

River Raisin Repeater Association, Inc
Personal Cross-Band Repeater (PCBR) Policy

Personal cross-band repeaters (PCBR) have been prohibited on RRRA systems due to several regulatory and administrative issues. Historically, it has been a challenge to operate a PCBR in compliance with CFR 47 Part 97 rules. It has also been a burden on repeater control operators to troubleshoot technical issues or search for suspected malicious interference when they are caused by PCBRs.

The RRRA has changed its stance due to advancements in technology and an acknowledgement of the utility of PCBRs. Use of personal PCBRs is permitted provided the users adhere strictly to Part 97 rules and the requirements of the RRRA. Please do not attempt to operate a PCBR with RRRA systems if these requirements can not be met.

Part 97 Requirements

As with all amateur transmissions, the owner of the PCBR is required to identify *with their callsign* at the start and end of every contact and every 10 minutes in-between. Voice IDs **may not** fulfill the regulatory requirement, especially on half-duplex links. Both ends of the PCBR transmission need to be identified.

Cross-band linking frequencies must be chosen according to band plan and regional restrictions. Do not use the satellite sub-bands, and be aware that the RRRA repeaters are in regions subject to Line A restrictions prohibiting transmitting 420-430 MHz.

FCC rules recognize two types of control for this type of amateur station: local and remote. Local control requires the owner of the PCBR to be in the same location as the PCBR.

Administrative Requirements

A PCBR is intended as an ad hoc link for *personal* use. It is not to remain in continuous operation. It is only to be used with the repeater input and output frequencies on the primary band.

A PCBR shall NOT be used to link any otherwise licensed transmission to or from RRRA repeaters. It must not be used to link any amateur talk groups or networks from the internet.

River Raisin Repeater Association, Inc Personal Cross-Band Repeater (PCBR) Policy

The RRRRA respectfully asks that **before you begin operation** you notify RRRRA control operators of your intent with the following information provided:

- Your mobile phone number and email. We need to know how to contact you if there are problems.
- Location of the link and its intended hours of operation
- Radios used, power levels and antennas
- PL frequencies used
- Control plans. Local control is permitted as long as the owner is continuously monitoring the PCBR. If remote control methods, please specify in detail.
- Plans for identification of both sides of the PCBR link
- At the start and end of PCBR links, please identify with “This is <callsign>, cross-band repeat”.

For ARPSC operations, the EC or the PCBR operator shall notify RRRRA control operator following PCBR activation.

Why is this information required?

While PCBRs have great utility in expanding the use of low powered HTs around a home or for special events, there is great potential for them to cause problems. Should a PCBR become “stuck on transmit”, it will likely interfere with the normal operation of the repeater. If it is configured without PL/DCS and a nearby high-powered transmitter on another service overloads the PCBR and causes it to key, it may rebroadcast another radio service on the repeater – a nasty regulatory problem. Not to mention, it will dispatch the technical crew to investigate the issue.

By providing these details and letting the RRRRA know you’re using them, both guidance and safe (and legal) operation of PCBR can be achieved.

Control operator contact information:

Mike Karmol, N8KUF

President, RRRRA

n8kuf@arrl.net

Dale Williams WA8EFK

Trustee K8RPT

wa8efk@arrl.net