

W2SO Weather Alert System - Updates on user control

System is active on 2M and 220 Repeaters.

The system polls NWS every 5 minutes for warnings, watches, and advisories for NYC029 and NYZ010. It uses internal voice files to send the basic alert that is heard.

A message is also played once when the alert is canceled or expires.

Recently, we activated a feature that allows any repeater user to use DTMF tones to request additional information on active alerts. If multiple alerts are active, a user can play them back one at a time using different DTMF commands.

For example, if the repeater is sending "Winter Storm Warning" alerts, a user can then:

- 1) check to see if the repeater is in use
- 2) ID and send a command. "AG2AA with tones" and send DTMF *841
- 3) wait patiently while the system sends your request off to the VoiceRSS system and then downloads the audio for the message. it may take a bit.
- 4) The system will then play the detailed weather alert over the repeater
- 5) "AG2AA Clear" unless you'll be sending more tones to retrieve more alerts

*841 for the first alert, *842 for the second alert, etc.

If there is no active alert, the system will read back a message about an error and no active alerts.

Troubleshooting:

I can't hear my tones coming back thru the repeater or on echolink (or other links). This is intentional. The repeater controller does not pass tone thru to repeated audio or to any linked systems.

Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. It may be that your tones are either too fast or your signal is not solid enough into the repeater. It's got to hear you in order to work.

I need someone to help me troubleshoot. Easy. AJ0EF, W1LAX, AG2AA can all watch to system in real time to see what it's hearing and help you. We can also check logs after to fact as long as you can tell us when (to the minute) you were trying it.

If it's not working, verify that your radio is sending long enough tones - at least 250ms. many radios it's adjustable on a menu.

Save the tones to a DTMF memory in your radio. Many radios allow this and playing the tones from a memory vs keying them manually is often more consistent.

It's not working at all on weekday mornings. The weather alert system is disabled by timer during the ECR morning brew. Alerts are also disabled during the club net.