

Principles of Radio Net Control

Good Operators are made, not born!

What is an Amateur Radio Net?

Exists whenever three or more operators are in simultaneous contact with each other for the purpose of exchanging information or passing informal or official traffic.

Types of Nets

Free Net - Stations call each other directly to pass traffic

Directed Net - Stations call only net control directly, go direct to other stations only with net control permission

When do we have a Directed Net?

- Weekly BARC/BEARS checking-ins
- Emergencies
- Events

Net Etiquette

If there is an emergency - stay off the net unless you have important message.
Keep the net clear - wait for the emergency to be over to go back to rag chewing.
Guessing and opinion during an emergency is does not help

If there is a non-emergency e.g. someone's car broke down and they need assistance, unless you can directly help keep the net clear

Net Control Operator

The most essential part of any emergency net is the character and skill of the net control operator (NCO)

The NCO coordinates all net activity and shapes the efficiency of the net

Net Control Operator . . . must have a Commanding Signal

...is in charge of the net

...activates and assigns resources

...keeps track of the resources

...assigns tactical call signs

...keeps a good log

Net Control Operator has a clear speaking voice

...controls his or her tone of voice

...has good command of English

...can handle physical and mental stress for long periods

...can listen and respond in a noisy and chaotic environment

...has good hearing

...has a strong signal from is radio

Net Control Operator . . .Enforces net discipline (in a nice way)

...uses tactical call signs

...uses plain English - no “10” codes or “Q” codes

...uses standard phonetics

...performs welfare checks

...writes legibly

Net Control Operatoris as concise as possible

...Knows how to operate the radio

...Radio is ready to go

...has writing materials and reference documents at the ready

...frequently identifies name and reason for the net

...transmits only facts - not conjecture

...takes frequent pauses and listen before talking

Control Phrases

“All stations standby” or “All stations hold your traffic”

Pass messages no faster than you can write them

Pass messages in five word groups

Use phonetics when spelling

Prowords

Over - I have finished talking, I'm expecting a reply

Roger - Message understood

Copy that - try not to use this

Standing by - I am awaiting further transmission

OUT - I have finished talking and don't expect a reply

WILCO - I understand and will comply

Break - used at the beginning and end of message body

Message Handling Prowords

WORD BEFORE “Say again word before...”

BETWEEN “Say again between . . .and...”

ALL AFTER “ Say again all after...”

ALL BEFORE “ Say again all before...”

Phonetic Alphabet

A - Alpha

I - India

Q - Quebec

Y - Yankee

B - Bravo

J - Juliet

R - Romeo

Z - Zulu

C - Charlie

K - Kilo

S - Sierra

D- Delta

L - Lima

T - Tango

E- Echo

M - Mike

U - Uniform

F - Foxtrot

N - November

V - Victor

G - Golf

O - Oscar

W - Whiskey

H - Hotel

P - Papa

X - Xray

Number Pronunciation Decimal point is never “dot”

DECIMAL in number stings, such as frequencies or amounts

PERIOD in message text

Some Rules of Directed Net

State the existence and purpose of the net and your call sign at least every 15 minutes.

Insist that all net traffic go through net control

Allow non-net traffic during beaks in net traffic

Just because you have a net does not mean you own the frequency

If you have a message for the net - ask permission net

To interrupt the net, wait for silence between transmissions, then call NCO:
EMERGENCY EMERGENCY/ FLASH FLASH/PRIORITY PRIORITY (NCO
callsign) (unkey and listen) THIS is (your phonetic call sign) OVER

Crowded Nets Call by suffix groups or precedence

“A thru E”, Immediate”, Priority, Routine,

Doubles

Try to pick at least one letter of the call sign, transmit “SAY AGAIN CALL SIGN...”

Relays

Ask if anyone else can hear the station

If you can hear a station that net control does not, offer a “RELAY”

Logs and Forms

ICS 213 Message Form

ICS 211 Incident Check in list

ICS 309 Commo Log

What Frequencies Do We Use

BARC Repeater 146.720 Tone 203.5R-

BEARS Repeater 147.320 Tone 203.5