" meaning love.) And, while some of my fellow hams may have forgotten their Latin, we all passed the exams to get our licenses, and one thing we should all know is the 5 basic purposes of the amateur radio service, established under both US and International Law (and codified under most nations' laws).

Quoting directly from FCC Part 97.1:

Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Few of us, if any, accomplish all 5 of these, every time we get on-the-air.

But, we all should use these as our goals, or we should not be using the Amateur Radio Service (rather perhaps, GMRS, CB Radio, cell phones, texting/SMS, Facebook, Instagram, etc. etc...but if we are not all actually attempting to attain these goals, and we have no real "love" of radio....then we should shut off the ham radio, turn in our license, and pursue another means of communications)

Now onto my sincere request for help: During the past year or so, I have noticed a very disturbing trend on KA4WJA/R, the 146.970 repeater, here in Ocala. There are too many conversations with abusive language, and/or racist undertones! There are also too many conversations where it seems like the object is to "out-do" the other person, to put them down, to insult them! There are entirely too many conversations that should never be made public, let alone on the amateur radio service! This must stop and it must stop immediately!

Further, it seems that the general tone on the KA4WJA repeater is "if you're not one of us, you're not welcome"? This is 180 degrees opposite of my personal goals in amateur radio, and totally against the basic purpose of the amateur radio service! As well as completely opposite of the goals of the founders of our club (SCARS) And, this also must change immediately! All hams that behave, are pleasant and welcoming, and willing to uphold these 5 basic purposes of the amateur radio service are welcome on KA4WJA/R, 146.970mhz (-600khz) repeater in Ocala, FL area!

Please allow me to repeat this: [All hams that behave, are pleasant and welcoming, and willing to uphold these 5 basic purposes of the amateur radio service are welcome on KA4WJA/R, 146.970mhz \(-600khz\) repeater in Ocala, FL area!](#) Those that are not so inclined should look elsewhere for their communications needs/desires! And, look elsewhere, now!

Remember, it is MY CALLSIGN on there, and it is MY responsibility to maintain proper operations....and MY reputation at stake.

Anyone that has a differing opinion on any of this, I have no problem, you are of course entitled to your opinion....just please find somewhere else to communicate, other than the KA4WJA/R 146.970 repeater! Please understand that the "11 meter" / CB-radio type operating, and the abusive, racist inuendo, intolerance of others, "exclusiveness", etc. is totally and completely unwelcome, and will no longer be tolerated!

Those who wish to help, please continue to use the KA4WJA/R 146.970 repeater, and help me. Help me lead by example! Please help by upholding these 5 basic purposes of the amateur radio service, and be kind, friendly, welcoming, etc....and leave all the CB-radio crap on 11 meters!

Thank you all for the time it took you all to read this, and I do hope some will help me continue to make the amateur radio service a nice, friendly place! 😊

Sincerely,

73,

KA4WJA, John R. MacDougall