

## BCL

Ever wondered what BCL was? You have probably seen it in the menu for most radios. It is Busy Channel Lockout. Turn it on.

BCL when enabled prevents you from transmitting if the frequency is busy. That is a good thing! It won't prevent a "perfect double" when two stations key up at exactly the same time, but if your radio detects an incoming signal just before you press the PTT, it will prevent you from doubling with the other station.

When would you not want BCL enabled? If you were using a repeater with a very long "hang timer" (called Squelch Tail Length in our repeaters) it might be annoying having to wait for the repeater to drop before you could transmit, but our own repeaters (VE7RSI, VE7RGP & VE7EMG) have it set to 1000 ms.

Another example of when you might have to turn BCL off would be if you were in a location with interference, e.g. from a TV, computer or a switching power supply with inadequate filtering. If there was some "junk" on your receive frequency, BCL could prevent you from transmitting.

Most of the time, you are better off with BCL enabled, but know how to get to it if you ever need to temporarily disable it.

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73 Keith VE7GDH